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# Women's Economic Priorities Candidate Information

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## GENERAL INFORMATION:

Prepared By: Nick Schumaker Date: 8/14/14

Candidate Name: Amanda Renteria

Office Sought: U.S. Representative District: CA-21

Campaign Address: PO Box 655

City: Sanger State: CA Zip: 93657

Campaign Website: www.amandarenteria.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: 8/15/14

Amanda Renteria

Candidate Name (Printed)



Candidate Signature

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# Women's Economic Priorities Candidate Questionnaire

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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?

Having worked for two Democratic women U.S. Senators, I know first-hand the legislative impact that women can make in office. While working in the U.S. Senate, I fought to protect women's health, to pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, and to pass the Violence Against Women's Act. I am grateful to have been there for those fights and I look forward to continuing the fight for women in Congress.

## 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?

All Americans deserve a fair, living wage, and no one making minimum wage should live below the poverty line. Additionally, if the cost of living consistently increases, so should the wages of workers across the country, otherwise the value of wages will be diminished year after year. My state of California recently raised the minimum wage, and in Congress I will fight to do the same at the federal level.

## 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?

The Affordable Care Act is not perfect, but is a great start to extending health care coverage to millions of Americans. I am proud to have been a part of the team that fought for maternity and mental health care provisions in the ACA, and in Congress I will continue working to improve and expand access to health care in the United States. This includes recognizing the right to contraception and preventative reproductive care.

#### 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?

No one should ever have to decide between caring for a sick child and paying the bills. As a working mom, I understand that paid leave is essential for working families across the country. In Congress, I will support the FAMILY Act, which would go a long way to help those in the 21st District who cannot afford to stop working, even when they or a family member becomes ill.

#### 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?

As the daughter of small business owners and a Harvard Business School graduate with private sector experience, I understand that the deck is often stacked against those who start their own businesses, especially women. The 21st District is made up of small towns, not big cities, and small businesses are essential to our communities and economy. I look forward to applying what I know about small business potential under the right policies.

## 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 was the first woman from my high school to go to Stanford, and one of the few women involved at a senior level in the negotiation and passage of the 2012 Senate Farm Bill. Women across the country know how hard it is to be the first or one of the few, and in Congress I will fight to ensure that women-owned businesses are treated fairly by the federal government.

## 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?

Many of America's seniors know they will one day rely on Social Security benefits, and in Congress I will fight to ensure that, when that day comes, those benefits are available. AARP estimates that Social Security keeps 35% of older Americans out of poverty, and this number is even higher for women. We must work tirelessly to ensure that retired Americans do not fall through the cracks by extending Social Security solvency.