

2018 ELECTION QUESTIONS – CONGRESS | Pete Stauber

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

I am running for office because I have a burning desire to serve. I have served my community in many capacities, from being a police officer for 23 years to my tenures on the Hermantown City Council and currently in my second term as a St. Louis County Commissioner. I want to bring my 52 years of life experience with me to Washington, whether it be being a father and a husband, a small business owner, professional hockey player or Duluth Police Officer. My top priority is jobs and the economy. I want to work to unleash the economic engine of the 8th district and ensure Minnesota families are put first.

The good news is jobs are up, unemployment is down, small businesses are surging, confidence is rising, and optimism is high. Despite the economic surge, we can do better and we have more work to do. I will always fight to make this economy better, to make it deeper, and to ensure that everyone has a shot at their version of the American dream.

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.

President Trump is putting America first. I applaud the President for the steps he is taking in order to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and his meetings with Kim Jong-un. However, I believe taking a harder stance against Russia is important. Russia is not our ally. We must continue to uphold the integrity of U.S. elections without any interference and take swift action in response to any attacks on our democracy.

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

As a 23-year law enforcement officer, I have seen firsthand the devastating effects the opioid crisis has on our community. This national crisis is taking the lives of our citizens young and old. We need to focus on three things: prevention, treatment and prosecution. One thing we need to ensure is that drugs are not flowing into our country through our porous borders and enforce the laws we have. In Congress, I will fight to eradicate this crisis so we don't have to deliver more death notifications to unsuspecting parents like I have done when I served in the Duluth Police Department.

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?

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. We must reduce the federal government's footprint in our classroom because parents and teachers, not the federal government, knows best how to teach our children.

Another aspect of education I am extremely passionate about is special education. My son, Isaac, has been participating in special education programs since he first began school. 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.

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

I believe we need to continue to be good stewards to our environment and I believe we need to use an all-of-the-above energy approach to get there. We have an abundance of natural resources right here in the United States and we need to ensure it is transported safely which is why I support the Enbridge Line 3 project which will bring good-paying jobs to our region and provide the safest method of transportation for our oil.

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?

After a lifetime of work and raising families, Minnesota seniors deserve every penny of the Medicare and Social Security benefits they earned and were promised. In Congress, I'll work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure solvency for these programs which includes:

- We need to ensure that our pro-growth and pro-jobs agenda continues on its current path and that unemployment numbers continue to decrease.
- Preventing fraud and abuse which is costing tax-payers millions of dollars.
- Allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices with pharmaceutical companies.
- Preserving Social Security for current and future retirees

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

Transportation and infrastructure is a critical role of the federal government: the ability to move people and goods has always been an essential feature of our nation's prosperity. We need to ensure that funding dedicated to rebuilding our crumbling roads and bridges goes to just that. I support innovative and cost-effective ways to improve the nation's infrastructure. Wise utilization of federal resources to provide safe, modern and efficient transportation systems is critical to improving the quality of life for all Americans and strengthening our economy.

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 this pro-growth, pro-jobs agenda which is ensuring that Minnesotans get to keep more of their hard-earned money. I believe Minnesotans know best what to do with their money rather than the federal government. On average, Minnesota families will save \$2500 thanks to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. This is real money, for real Minnesota families.

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

Immigrants continue to enrich this great nation. I believe in legal immigration, where the immigrant wants to come to our country, be a productive member of our society and live their version of the American dream. Securing our borders is the first step toward workable immigration reform.

We need to be compassionate for the "Dreamers" in our country. These children, who are now adults, came into the United States illegally through no fault of their own. They have paid taxes, attended our universities and worn our military uniform. We need to work together to find a commonsense solution.

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?

As I continue to visit the 18 counties of Minnesota's 8th district, which includes the Iron Range, I maintain these workers can compete with anyone so long as there's a fair playing field. We must be committed to reversing years of unfair trade policies that harm American workers and industries.

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

Yes- one issue that I am very passionate about is my support for life. I believe life starts at conception and ends at natural death and I will always be a strong, consistent and constant voice for the unborn.

Briefly summarize your personal background and qualifications.

From playing hockey to my two-plus decades of committed public service in law enforcement, I am a problem solver. My wife, Jodi (an Iraq war veteran) and I have four children and they are one of the reasons I am running for Congress. We have to do all we can to ensure the American dream is within reach for their generation so they can enjoy the freedom and prosperity that has made America great.