
Women's Economic Priorities Candidate Information

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Prepared By: Nick Galbraith Date: Aug 11, 2014
Candidate Name: Staci Appel
Office Sought: U.S. House of Representatives District: IA-03
Campaign Manager: Ben Miller Phone: _____
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City: Des Moines State: IA Zip: 50303
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CANDIDATE AUTHORIZATION & SIGNATURE:

I have read the attached 2014 Candidate Questionnaire and affirm the survey answers represent my position on the issues addressed.

Date: Aug 11, 2014

Staci Appel
Candidate Name (Printed)

Staci Appel
Staci Appel (Aug 11, 2014)

Candidate Signature

Women's Economic Priorities Candidate Questionnaire

Women are an important economic force in America who, for too long, have been undervalued. For more than two decades, women have led the growth in America's Gross Domestic Product, driven the creation of new businesses and jobs, moved into leadership roles providing financially for our children and families -- and now, we also hold The Majority Vote.

But, even with our sizable contributions to the American economy, there is much left to do to support our economic opportunities, independence, security, values and family well-being.

The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce released a report on the Women's Economic Priorities which highlights the contributions we have made to America, outlines our current economic condition and states clearly the types of federal budget and policies that are vital to support Women's Economic Priorities.

As a candidate running for federal office, if elected (or re-elected) – your activities will directly impact Women's Economic Priorities. To understand your positions and views, the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce asks you to complete the following questionnaire.

1. FAIR PAY

AAUW reports: "The Paycheck Fairness Act takes meaningful steps to create incentives for employers to follow the law, empower women to negotiate for equal pay, and strengthen federal outreach and enforcement efforts. The bill would also deter discrimination by strengthening penalties for equal pay violations and by prohibiting retaliation against workers who inquire about employers' wage practices or disclose their own wages."

>Do you support or oppose the Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 2199)?

(check one) Support Oppose

>If elected, what specific actions will you take regarding fair pay programs?

In the Iowa Senate, I led Iowa in becoming one of the first in the nation to adopt the Lilly Ledbetter Act into state law. I promise to continue the fight to end gender discrimination in pay in Congress, which means working across the aisle to pass the Paycheck Fairness Check. Every person who works hard should have a fair shot to succeed.

2. MINIMUM WAGE

The Women's Chamber recognizes that raising the minimum wage is good for women, businesses and America. Two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women. For women-owned small businesses, raising the minimum wage levels the playing field for fair competition. Minimum wage increases raise productivity and commitment of employees, reduce training costs and turnover, decrease absenteeism and increase morale. Raising the minimum wage increases consumer spending and improves the quality of products/services, customer satisfaction and company reputation.

>Do you support or oppose legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 or more?

(check one) Support Oppose

>If elected, what specific actions will you take regarding minimum wage?

In 2007, one of the first votes I cast in the Iowa Senate was to raise the minimum wage in Iowa to \$7.25 an hour. I believe it is time minimum wage workers got a raise. So, I would support Senator Harkin's bill to increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour and urge my colleagues to join me.

3. BIRTH CONTROL

The National Women's Law Center states, "Contraception is a critical preventive healthcare for women. The ability to determine the timing of a pregnancy can prevent a range of pregnancy complications that can endanger a woman's health, including gestational diabetes, high blood pressure, and placental problems, among others." The Women's Chamber recognizes the economic impact on a family that can plan to have children when they are financially prepared.

>Do you support or oppose mandatory coverage of birth control in the Affordable Care Act?

(check one) Support Oppose

>If elected, what specific actions will you take regarding mandatory coverage of birth control?

Unfortunately, politicians in Washington want to roll back women's access to basic healthcare including birth control and letting employers deny that coverage. This is a decision that needs to be made between a woman and her doctor. Additionally, I do not support the recent SCOTUS ruling allowing Hobby Lobby to deny birth control.

4. FAMILY-FRIENDLY WORKPLACE

The U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce recognizes that the FAMILY Act will strengthen the economic security of working people, their families, and businesses. The FAMILY Act provides eligible employees with up to 12 weeks of paid leave to care for situations such as their own serious illness, the serious illness of a child, parent or spouse (including a domestic partner), and the birth or adoption of a child. Employees and employers would contribute to a self-sustaining fund, and contributions would amount to less than \$1.50 per week for the average worker or two cents for every \$10 of an employee’s salary. Fund contributions would cover both benefits and administrative costs.

>Do you support or oppose the FAMILY Act?

(check one) Support Oppose

>If elected, what specific actions will you take regarding family-friendly workplace?

We must do everything we can to level the playing field for women in the workplace and that means strengthening paid family leave, not weakening it.

5. SMALL BUSINESS | ACCESS TO CAPITAL

The U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce hears stories everyday about the challenges women face when seeking capital to maintain and grow their businesses. The Small Business Administration lending programs consistently fail to provide adequate access to capital for women-owned firms. H.R. 2451 directs the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA) to establish and carry out a direct lending program for small businesses (businesses with fewer than 20 employees).

>Do you support or oppose legislation H.R. 2451: Strengthening Entrepreneurs’ Economic Development Act of 2013 or other legislation that provides access to capital for small businesses?

(check one) Support Oppose

>If elected, what specific actions will you take regarding access to capital for small businesses?

Most importantly, we must fully fund the Small Business Administration to make sure that Iowa small businesses have the tools and finances to grow and create jobs. I also support doubling the tax deduction for startups, which is crucial for women-owned startups trying to enter the marketplace.

6. SMALL BUSINESS | ACCESS TO FEDERAL CONTRACTS

The Women's Chamber has fought for over a decade to ensure women-owned firms have equal access to federal contracts. Women own one-third of all businesses, yet the federal government has never met the 20 year goal of 5% and, to date, women business owners have lost over \$100 Billion dollars in federal contracting opportunities.

>Do you support or oppose legislation H.R. 2452: Women's Procurement Program Equalization Act (House) and S. 2481: Women's Small Business Procurement Parity Act of 2014 (Senate)?

(check one) Support Oppose

>If elected, what specific actions will you take regarding increasing access to federal contracts for women-owned small business suppliers?

Too often, small and women owned businesses are disqualified from being considered for contracts, at the expense of cost efficiencies and quality. I would support Sen. Shaheen's bill and others like it, to cut red tape and open opportunities for small businesses to bid and receive government contracts.

7. RETIREMENT

Social Security is a vital economic bedrock for women in the United States. The National Women's Law Center reports: (1) The average Social Security benefit for women 65 and older is about \$13,000 per year, (2) Social Security is virtually the only source of income for nearly three in ten female beneficiaries 65 and older, (3) Without Social Security, nearly half of women 65 and older would be poor. Women have longer life expectancy than men and consequently run a greater chance of exhausting all other sources of income.

>Do you support or oppose applying payroll tax to income above \$250,000 which extends Social Security solvency for 75 years?

(check one) Support Oppose

>If elected, what specific actions will you take regarding ensuring Social Security solvency?

In Congress, I will be absolutely committed to keeping the promise of Social Security for today's seniors and ensuring it exists for future generations. To help ensure the Social Security Fund continues to pay the guaranteed benefit, one of the first things I would support is eliminating the income cap on the top 1% of wage earners as well as investigating waste, fraud, and abuse.

U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce

The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce® unifies the collective strength of women and small businesses to leverage our position as the most influential economic force in America. With over 500,000 members, the USWCC advances economic opportunities for women across America.



I VOTE FOR WOMEN.org

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