**INSPIRATIONBASE**

*A collection of ethical leadership speeches*

Elizabeth

Warren



Elizabeth Warren is an American legal scholar, an expert on bankruptcy law, and a Democrat. She was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2012, has been representing Massachusetts since 2013, and was a presidential candidate for the 2020 U. S. presidential election. She has testified before congressional committees about the impact of financial matters on Americans, and has written a number of books on this issue. As the chair of the *Congressional Oversight Panel* for the *Troubled Asset Relief Program*, Warren was a leading figure in authorizing the 2008 *Emergency Economic Stabilization Act* to help struggling American financial institutions. She also promoted the establishment of the *Consumer Financial Protection Bureau* under the 2010 *Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform* *and Consumer Protection Act*. Celebrated as a liberal icon and populist leader, she appeared on *Jon Stewart’s* and *Bill Maher’s* talkshows.

(<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Elizabeth-Warren>)

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| **EW 1*.*** *Elizabeth Warren on Why Climate Change is the Greatest Threat* | | | |  |
| Question from audience: So, one of the questions I ask my students is a question I wanna ask you. What is the greatest concern in terms from a foreign policy standpoint for the United States today. Here’s the choices I give them. So greatest threat to the United States today: China, Iran, North Korea, or Russia?  Elizabeth Warren: Can I pick a fifth? […] Climate. Yeah. The one that is bearing down on us are the consequences of climate change worldwide. We should be a zero carbon emission. We should do this, and we should do this as quickly as possible. We shouldn’t be looking at 2050. We should be looking at 2040, 2030. So we keep watching what climate change is doing to us. As the storms get bigger, as the wildfires. Now, of course, our attention is turned to Australia, and see what’s happening there. But understand this: around the world, there are already climate refugees. People who can no longer farm parts of Africa. And so now you’ve got big populations that are on the move. You’ve got people who are already starting to fight worldwide for water. Okay? For arable land. These are issues about the future. And these are issues for which right now our government is way underprepared to deal with. We’re not thinking out far enough. So for me, what I think of is the job of the commander-in-chief, is to keep America safe. That is our job. It is our job to think about where the risks are. Russia poses risks, you bet. Iran poses risks, especially a nuclear Iran. China poses risks, North Korea poses risks. But we also have to be looking out at the risks that are coming our way. And getting our best thinkers to work on these problems. Our job is to be looking at the problems we face in the future. We’ve got to use our diplomatic tools, our economic tools, our scientific tools. We’ve got to work with our allies. We’ve got to work to help stabilize this Earth because that is how we keep America safe. | | | | |
| **Date** | 31/1/20  Accessed on 4 May 2021 | **Source** | Elizabeth Warren on YouTube  (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrE51L7hcaQ>), min. 0:04 - 2:23; close captioning available | |

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| **EW 2*.*** *Elizabeth Warren: Climate Change is Real and We Must Act Now* | | | |  |
| I wanna say something really shocking about all of our questions. About clean water, clean air, the urgency of this moment, about the direction and survivability of this Earth. Now, what I’m gonna say is very controversial in Washington. I’m glad many of you are sitting down. Don’t stand up as I start to talk. It could be a dangerous moment. For those of you who are standing up, you may wanna stabilize yourselves there. Just a minute on this. Alright, are you ready? I believe in science. Climate change is real. And we have a moral and economic responsibility to make changes in this country starting right now! We need a strong EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] that’s part of the answer. Led by someone who believes in science, right? And we’ll follow through on that. But we also need to be thinking about the investments we make going forward. As we’re thinking about the leadership of the United States of America, we are leading on climate. We are doing it right now. We’re just leading in the wrong direction. We need to get back in the Paris Climate Accord, and we need to recognize, that’s not enough. We need to do far more. But we can only do that when we’re leading from the front. And that has to be part two. Part three: we need to think about infrastructure for investments. Investments in clean energy. Investments in an America that will survive as the ocean waters rise. This is our responsibility to our children and our grandchildren. So I’m all in. Count me in. | | | | |
| **Date** | 12/2/19  Accessed on 4 May 2021 | **Source** | Elizabeth Warren on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQqlyKCEo84>), min. 0:24 - 2:37; close captioning available | |

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| **EW 3*.*** *Senator Elizabeth Warren on Coronavirus, Bloomberg, Super Tuesday & Running Mate* | | | |  |
| I’m not somebody who looked in a mirror when I was fourteen and said, “Mmm, future president.” I’m somebody who looked in a mirror when I was seven and said, “Future public school teacher - yes!” That was my goal. And it’s kind of one thing led to another. I’ve spent all my life in teaching, and all of my life around, kind of this central question in law school where I’ve taught, about what’s happening to America’s middle class. Why is it being hollowed out? What’s happening to working families across this country? Why is it that people who work every bit as hard as my mom and dad worked two generations ago find the path today so much rockier and so much steeper? And for people of color, even rockier and even steeper? And this is a fundamental issue about whose side government is on. And that’s what drew me into this race. I’d never thought I’d be in electoral politics. So, you know, ten years ago I’m still in the classroom, and I would talk about what was broken and what we could do to fix it. And tens of people heard what I had to say. Reacted to it. And now I’m running for President of the United States.  […] We have this opportunity, this amazing opportunity in 2020, to fix a lot of what’s been broken for a long time in this country, and to take on questions like racial justice, and economic justice, and environmental justice, and social justice. We have this opportunity to build a nation where every person has value, and where every child is worth investing in. And I believe that’s how we build a future in this country.  […] [T]here are also the ones where somebody comes through, the little girl’s adorable and she passes on through, and the mom gives me a hug and says, “Please, hang on to health care. She has brain cancer.” Someone will say to me, “I have student loans, and you’re my last hope. I am never gonna get out of this hole in my whole life.” […] It’s that about every, I don’t know, every twentieth person. [Talking to individual voters] is all fun, and then someone, it’s almost like a knife between the ribs because it is so painful. They so much need a government on their side. They’re not asking for a handout. They’re just asking for a government that’s on their side instead of on the side of the billionaires who don’t wanna pay a fair share of taxes, instead of on the side of the giant corporations that just keep rigging the rules in their favor. And that’s what 2020 is all about. It’s not just Donald Trump. 2020 is about how we see our commitment to each other. 2020 is about how we use the tool of government, not just to lift up those who’ve already been lifted so high. But how we use the tool of government to invest and lift up all voices in this country. We have such an opportunity. | | | | |
| **Date** | 3/3/20  Accessed on 4 May 2021 | **Source** | Jimmz Kimmel Live on YouTube  (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CfXVlr_J-U> ), min. 2:32 - 3:51, 8:49 - 9:20, 13:44 - 15:20; close captioning available | |

Collected by Daniela Ribitsch