

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BROWN COUNTY

Questionnaire for District 9 Congressional Candidates

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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?

Since January 2013 I have served on the Monroe County Council, representing District 1 (the eastern side of Monroe County bordering Brown County) where I have expanded services for our veterans, increased funding for our youth, opened a new 911 dispatch center, and kept our budgets balanced. On the Council I have served as the liaison for the offices of the assessor, prosecutor, clerk, and aviation and as chair of the Personnel Administration Committee, a member of the Fleet Financing and Energy Commission, as well as the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation Board. I also serve on the South Central Community Action Program Energy Assistance and Head Start boards. I have led a number of nonprofit organizations where I worked with community leaders and health care providers to deliver care and vocational training to underserved populations and those in need. As your representative I will focus on bringing, as well as keeping, quality high-paying jobs to the communities of Central and Southern Indiana. Indiana has a great tradition as a manufacturing state, however we continue to lose jobs overseas and our communities are struggling to replace them. In Congress my priority will be strengthening our infrastructure by investing in our roads, bridges and expanding broadband access as well investing in our workforce, both for those who are just entering it and those who need new training for the 21st century economy.

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

Our servicemen and women are the best-trained and best-equipped force for good in the world. We must keep it that way, and when I get to Congress I promise that I will work every day to make sure that our military receives the funding and resources necessary to do its job as safely and effectively as possible. Immigration reform is vital to our national security interest. Working to find a solution to immigration that is respectful of the dignity of human life but also works to uphold the rule of law and

protect our borders from those who wish us harm should be a top priority. We must address the issue of ever increasing cyber-attacks. These attacks have consequences for both our national security and economy. We must make data security a priority for both private companies and the government.

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

I understand that the enormous influence of super-wealthy individuals, big corporations, and special interests leave families and hard-working individuals feeling increasingly powerless and apathetic. In short, the influence that money has on the political process is undermining our democracy and fueling a dangerous lack of engagement by significant percentages in our society. We must end the flood of secret, unaccountable money in our politics, and I will push for legislation to require outside groups to publicly disclose political spending. I would also support a Constitutional amendment to reverse the *Citizen's United* Supreme Court ruling, which allows Super PACs to spend unlimited amounts of money to influence the outcome of elections. Overturning *Citizen's United* is a critical step toward restoring the voice and empowering the influence of individual voters in our elections.

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?

Climate change is a real threat to the safety and security of Hoosiers. I support efforts to work toward a fair global climate change agreement to reduce emissions, and am in favor of an "all of the above" approach to energy independence with an emphasis on renewable energy. As a "coal-burning" state, we need to make sure we have a transition period to other forms of energy and to be prudent in our approach. By investing in our energy future we can reduce utility cost, create jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign countries for our energy needs.

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?

While the ACA has been a solution to many problems plaguing the health care system, some changes must be made that will make insurance affordable for all Americans and ensure that everyone is getting quality insurance. I am in favor of eliminating the 40 percent excise tax on high-cost health plans, but my first priority will be to address what is going to be the replacement mechanism because I will not support tax increases for the middle class. We must work to make health care more affordable. Healthcare is an economic issue because as we lower health care costs, we lower the costs of hiring new workers.

One lever for lowering healthcare costs is increased competition. Instead of the government setting prices for health care commodities, Medicare should expand competitive bidding nationwide—and extend it to medical devices, laboratory tests, and all other commodities.

Medicare's market-based prices should then be extended to all federal health programs. Health care consumers need to know how much something costs before treatment. Pricing transparency is just common sense, and we demand it in all other areas of our economy.

Many state laws prevent non-physician providers such as advanced-practice nurses from practicing to the full extent of their training. Making greater use of these providers would expand the workforce supply, which would increase competition and lower prices.

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.

When I get to Congress, I will make job creation and economic opportunity in Indiana's 9th District my number one priority. The fact remains that too many Hoosiers are struggling today. Our Hoosier economy will never reach its full potential until we level the playing field and start investing in working people again.

That means: Investing in our small businesses, and cutting the red tape and regulations so they can hire more workers

Easing the tax burden on small business owners and expanding access to capital for entrepreneurs.

Building an innovation economy in Central and Southern Indiana will only happen if we invest in physical infrastructure improvements to our roads and bridges, which will bring good-paying construction jobs to our district and keep our families safe. Prioritizing digital infrastructure, including broadband Internet access, throughout all areas of our thirteen counties and cultivating a 21st century global and technology-driven economy will make Indiana competitive and create opportunities.