
Women's Economic Priorities Candidate Information

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Prepared By: Coleman Lamb Date: August 15, 2014

Candidate Name: Kathleen Rice

Office Sought: U.S. House of Representatives District: NY-04

Campaign Address: P.O. Box #744

City: Mineola State: NY Zip: 11501

Campaign Website: www.kathleenrice.com

CANDIDATE AUTHORIZATION & SIGNATURE:

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

Date: 08/15/2014

Kathleen Rice
Candidate Name (Printed)


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.

I. 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?

As the first woman elected DA in Long Island's history, I took over an office where women were hired less, paid less, and promoted less. Eight years later, we've closed the pay gap, half of our prosecutors are women and half of our executives are women. In congress, in addition to the Paycheck Fairness Act, I'll work to pass the Fair Pay Act to require employers to provide all information on pay rates and policies so that employees can document and correct discriminatory practices, and to help expose systematic flaws that tend to segregate women in low-wage jobs and undervalue the work that women do.

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?

I'll work to pass legislation that would raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour or more, provide annual increases to adjust for inflation, and implement tax credits for certain small business owners to help offset initial payroll increases. This balanced approach will help lift a million hard-working Americans out of poverty, and it will boost our local economies, stimulate demand for small-business products, and spur wage growth and job creation for middle- as well as low-income workers.

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?

I absolutely support mandatory coverage of birth control, and I have been a vocal critic of the Supreme Court's "Hobby Lobby" decision. In congress, I will work to pass legislation that ensures that no employer can deny their employees access to contraception or any health services that federal law guarantees.

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?

I will work to pass the FAMILY Act to ensure that working people have the freedom and flexibility to
tend to their families and their own personal health without disrupting their careers or facing punishment
from their employers.

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?

I will support the Strengthening Entrepreneurs' Economic Development Act or other legislation that expands
access to capital for small businesses, particularly women- and minority-owned small businesses, so that
they have equal opportunity to grow and create jobs. I also support legislation to increase credit unions'
member-business lending cap, which would allow financially healthy credit unions to lend billions of
additional dollars to small businesses with no cost to taxpayers.

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?

I will work to pass the Women's Procurement Program Equalization Act, as well as other measures to
achieve more equal access to federal contracts for women-owned small businesses.

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?

I fully support raising the payroll tax cap on high-income earners, and I absolutely oppose privatization
and benefit cuts. Raising the payroll tax cap is a fair, common-sense action that would do significantly
more to strengthen Social Security and help balance the federal budget than any proposed benefit cuts --
without jeopardizing the retirement security of current or future beneficiaries.

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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