

2018 ELECTION QUESTIONS – CONGRESS (Angie Craig)

Top priority: If elected, what is your top priority for the 2019 Congress? Why are you running for office?

- As I travel around the Second Congressional District and speak with voters about their experiences, it is clear that the rising cost of healthcare is one of their top concerns. At times growing up, my own family went without health insurance. I worked for more than 20 years at two medical manufacturing companies and managed our employee health plans at one, so I have the background and experience necessary to meaningfully contribute to fixing our nation's broken healthcare system. I'll work to stabilize the ACA and lower healthcare costs, especially the cost of prescription drugs.

Foreign affairs: How do you grade President Trump's foreign policy record? Which of his initiatives do you support, and which do you oppose? Be specific.

- We cannot conduct foreign policy through Twitter. In order to maintain our leadership throughout the world, we need a tough foreign policy agenda that protects the United States and at the same time preserves the shared American values of privacy, liberty, and diversity. We also must return to a diplomacy-first mindset and work to restore the strong relationships with our allies. We're at our safest and strongest when we're leading a coalition of countries committed to peace and freedom. That means using diplomatic means to advance our values, putting pressure on countries that don't share our values, and returning to the steady, predictable leadership that America has always shown abroad.

Health care: What role should the federal government play in combating the opioid epidemic?

- This epidemic has not escaped our own family. One of our sons is adopted, and his birth mother died of an overdose. I have promised him and many other families in the district to fight to address these issues. America is confronting one of the largest public health threats since the onset of the AIDS epidemic. The opioid epidemic now claims more lives every year than car accidents or gun violence. Nationwide, over 33,000 people died from opioid or heroin overdoses in 2015 alone. The Second Congressional District is home to some exceptional local leaders in the fight against this epidemic. The Shakopee Police Department and the Scott County Board have rolled out programs that focus on rehabilitation and recovery rather than punishment and incarceration. Whether it's a new drug court program, treatment center, lifesaving medication for first responders, or critical new research, all these efforts have something in common: they require resources and funding. That's how our leaders in Washington can and should help. When I'm elected to Congress, I will work to expand the funding allocated in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA). This bipartisan bill allows the federal government to provide states with grants to fund a variety of programs aimed at curbing prescription opioid and heroin abuse. I also will support the Addiction Recovery for Rural Communities (ARRC) Act, a bill to help rural communities fight the opioid epidemic. I'll also work to take on the issues directly that have helped enable this national emergency, such as prescribing patterns and the marketing of drugs in this nation.

Education: What role should the federal government play in ensuring that U.S. graduates can compete in the global economy? Are there specific measures that you advocate?

- Education and career skills training are the keys to securing a strong economic future for families in Minnesota. And as the proud wife of a former teacher and mother of four sons

– three in college or trade school and one at Rosemount High School – I understand the importance of a great education for all children. We must stabilize funding for K-12 education and ensure that career training and vocational education is a priority again in this country. College is not right for every child, and students need to be supported to understand that there are other career options. American workers need to have the right skills for the high-paying, high-growth technical jobs of the 21st Century. We can make sure of this by investing in workforce development initiatives and encouraging public-private partnerships in higher education as well as making vocational education a priority again in our public schools. When schools work with local employers to link training and education to the needs of the regional economy, students and employers win. Our goal should be for each student to receive the training necessary - either through college, a technical degree, or apprenticeship program to be ready for a good-paying job. And we must be committed to continuous learning and job re-training as industries and technologies change. This requires a commitment to investing and encouraging partnerships between Minnesota companies and technical colleges.

Energy: Is the United States doing enough to reduce carbon emissions? What can the federal government do to promote homegrown energy?

- Minnesota has taken a leading role in producing homegrown energy, providing clean, renewable energy, and reducing our reliance on foreign oil. I will fight to maintain a strong Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and lead the effort to make Minnesota a leader in homegrown energy. We should continue to reward conversion to renewable energy sources in this country from a policy perspective. Renewable energy is growing and creating jobs at a fast pace, and we should continue to do everything possible to reduce carbon emissions and protect the environment.

Debt: Federal entitlements are the main drivers of rising U.S. debt. What specific steps can be taken to keep programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid solvent and still serve those individuals in need?

- We just gave large corporations a more than \$1 trillion tax break and that debt will be directly passed on to future generations and is driving up our deficits. The economic growth promised by Congressional Republicans to offset those tax breaks has not materialized. Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are programs that Americans have paid into over a lifetime of hard work. Some Americans pay into these programs on all of their income and others who make more than \$124,800 annually do not. I propose that we ask Americans to continue to contribute to these programs equally on all of their income. I oppose any changes that would cut, privatize, or jeopardize Social Security and Medicare and cause hardship for America's seniors.

Transportation: What role should the federal government play in funding state and local transportation infrastructure? Be specific.

- Congress must invest in infrastructure revitalization by rebuilding our roads, highways, and bridges and increasing access to high-speed Internet – especially in rural areas. Not only will this create good-paying construction jobs in the short-term, experience has shown that public infrastructure investment stimulates private sector jobs growth. In order to help stimulate private sector investment in infrastructure – like machinery, buildings, and factories – we must incentivize companies to bring their cash outside the United States back home. We've got a lot of work to do in this country to upgrade our infrastructure, and I'll be a strong advocate for funding these projects. We should prioritize infrastructure investments in the United States, particularly ensuring that Greater Minnesota has access to high-speed Internet to help communities meet their

needs. It is not fair that our rural communities cannot build small businesses, utilize educational resources and access healthcare from the Internet in the same way that suburban communities can. We also must address rail issues to ensure producers have reliable access to markets.

Economy: Assess the impact of the 2017 federal tax reform on the nation's economy. What additional steps do you support to stimulate job growth?

- I support tax reform that helps the middle class, working families and small business owners. What we got in 2018 wasn't that. The tax cuts prioritized large corporations and the top 1%. Large companies and the wealthy received 84% of the permanent benefits and the debt increased over \$1.5 trillion, while any cuts for the middle class are temporary. In order to stimulate job growth, we need to invest not only in higher education, but in vocational skills training, as well. Higher education and job training is only part of the equation. We must encourage companies to invest in their workforce by closing tax loopholes that encourage them to move American jobs overseas, and replacing them with tax credits for companies that hire American. Let's reward those employers who create jobs in America.

Immigration: Congress remains deadlocked on federal immigration reform. What should be the tenets of any immigration reform legislation? Do you support DACA?

- Washington's failure to pass bipartisan immigration reform is slowing our economy and weakening our nation. I support bipartisan immigration reform that invests in smart border security, provides a path to citizenship for DREAMERS and law-abiding immigrants, and keeps families together. As long as our immigration system is broken, people will continue to work around it. It's clear that too many members of Congress are more interested in scoring points with their base than doing the sensible and common sense thing for our economy and our country. Industries such as agriculture and technology are starved for workers, and we must support smart immigration policies that help. It's critical that Congress take action to pass an immediate fix to Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA). These are hardworking Minnesotans who serve in our military, graduate from our schools and contribute to our economy. In addition, the development of a path to citizenship for law-abiding immigrants would allow everyone to contribute and pay taxes, as well as pay into Medicare and Social Security. Many of us are descended from immigrants, and we need immigrants for continued economic growth. The history and promise of this country is that it will always be open to those who seek a better life, and are willing to work hard and help America grow in the process. In Congress, I will support policies that will continue to make this a reality.

Foreign trade: The imposition of tariffs by President Trump has results in retaliation by foreign countries. Do you support the president's actions? Long term, will they help or hurt the U.S. economy?

- I do not believe you can negotiate trade on Twitter. Our nation needs fair trade agreements with strong environmental protections and labor standards. I worked in an international business that generated over half its sales in exports. In Congress, I will fight for family farmers and work toward opening new markets with fair trade agreements. Agriculture is a critical component and opportunity for economic growth in Minnesota's Second Congressional District. Once you lose access to a market, it can take years to get it back. To keep that agricultural economy growing, we must help farmers export their products to new markets. I will work tirelessly in Congress to open the door to new markets for our agricultural exports and maintain the markets we already have access to.

Other issues: Are there other issues you want to address?

- Washington is broken. The way we select our representatives, the way we fund our campaigns, and the way we write our laws are flawed. The system is rigged to do one thing: make sure that results never improve for working families. Big corporations and corporate lobbyists are trying to buy and sell our elections and our lawmakers. We need a change. That's why I've proposed a sweeping reform agenda – [Clean Campaigns](#), [Clean Government](#) – aimed at taking corporate money out of our campaigns, making the federal government more transparent, and keeping our elected officials honest and working for us. I have pledged to hold at least one town hall-style event per month when I am in Congress that is open to the public, with a robust question and answer period. This is critical in regularly hearing about the priorities and concerns of people in the Second Congressional District. In Congress, I will represent all families in Minnesota, regardless of political party.

Briefly summarize your personal background and qualifications.

- I was raised by a single mother in a mobile home park. At times, my family didn't have health insurance. I worked two jobs to help put myself through state college, started my career as a newspaper reporter, and worked my way up in business to become a communications and human resources executive at a homegrown Minnesota company, St. Jude Medical. I now own part of a start-up company in St. Paul. My wife and I have four sons - three in college and one in high school - and we live in Eagan.