

NRLN CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Demographics

National Retiree Legislative Network Questionnaire For Candidates For The United States Congress

Thank you for accessing the NRLN candidates questionnaire.

Please mark a "Yes" or "No" answer. You are encouraged to add comments so your position on the issue can be fully understood. If you do not answer "Yes" or "No," your comments will be disregarded. If you don't intend to support retiree issues posed in the questions, please explain why not and what alternative you would support to address the particular retiree issue.

Your responses to the questions below will be accessible by NRLN members and will be of considerable interest to the retirees and future retirees in your District or State. Your answers to the questions will be greatly appreciated and will be useful in helping NRLN members decide which candidates to vote for on November 4th.

For information about the NRLN, visit our website at <http://www.nrln.org> . If you have questions about this online survey, you may send an email to the NRLN at nrlnmessage@msn.com or call toll-free 1-866-360-7197.

* 1. Please provide us with the candidate's first and last name.

First Name:

Last Name:

* 2. I am a

Democrat

Republican

Independent

Other (please specify)

* 3. I am

Incumbent

Challenger

* 4. I am a Candidate for the U.S.

Senate

House of Representatives

* 5. My candidacy is for

(If you are a candidate for the House, please provide two digit Congressional District)

State:

Congressional District:

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* 6. For verification purposes, please provide information about the individual completing this questionnaire

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Title/Position:	<input type="text"/>
City/Town:	<input type="text"/>
State:	<input type="text"/>
ZIP/Postal Code:	<input type="text"/>
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number:	<input type="text"/>

2. YOUR POSITIONS (1)

The questions on the remaining pages explore your position on issues important to retirees. Feel free to add your comments.

7. ERISA - To further protect pension plan assets, will you support a legislative amendment to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) to prevent the use of pension assets by employers to pay for lump-sum layoff allowances and / or other corporate downsizing, restructuring or operating costs?

YES

NO

COMMENTS

8. Earned Health Care Benefits - Millions of retirees who were promised retirement health care benefits by their employers are having these benefits eliminated, severely reduced or priced beyond affordability. The establishment of monthly health care insurance payments that retirees would be entitled to from his/her former employer should the employer eliminate health care benefits would alleviate this problem. The amount of the payment would be fixed at the dollar value of the health care benefits at the time the individual retired or when the employer ended its health care benefits for retirees, whichever is higher. For this to be a win/win for retirees and employers, companies would be entitled to tax credits as an offset against payment dollars paid. Will you support such legislation?

YES

NO

COMMENTS

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9. Health Care Reform - The National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC) proposed five principles; they are: 1) Health Care Coverage for all; 2) Cost Management; 3) Improvement of Health Care Quality and Safety; 4) Equitable Financing, and 5) Simplified Administration. Does your program for national health care reform include all five of these principals and will you support legislation that embraces these five principles?

YES

NO

COMMENTS

10. Medicare Reform - Do you support the privatization of Medicare scheduled to begin in 2010 as stated in the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act?

YES

NO

COMMENTS

11. Medicare Buy-In - Will you support legislation for Medicare "buy-in" whereby retirees under the age of 65 are offered an opportunity to buy into Medicare coverage at Medicare cost levels?

YES

NO

COMMENTS

3. YOUR POSITIONS (2) Federal Agencies' Rules

Federal agencies have created rules that are harmful to retirees because they circumvent the intent of legislation passed by Congress and signed by the President. Will you take legislative action to reverse the federal agencies in the two examples below?

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12. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) Rule - allows employers to reduce or eliminate health care benefits to individuals age 65 or older who are eligible for Medicare. The agency is not protecting older Americans as required by the 1967 Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA). Will you support legislation that reverses this ruling?

YES

NO

COMMENTS

13. U.S. Treasury Department's Revenue Ruling 2008-7 allows companies to selectively freeze pension accruals of older workers in certain cases without violating laws that were intended to protect retirement nest eggs. Treasury's ruling is inconsistent with the Pension Protection Act of 2006. Will you support legislation that reverses this ruling?

YES

NO

COMMENTS

4. YOUR POSITIONS (3) MEDICARE PART D

Medicare Part – D Prescription Drug Costs - The prescription drug lobby has compromised judgment and this industry has been coddled long enough. American retirees need members of Congress who will stand up to the pharmaceutical industry and act in the best interests of retirees and other consumers.

14. COMPANY SUBSIDIES - Will you support legislation to increase the Medicare Part D subsidy paid to employers to offer better prescription drug coverage than provided in Part D, and who agree to maintain their prescription drug plans at a superior level?

YES

NO

COMMENTS

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15. COMPANY SUBSIDIES - Subsidies provided under the Medicare Prescription Drug Act of 2003 are used to pay operating expenses and inflate corporate profits. Will you support legislation to amend the 2003 Act to require that subsidies paid to companies be used only to pay for retiree health care benefits and account for how the subsidies are used?

YES

NO

COMMENTS

16. Medicare Part D Interruptions - Will you support Medicare legislation preventing in-year interruption of Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage and formulary changes?

YES

NO

COMMENTS

17. Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Importation - Will you support legislation allowing American consumers to take advantage of the global marketplace by importing safe, lower-priced FDA-approved prescription drugs from Canada, Europe and other countries that have high quality standards?

YES

NO

COMMENTS

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18. Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Bidding - Will you support legislation for Medicare Part D that would allow the Medicare Administration to stipulate formularies and seek competitive bids from drug companies?

YES

NO

COMMENTS

19. Medicare Part D Generic Drugs - Will you support legislation to increase FDA funding for the purpose of clearing the generic drug approval backlog and to maintain a minimum backlog of no more than three months? (If a three-month backlog is not supported please indicate what length of backlog you would support and be willing to fund?)

YES

NO

COMMENTS

5. YOUR POSITIONS (4)

20. Deductibility of Health Care Premiums - Will you support passage of a bill that grants federal tax deductibility for health care premiums without being limited by or subject to the current 7.5% of AGI limitation imposed on deductibles?

YES

NO

COMMENTS

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21. Retirement Account Rollovers - Will you support legislation enabling tax-free and penalty-free rollover transfers from 401k funds, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) plans and other individual retirement accounts to Healthcare Savings Accounts (HSAs) and permit the tax-free use of such accounts to pay for healthcare premiums and care costs not covered by health care insurance?

YES

NO

COMMENTS

22. Social Security - Will you support legislation that ensures Social Security will be financially secure and continue to provide the current, or improved, level of retirement income benefits for present and future retirees?

YES

NO

COMMENTS

23. Taxes On Social Security – Will you support legislation that amends the tax codes to eliminate or reduce federal taxes on all Social Security income and / or allow a tax credit for taxes withheld?

YES

NO

COMMENTS

This completes our survey. Thank you for taking part.