

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BROWN COUNTY

Questionnaire for District 9 Congressional Candidates

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Please return no later than September 14, 2016

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Please type/print your responses.

- 1. Please describe the occupations, training and experience that qualify you for this office. What is the issue you would most like to pursue if elected?**

I've invested the last decade building nine businesses and creating hundreds of jobs in Indiana. I feel the ill-effects our government has on job creators and those seeking employment each and every day. I look forward to bringing my private sector experience to Washington to help fix problems, just like we fix them in our businesses. That means having the discipline to cut spending, balance budgets, and get real results for a better future.

- 2. In an uncertain and volatile world, what are three things the US should do to protect the security of our people and homeland?**

The world needs strong American leadership. We have the technology and the capable military to keep the American way of life safe, but the Obama administration's failed foreign policy has only increased the resolve of our adversaries. One need only turn a globe to see the trouble that weak leadership has caused – from missiles in the South China Sea, chaos in Syria, and a newly emboldened Russia.

We need to listen to our Generals. We need to secure the southern border so foreign terrorists can't come over it. We need to take the fight to ISIS on their turf. We have the technology and ability to do this swiftly and smartly with a small military footprint, but we need our leaders to take a principled stance on what is right and what is wrong, and confront the evil that threatens us.

- 3. Are there flaws in our campaign finance laws? What are they and how would you address them?**

Business owners invest in projects in which they believe, individuals invest in non-profits that they support, and we should have the same right to do just that for political campaigns and causes that represent our values.

I cannot imagine a bigger or better cause to rally behind than the future of our country. I see our government currently going down a dangerous path, one where our spending and debt are getting out of control, our national security is growing weaker, and where people are starting to question if opportunities will exist for the next generation. Watching all of that, and the solutions politicians present (or fail to present) to our major problems, I knew that it was time to speak up and get involved. The status quo is no longer acceptable; we need real results from Washington.

4. Please address your views with regard to climate change, and the role of the federal government (and Congress) in environmental protection and mediation of damage?

The importance of our environment cannot be understated; however, the approaches taken by this Administration are inappropriate and misguided. The executive branch and faceless bureaucrats should not have the authority to rapidly impose costly rules on energy producers, businesses, farmers, and families without the accountability of elected officials voting on the matters. The responsibility to legislate rests with Congress because they are the body that's most accountable to the people. We will always achieve better results if we work with the American people, rather than allowing regulators to shutter businesses with little to no recourse.

I own an Indiana business that has recycled over 1.5 billion pounds of aluminum over the last eight years. We should let the private sector continue to develop technology to cut environmental impact, not allow an over-reaching federal government stop that process of innovation by putting companies out of business and people out of work.

5. Do you support goals of the Affordable Care Act? How would you change it or if you want to repeal it, what would you replace it with?

We all want more affordable health care, and we all want policies that will protect us during challenging moments in our lives. Obamacare is not accomplishing either goal. Government isn't the most efficient or effective provider of any service; companies should compete for American dollars, not Americans forced to give companies their dollars.

We must repeal Obamacare because premiums continue to climb and coverage continues to narrow. The hiring of Hoosiers is held back because of mandates, which smother business growth and job creation.

Then, we need to encourage greater competition in the insurance market by freeing up insurers to provide products across state lines, as one example. We need greater freedom for patients by eliminating the coverage mandate, removing roadblocks to portability, and allowing for different types of policies.

American innovators will reduce the cost and improve patient care, but government needs to get out of the way.

6. Please suggest three concrete steps to grow the number of jobs that pay a living wage here in Indiana and in the country at large.

The best way to create good-paying jobs and rewarding careers is for businesses to start, grow, and thrive. Unfortunately, we have a government that doesn't understand that the seemingly small decisions they make have large, damaging impacts on businesses; I want to take my 11-years of job creation in Indiana to Congress so we get better pro-growth policies. Every hour and every dollar business owners spend navigating changing regulations, a complex tax code, or Obamacare mandates takes away from the company and prospective new hires.

After removing hurdles to job creation, we need to examine our education system. There are many good-paying careers, especially in Indiana where we value manufacturing, but it is increasingly difficult to find individuals with the right skillsets or even students that are aware of these opportunities. If workforce needs are better communicated and aligned with our schools, we can create more opportunities for Hoosiers.