

MNA Questionnaire

2020 ELECTION QUESTIONS – CONGRESS – Pete Stauber

Top priority: If elected, what is your top priority for the 2021 Congress? Why are you running for office?

ANSWER: Two years ago, one of the focal points of my campaign as a first-time congressional candidate was to let you, the voters, know who I am. I introduced myself to you and shared my story, what my priorities are, and how I wanted to represent the 8th congressional district. Professional hockey player, small-business owner, police officer: those were the uniforms I wore throughout my life. That uniform changed in 2019 when I took my oath. Whether it's a suit and tie when I'm at the White House meeting with President Trump on criminal-justice reform, slacks and a sport coat when I visit with small-business owners in Cambridge, or jeans and Carhartts when I'm visiting with farmers, loggers, or miners, my purpose is resolute. My priority isn't an issue: It's you the people. I am humbled to be your congressman. For the past two years I have been listening to you and learning from you. My focus in Congress is on you. It has been a privilege fighting for our way of life, and I would be honored to receive your vote to continue advocating on your behalf.

Economy: How do you grade the federal government's response to the pandemic? Are additional measures necessary to spur the economy? If so, what?

ANSWER: Before the global pandemic struck our economy was churning at historic levels. Unemployment was the lowest since before we landed on the moon. I supported a pro-growth economy that got us to record levels and we'll get there again. I was proud to support bipartisan legislation like the CARES Act that provided emergency funding and resources for federal, state, and local responses to COVID-19, as well as provide small businesses with emergency relief (Paycheck Protection Program) that saved more than 50 million jobs. One thing the pandemic has shown us is we must become a more self-reliant country. Our miners, manufacturers, and others throughout our domestic supply chain eagerly await the chance to serve their nation and responsibly source these resources needed for every sector of our economy.

Police reform: Police reform has become center stage since the George Floyd death and has prompted calls for legislative action at all levels of government. What actions do you support at the federal level?

ANSWER: Across our country, once peaceful protests turned into riots, chaos, looting, lawlessness, and in some cases, anarchy reined. And now, they are calling to defund our police. We can't allow our country to get held hostage by lawlessness and anarchists. That's not the society we want to be. As we rebuild trust between our police and their communities, I am proud to be working with Sen. Tim Scott on meaningful criminal justice reform, the JUSTICE Act, which includes bipartisan provisions that would rebuild performance, accountability, and transparency within police departments nationwide. Instead of defunding the police, we need to build trust between communities and their police.

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.

ANSWER: Our nation and allies must stand unified and resolute in the fight against terrorism. Freedom must always triumph over terror. America's decisive action earlier this year eliminated Iraq's top general, Qassem Soleimani, who was a leading sponsor of terrorism, responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands including hundreds of American service members. We must root out evil wherever it hides and stand against terroristic and oppressive regimes. Accordingly, we must do all we can to ensure our men and women in uniform have the resources they need to accomplish their missions. Earlier this year, I was proud to support the largest pay raise in decades for our troops who heroically defend our freedom.

Health care: Do you support the expansion of Association Health Plans?

ANSWER: Minnesotans want and Americans need high quality, affordable and accessible health care that is patient-driven and physician-guided, putting individuals in charge of their health care rather than the government. I remain committed to working with Republicans and Democrats on true health care reform that lowers costs and increases access to quality health care by setting up Association Health Plans (AHPs) that allow groups and businesses to band together for better rates, allowing insurance companies to cross state lines, and doing all we can to ensure health insurance is portable and affordable.

Education: COVID-19 has had a profound effect on the demands for and delivery of education. What role should the federal government play in ensuring that U.S. graduates can compete in the global economy?

ANSWER: Every child in every school should receive a quality education. While Washington should play a limited role, we must do what we can to provide parents and school leaders the certainty and flexibility they need to deliver children a great education. Year after year we are not living up to our responsibilities to students with disabilities. Rather than proposing new programs and schemes that divert scarce resources away from classrooms serving these students, Washington should fulfill its promise made to these students. As a parent of a child with Down syndrome, I was especially proud to work with Democrat Rep. Angie Craig on the bipartisan IDEA Full Funding Act, to fully fund special education in our public schools. Additionally, I am honored to receive an "A" rating from the National Education Association (NEA).

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

ANSWER: Rising energy prices hurt families, commuters, job seekers, small business owners, miners, loggers, and farmers. We need an "all of the above" comprehensive energy plan that creates American jobs and leads us toward energy independence by utilizing environmentally friendly domestic production of energy resources in the near term while we develop the clean alternative energy sources of the future, including nuclear power, wind, solar, biomass, hydrogen, hydropower, among others. We can't afford a \$93 Trillion Green New Deal embraced by Democrats that would abolish mining and manufacturing and ban everything from cows to cars.

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

ANSWER: As a member the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I remain committed to addressing our growing infrastructure needs, taking on the challenges of providing reliable investment in our transportation network, and harnessing innovation to more effectively and safely move goods and people throughout the country. As we work our way back toward economic recovery, rebuilding our infrastructure is more important than ever. We must prioritize our highways, roads, and bridges and I am proud to have helped champion numerous local transportation initiatives important to our communities in the 8th district.

Immigration: Immigration reform continues to languish at the federal level. What should be the principles of any legislation?

ANSWER: America was founded by immigrants and immigrants continue to enrich our nation. In order to continue this legacy we must fix our broken immigration system and establish a strong, functioning immigration system. Securing our borders is the first step toward a workable immigration reform plan. Last year, I visited the U.S. border with Mexico and what I saw was stunning. The amount of human and drug trafficking on our southern border is at epidemic levels. Children are being rented and purchased by drug cartels so adults can get across the border. Sixth-grade boys and girls are getting stopped at the border with drugs duct taped to their arms and legs in an effort to deliver to drug lords on the other side. Women and girls are falling victim to horrific rape and sexual assault during their thousand-mile journeys. Tons of drugs are being seized at the border including fentanyl, heroine, and meth – some of which without a doubt end up destroying lives right here in northern Minnesota. I saw with my own eyes how unfenced areas along the southern border are drug trafficking freeways that ultimately lead to death and destruction not only along the border, but right here in our backyards.

Foreign trade: Do you support the president's actions on international trade? Long term, will they help or hurt the U.S. economy?

ANSWER: As the member of Congress representing this area, I regularly travel around the 18 counties of Minnesota's 8th congressional district. I meet regularly with our workers and let me tell you – our workers in this part of Minnesota can compete with anyone in the world so long as there is a level and fair playing field. Whether it's renegotiating NAFTA, or protecting our steel and aluminum industries, we must always put American workers, American companies, and American farmers first. I was proud to help champion the trade agreement with Canada and Mexico that opened up new markets for our farmers and manufacturers and level the playing field for American workers. Already, the USMCA is benefiting Minnesota workers in many sectors, including our farmers, miners, manufacturers, and those in the medical industry. Fifty-one percent of Minnesota's total agriculture and agri-food exports flow to Canada and Mexico.

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

ANSWER: Just a few short months ago, unemployment was the lowest since we first landed on the moon. Small-business optimism was soaring to an all-time high. Consumer confidence was skyrocketing. Wage growth was steadily climbing. Our economy was chugging and churning at unprecedented levels. Then a global pandemic struck, and the governor shut down our businesses, schools, and even our places of worship. Our nation's economy shuddered and our spirit was shaken. Minnesota's main streets were locked down, unemployment skyrocketed, and a billion-dollar state surplus turned upside down into a multibillion-dollar deficit. Our way of life was drastically altered in ways we hadn't experienced before. We will overcome this. I continue working with President Trump and Congress to unleash the economic engine in Minnesota's 8th congressional district to create jobs and an economic boom for our working families. This means promoting small-business relief and fighting relentlessly for job creators. We are recovering, and our economy is rebuilding – we've added 10.6 million jobs in the past three months, but this is the only beginning. We know how to get our economy moving again, and when we do, we will be a stronger, more resilient, and self-reliant country.

Briefly summarize your personal background and qualifications:

ANSWER: From playing hockey all my life to my two-plus decades of committed public service in law enforcement, I am a problem solver. Like so many Minnesotans, I grew up on the rink. After high school, I was the team captain for Lake Superior State University where we won the national championship. I recently retired from the Duluth Police Department after 22 years of service and considered it a privilege to serve. My wife, Jodi, is an Iraq war veteran who retired from the 148th Fighter Wing as the first female Command Chief in the history of the unit. Jodi and I have four children and a foster baby and they are one of the reasons I am running for re-election to Congress. We have to do all we can to ensure the American dream is within reach for their generation and generations to come so they can enjoy the freedom and prosperity that has made America great.