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USWCC: 2016 Federal Candidate Questionnaire - Suzanne Bonamici

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC PRIORITIES:

Fundamental budget and policy priorities that support women's economic opportunities, security and family well-being.

Dear Candidate:

The purpose of the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce| 2016 Federal Candidate Questionnaire is to understand your views and determine our candidate ratings and endorsements. Responses will be published at one or more of our association web-sites including uswcc.org and IVoteForWomen.org.

Women are an important force in America who have, for too long, been undervalued and underrepresented in political leadership and policy making. Our multi-decade march into the American workforce, business ownership, household leadership and consumer spending has elevated women into true leadership of the American economy. And now, we are also The Majority Vote.

However, even with our sizable contributions to and influence on the American economy, we recognize there is much left to do to support women's economic opportunities, independence, security, values and family well-being.

The new role for women's economic and political leadership has begun as we focus or influence, detail specifically our contributions to America, our views and needs and strongly assert our influence through aligning our votes with those who support us. We call upon America's political leaders to answer our call.

We are students, workers, mothers, business owners, retirees, consumers and The Majority Vote. We are the New American Leadership.

Respectfully,

Margot Dorfman, CEO
U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce®
700 12th Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
888-418-7922, uswcc.org

We will notify you via email when we receive your completed questionnaire. If you have questions, please contact the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce at 888-418-7922. (A PDF of this survey is available online at IVoteForWomen.org/survey.) Or, often (during normal business hours) our website has live support available.

Just go to uswcc.org and look for the live chat assistance at the bottom right of the page. Please complete and return the candidate questionnaire by August 31, 2016. [We will accept questionnaires after this date as well.]

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Women are an important economic force in America who, for too long, have been undervalued. For more than two decades, women have lead 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. In 2016, the USWCC released a detailed statistical report and "[Wake-Up Call](#)" highlighting the alarming disparities between the number of women business owners in America and their business revenues.

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

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. 862 / H.R. 1619)?

- Support
 Oppose

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

I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 1619, the Paycheck Fairness Act. As a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I will continue to work with my colleagues to advance this bipartisan legislation so all women are treated equally in the workplace.

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 legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$12 per hour or more?

Support

Oppose

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

If elected, I will continue to fight for a federal minimum wages that allows workers to provide for their families without needing to work two or three jobs to make ends meet. Currently, families across the country are living paycheck to paycheck and working multiple minimum-wage jobs, and they are not making enough to get by. I will advocate for updating the federal minimum wage to at least \$12, and making sure that the minimum wage is indexed to inflation so that workers do not continue to fall behind.

3. Family-Friendly Workplace

The United States is the only advanced country in the world that does not guarantee paid sick leave to our workers. The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce members and women business owners seek to offer paid leave because they do not want their employees to have to choose between a paycheck and taking care of a sick child or parent or even taking care of themselves if they are sick. USWCC is supporting the Healthy Families Act which will require employers with over 15 employees to permit each employee to earn at least one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked.

Do you support or oppose the Healthy Families Act (S. 497 / H.R. 932)?

Support

Oppose

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

I am proud to support the Healthy Families Act. Women and families need paid sick leave so that they can take care of themselves and their loved ones without risk of losing a paycheck or losing their job. If elected, I will continue to work with my colleagues to promote policies such as the Healthy Families Act that guarantee paid sick leave for working Americans.

4. Small Business | Access to Capital

Despite the vast economic importance of women-owned businesses, in 2012 only 9.3 Small Business Administration 7(a) loans were issued per 10,000 women-owned businesses compared with 24.7 for male-owned small businesses. Moreover, women account for only 16% of conventional small business loans and these loans account for only 4.4% of the total dollar value of loans from all sources. Just \$1 of every \$23 in conventional small business loans goes to a women-owned business. In addition, the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce reported in its Wake-Up Call study that women own nearly 36% of all firms in America. Yet they account for only 4.23% of the revenues and only 10% of them have employees.

>Will you support reform legislation that will lead to greater access to capital for women-owned businesses including:

A. Raising caps on credit union member business lending

- Support
Oppose

B. Advancing SBA-backed lending through credit unions and community banks

- Support
Oppose

C. Enforcing the Community Reinvestment Act to ensure large banks serve small businesses in underserved communities including women-owned, low-income and minority communities

- Support
Oppose

D. Mandating that SBA engage in direct lending (with loans to be sold on the secondary market) in any underserved community where small businesses are not securing appropriate levels of access to capital

- Support
Oppose

E. Requiring Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) lenders to report investments in women-owned firms

- Support
Oppose

F. Expanding federal funding of Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs)

- Support

Oppose

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

If elected, I will continue to support increasing funding for the Community Development Financial Institutions through the appropriations process. I will also continue to support legislation that raises the cap on credit union member business lending, which I have supported since my first day as a member of Congress.

5. Small Business | Access to Federal Contracts

The Women's Chamber of Commerce has fought for over a decade to ensure women-owned firms have equal access to federal contracts. Women own 36% of all businesses, and yet, while the federal government is claiming it has met the 20-year goal of 5% awarded contracts to women-owned companies, they have not taken into account the programs flaws where more than 40% of Women-Owned Small Business and Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business awarded contracts went to ineligible firms and Inspector General reports from multiple federal agencies detailing widespread fraud. These shortcomings translate into women business owners losing over \$100 billion in federal contracting opportunities during this time span.

>Will you support small business federal contracting reform legislation that will:

A. Provide greater transparency and detailed data within annual SBA small business contracting reports

Support
 Oppose

B. Eliminate unwarranted exclusions to small business contracting goals

Support
 Oppose

C. End of "grandfathering" small businesses bought by large companies which causes award reporting to inflate federal small business award data

Support
 Oppose

D. Improve verifications to assure contract awards counted as awards to women-owned firms are awards that went to legitimately women-owned firms

Support
 Oppose

E. Assure more Procurement Center Representatives are hired and trained to support access to contracts for small firms?

- Support
Oppose

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

I am the proud author of H.R. 3175, the Assuring Contracting Equity Act of 2015. The bill supports women, minorities, and veterans by raising the Small Business Administration's government-wide contracting goals, including doubling the goals for businesses owned by veterans, women, and economically disadvantaged minorities. If reelected, I will work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to bring the bill to the floor for a vote.

6. Promote Competition | Level Playing Field

Over the last two (plus) decades, revenues generated by America's small businesses have declined while profits from large corporations have grown disproportionately. Large corporations have gained significant control over the political process, capital, markets and competition turning America into a place of less business opportunity and competition instead of more.

>Will you support a strong agenda and federal government leadership that:

- Stops undue, anti-competitive corporate concentration
- Ensures large corporations pay their fair share of taxes
- Makes antitrust policies and enforcement stronger
- Ends abusive behavior of dominant companies
- Ends abusive, discriminatory and unfair methods of competition
- Ends corporate supplier practices that force small, women and minority-owned firms to pay for and secure large corporate controlled supplier designations prior to securing competitive market opportunities

(check one)

- Support
Oppose

>If elected, what specific actions will you take to promote competition, level the playing field and support the growth of small, women-owned and minority-owned firms?

If elected, I will work with my colleagues to pass legislation that would stop corporate inversions and close other tax code loopholes that make it easier for large corporations to pay less than their fair share of taxes. I will also support actions from the Department of Justice to prosecute companies that engage in anticompetitive activities and business practices. Additionally, I will continue to work with local woman-owned and minority-owned businesses in Oregon so they have equal opportunities to compete for federal contracts.

7. Invest in Small Business Creation and Growth

Much is written about the contributions of small businesses to our economy: job creation, asset building and prosperity, innovation and flexibility, community economic empowerment, flexibility for owners and independence.

>Will you support a strong agenda and federal government leadership that:

- Invests in small business creation and growth
- Restores and protects a strong and vibrant Small Business Administration
- Invests and develops regional incubators and entrepreneurial development including rural areas where resources are lacking
- Expands government purchasing more broadly outside of the beltway to assure citizen taxpayer investments are not funneled back to DC-MD-VA firms with such density

(check one)

Support

Oppose

>If elected, what specific actions will you take to invest in and support small business creation and growth?

If reelected, I will continue to support policies that increase access to capital for small businesses, including through community banks, credit unions, and the Community Development Financial Institution Fund, a program at the Department of Treasury that provides capital to ventures that do not necessarily qualify for traditional forms of capital. As a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and the Education and the Workforce Committee, I've focused on supporting the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs through policies that promote STEAM-science, technology, engineering, arts and design, and math-education.

8. Invest in U.S. Infrastructure

America relies upon our infrastructure for job / business creation, safety and prosperity. But, our infrastructure is in a significant and ongoing decline. The U.S. needs a serious and significant investment in rebuilding our infrastructure. This effort will also create jobs and businesses and increase American competitiveness around the globe.

>Will you support a strong agenda and federal government leadership that makes significant investments in U.S. infrastructure?

Support

Oppose

>If elected, what specific actions will you take to invest in U.S. Infrastructure?

In Congress I have been a strong advocate for robust investment in a number of transportation and

infrastructure projects, including TIGER Grants, New Starts and Small Starts Grants, and Community Development Block Grants. I've also been a strong advocate for longer-term thinking and investments in our country's infrastructure and transportation so local governments and contractors can adequately plan for major infrastructure projects that take years to complete. I supported the FAST Act, the five-year surface transportation legislation that was signed into law at the end of 2015. The FAST Act also included my amendment to designate the Newberg Dundee Bypass Route in Oregon as a high priority corridor. If re-elected I will continue to fight for local priorities and a national commitment to long-term infrastructure investment.

CANDIDATE INFORMATIONCandidate Name: Office Sought: District: Campaign Website: Campaign Manager: Campaign Manager's Email: Campaign Manager's Phone: Submitted By: Submitter's Email: Submitter's Phone Number: **CANDIDATE AUTHORIZATION**

I affirm the questionnaire responses represent my position on the issues addressed.

Date:

Candidate Authorization & Signature:

x *Suzanne Bonamici*

Signed By Suzanne Bonamici

Signed On: September 27, 2016

Signature Certificate

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- Suzanne Bonamici

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Multi-Factor

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Audit

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This audit trail report provides a detailed record of the
online activity and events recorded for this contract.

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