

## **2020 ELECTION QUESTIONS – CONGRESS / SENATE**

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

My top priority is helping to re-open the economy and getting Minnesotans and Americans back to work. Our free market system has allowed our country to flourish to unprecedented heights. Small businesses are the economic engine of this country and we need to let businesses open back up to full capacity so they can put food on the table for their families.

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

As previously stated, the role of the federal government is to get out of the way so small businesses can flourish. COVID-19 was an unforeseen event that has been very detrimental to our economic well-being. The best thing the federal government can do is to rebuild the economy and protect the most vulnerable

**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?**

Let me first say that I support our police officers who keep us safe and make sure that we can rest easy at night knowing they are out there protecting us. I think there are opportunities to pass meaningful reforms to help support police officers and the communities they serve. I believe that having national standards and an expansion of training would be a good way to fix some of the issues that some police departments are having. Supporting our police in this endeavor is fundamental to having a safe and secure society. The defund/abolish the police movement undermines the safety of our communities and undermines our democratic society as well.

**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.**

I think President Trump has done an excellent job of standing up to other countries, particularly China, and has helped bring back industrial jobs from overseas. He has also done a good job of renegotiating our trade deals to get a better deal for our farmers as we saw with the USMCA. This will allow farmers to increase trade with other countries and export excess produce to countries that need it so it's win-win for both sides. Farmers put food on America's table and President Trump should be applauded for treating them well.

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

My focus is on a healthcare solution that is private, portable, and affordable. I support bipartisan common-sense solutions to do exactly that, including: paying for quality of care, not quantity, as well as focusing on prevention and wellness. A free and competitive market which is patient centered healthcare is the best solution to this daunting problem which Congress continues to ignore. Drop the state line restrictions, allow foreign pharmaceutical companies from Europe and Canada access to our markets, and continue to push for greater transparency in the cost and care provided in our healthcare system.

**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?**

Education is the bedrock of a bright future for all young people. If our youth don't have a quality education they cannot compete with their peers across the globe. The first thing that we need to do is get the kids back in schools. Virtual/hybrid learning just doesn't work with many students and they need hands on instruction to succeed. This goes for their mental health and social skills as well. One of the most important things learned at school is how to interact with others and how to function socially. If our children are not learning these critical skills, which can only be learned at school not at home, they are going to be left far behind students from other countries. Therefore, it is crucial to open the schools back up and get the students back in so they can get the education that they need to be healthy, productive adults.

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

Energy security is critical for America's future. I believe our country needs to become energy independent and as we move toward that goal, we need to become increasingly less reliant on foreign countries for fuel and resources which will help create good paying American jobs. Everything from development of oil, liquid natural gas, clean coal, and other fossil fuels, as well as alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, hydropower, nuclear, geothermal, and biomass, must be on the table. However, we then must allow the free markets, not big government, to decide which energy sources are the safest and most cost-efficient methods for production.

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

It's the federal government's responsibility to establish critical infrastructure across the country to enable economic growth and prosperity. Our transportation infrastructure is outdated and degrading which cannot be ignored any longer. The Trump administrations \$3 trillion dollar

infrastructure proposal will be a boon for local businesses and will create jobs right here in Minnesota so that folks can get back to work.

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

Border security is important for our country. If we do not maintain the integrity of our borders then we will not have a country in the future. I believe that those who came here legally did things the right way and should be commended. It's not fair for those who came here illegally to skip to the front of the line. As the next Congressman from Minnesota's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District I will push for more border security so we can maintain the integrity of our nation.

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

As stated previously, President Trump has done a good job on trade. USMCA is a better deal for farmers because they can get their produce to market in places where they otherwise wouldn't. More exports to places like Mexico and Canada are very helpful to family farmers and has helped them stay afloat. It is also estimated that USMCA will increase U.S. real GDP by \$68.2 billion and U.S. employment by 176,000 jobs.

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

I would just reiterate that when elected I will fight to make sure that we rebuild our economy and get folks back to work. Job creation and opening up the economy is my number one priority and I look forward to doing that as your next congressman.

**Briefly summarize your personal background and qualifications.**

I am a born and raised Minnesotan who just got off of active duty last October. I served in the Marine Corps for nine years, four of which were with the elite Special Operations Forces unit, the Marine Raiders. I deployed 4 separate times to areas all over the world. One of my deployments was to North Africa where my unit and I engaged in anti-Russian and anti-Chinese operations. During my career I commanded over 500 personnel and oversaw \$100 million in budget and assets. I was proud to lead this nation's finest men and women in some of the toughest, chaotic, and uncertain environments. I am a strong believer in servant leadership and I will bring that same servant leadership that I learned in the Marine Corps with me to Washington to fight for you as your next Congressman.