



I VOTE FOR WOMEN.org

Women's Economic Priorities Candidate Information

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Prepared By: CATHY HURWIT Date: 8/12/14
 Candidate Name: JAN SCHAKOWSKY
 Office Sought: US HOUSE OF REPS - 11-9 11-9

Campaign Address: PO Box 5130
 City: EVANSTON State: IL Zip: 60204-5130
 Campaign Website: WWW.JANSCHAKOWSKY.ORG

CANDIDATE AUTHORIZATION & SIGNATURE:

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

Date: 8/14/2014

JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Candidate Name (Printed)

[Signature]
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?

I AM A COSPONSOR OF THE PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT (HR 371) AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH MY COLLEAGUES AND WITH WOMEN'S RIGHT/LABOR ACTIVISTS TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR IT AND GET IT ENACTED

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 AM A COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1010 AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH LOW-WAGE WORKERS AND ALLIES IN ILLINOIS AND NATIONALLY TO INCREASE THE FEDERAL STATE + LOCAL MINIMUM WAGE LEVELS (INCLUDING THE TIPPED WAGE) AND TO END WAGE THEFT.

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 AM A LEADING MEMBER OF THE PRO-CHOICE CAUCUS AND I WILL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO PROTECT WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION IN THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT + ELSEWHERE

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 AM A COSPONSOR OF THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL INSURANCE LEAVE (FAMILY) ACT - HR 3712. I WILL WORK WITH MY COLLEAGUES AND BRING HELP BEING NEW ALLIES TO THE FIGHT INCLUDING WOMEN SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS.

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 WORK WITH REP VELAZQUEZ RANKING MEMBER OF THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE + SPONSOR OF HR 2451 TO EXPAND LENDING FOR SMALL + WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

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 AM CONCERNED THAT FEDERAL CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS DISADVANTAGE WOMEN-OWNED FIRMS & I WILL WORK TO CHANGE THOSE PRACTICES AND PASS HR 2452

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?

AS CO-CHAIR OF THE SENIORS TASK FORCE I AM COMMITTED TO LIFTING THE WAGE CAP SO WE CAN NOT ONLY EXTEND SOLVENCY BUT IMPROVE BENEFITS. I HAVE SPONSORED BRIEFINGS ON THESE ISSUES + WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR RETIREMENT SECURITY.