



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please return by August 15, 2014

Federal 2014

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC PRIORITIES

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

Questionnaire responses will be posted at IVoteForWomen.org and uswcc.org.

**U.S. Women's Chamber
of Commerce**
700 12th Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
888-41-USWCC
www.uswcc.org



I VOTE FOR WOMEN.org

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.

U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce

700 12th Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Candidate:

The purpose of this Candidate Questionnaire is to understand your views and determine our candidate 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 sizeable 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

Completing and Returning the Candidate Questionnaire

- **Complete, scan & upload at <http://www.dropitto.me/uswcc> (password is uswccupload) or fax to 1-202-769-5366; or**
- **Complete, mail or deliver to: U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, Candidate Questionnaire, 700 12th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005**

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 15, 2014.

Women's Economic Priorities Candidate Information

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Prepared By: Marshall Cohen, Campaign Manager Date: 8/1/14

Candidate Name: Ann Callis

Office Sought: U.S. House of Representatives District: IL-13

Campaign Address: PO Box 333

City: Edwardsville State: Illinois Zip: 62025

Campaign Website: www.callisforillinois.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: 8/1/14

Ann Callis
Candidate Name (Printed)

Ann Callis
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 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.

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 Congress, I will co-sponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act and work hard to get it passed. It is
ridiculous that in Illinois today, women make 78 cents for each dollar a man makes. This wage
gap doesn't just affect women. It hurts families and our entire economy. Paying women less for
the same jobs their male co-workers do hurts families' ability to put food on the table, save for
retirement, pay for health care or buy a house.

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?

This is another issue I have talked about on my campaign. We know that 6 in 10 minimum wage

earners here in Illinois are women, many of them head of households. Raising the minimum wage

to \$10.10 an hour would give more than 630,000 Illinois women a raise. I will work tirelessly in

Congress to increase the minimum wage to give families a chance to get ahead, not just get by.

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 believe women deserve to be in full control of personal health care decisions. I will work in Congress

to ensure that women have access to contraception. I will push back against radical voices that

invent misleading facts in order to restrict women’s health care options

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?

Again, this is another issue I have advocated for during my campaign. I will co-sponsor and push
legislation that provides this critical help for working women. Mothers across the country are working
to support their families. It is past time for Congress to get to work and support these moms. By
creating paid maternity leave and supporting quality and affordable childcare options ---we can
improve the lives of millions of American moms and help our economy at the same time.

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 have a proven record of bringing people together to find solutions. I know that access to
capital is a key obstacle for women-owned businesses, and I would work with the U.S. Women's
Chamber of Commerce and other key stakeholders to pass legislation to improve the situation
and give women-owned small businesses the opportunity to succeed.

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?

_____ This is a critical issue, and one that Congress needs to act upon immediately. Our government
needs to be leading by example, by operating in a smart way and providing equal access to
_____ opportunity. We should not struggle so much to reach reasonable contracting goals, and in Congress
I will work to fix this problem.

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?

_____ If I am honored to be elected, I will work to find fair ways to fund Social Security, including
looking into proposals that will raise the payroll tax cap that applies to Social Security. I will not
_____ support any proposals that "means test" Social Security benefits, raise the retirement age, or
_____ force Chained-CPI onto seniors. Instead, we should work to strengthen and improve this program
that is so critical to millions of American seniors who've paid into this program over a life-time
_____ of hard work.

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