

Kenneth J. Cody – Independent -Truth, Vision, Hope - 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District for Congress  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW JERSEY 2012 Questionnaire

1. The results of a CBS News poll taken earlier this year show that 85% of Americans polled would like to see Democrats and Republicans work together and even compromise some of their positions in order to get things done, including those of all partisan stripes. How will you act to increase congressional productivity in the future?

**ANSWER:**

**Recent polls indicate that fewer than 20% of Americans believe that Congress is doing a good job. That number is unacceptable. I believe working together is the best policy to achieve success in Congress. We need to put party affiliation aside and support bipartisanship to be effective. Making compromises to put Americans first is something that needs to be done more often. Partisan politics need to end if we are to pass legislation that will benefit all citizens. I promise to the voters of New Jersey's 12<sup>th</sup> district to work directly with all political parties fairly and equally to achieve productivity. Congress is broken and I am committed to making it better.**

2. With increasing unemployment rates, how do you propose to stimulate the job market?

**ANSWER:**

**I believe passing legislation that promotes clean energy use helps lower our unemployment rate, help our economy and make for a cleaner environment. Our reliance on foreign oil needs to come to an end. The infrastructure to create clean energy will create millions of new jobs nationwide. Instead of relying on oil we can have automobiles that exclusively use affordable natural gas and create energy through power sources such as wind and solar energy. We also need to support incentives for small businesses so that they can prosper and be able to hire employees and get America back to work.**

3. What policies should be put in place to help shrink the growing U.S. deficit?

**ANSWER:**

**We can shrink the U.S. deficit by cutting government spending. A leaner government does not mean a weaker government. Does this mean eliminating certain programs? Not necessarily. Working with both Democrats and Republicans in Congress we need a bipartisan solution. A review is needed of each department and appropriate cuts will need to take place. Another way we can shrink our deficit is ending the war in Afghanistan. I am proud of our military**

**effort and the soldiers who sacrifice their lives for our freedom. But now is time that Afghanistan takes responsibility for their own citizens and create an efficient government. Through 2011 it is estimated that the war has cost over \$468 billion dollars.**

4. As academic performance continues to stagnate in the U.S., how do you propose to improve education throughout the country?

**ANSWER:**

**I believe we need to pass legislation in Congress that would expand federal funding to education. The federal contribution to elementary and secondary education is only around 10.8% (source: "ed.gov"). That number should be higher if we are to make an impact. Also, the Department of Education has the smallest staff of the fifteen agencies. Everyone knows for a fact that learning is the key to success. We owe it to our children and future generations to have an opportunity to a quality education. Teachers also carry a responsibility to educate and perform to their best ability. Making sure that funding goes to the right areas where most needed is the first step in improving education nationwide.**

5. Should the federal government promote clean energy sources by such mechanisms as subsidies for clean energy industries and stricter regulations on fossil fuel sources and use?

**ANSWER:**

**Yes. Our federal government should give subsidies for clean energy industries and use stricter regulations of fossil fuel. With this technology we can become energy independent and stop our addiction to foreign oil. My candidacy is a firm believer in the benefits of clean energy. It is the key to a better environment; it will create jobs and make for a stronger economy. Imagine using automobiles with affordable natural gas. We could expand power sources such as solar and wind energy. It will make the air we breathe cleaner and safer for our children. The infrastructure alone for clean energy will create millions of jobs nationwide and lower unemployment. With the creation of jobs people will spend more and strengthen our economy.**

6. What changes, if any, would you make to the Clean Air Act?

**ANSWER:**

One of the most important investments in America is the Clean Air Act. The benefits after 40 years certainly outweigh the cost. Every study confirms that the numbers of early deaths are reduced. We need to continue to support this legislation and make it even stronger. This can be accomplished by setting newer standards that involve clean energy. The growth of clean energy (wind and solar) will reduce pollution and improve the quality of life. We need to embrace this technology to the fullest extent. I will work with all political parties in Congress to get this accomplished. We need to put the people of our country first and the Clean Air Act along with clean energy can do that.

7. What measures would you support to overhaul our immigration system?

**ANSWER:**

Immigration is a very important topic of discussion. I believe America is the land of opportunity. I understand why people want to come here and make it their home. We need to have an ethical solution to this issue. I want legislation that supports an "immigration amnesty" program where undocumented immigrants can come forward to local, state or federal authorities to see if they qualify to become American citizens through the proper process. After a year period any illegal immigrant found will need to return to their country of origin in a civil matter. Immediately we need to focus on strengthening our borders. It is vital for our national security and to keep it fair for immigrants who originally used proper procedures to become Americans.

8. Without structural changes, the Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare programs are becoming unsustainable. What, if anything, would you do to address this issue?

**ANSWER:**

As hard working Americans reach the age of retirement we expect to have programs such as Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare available. Our seniors earned that right to be taken care of after retirement. We must consider options that will keep these programs sustainable. Ideas range from recalculating benefits and the annual cost of living to cutting government spending. In my opinion I believe we must not privatize Social Security and keep the retirement age the way it is. It will take a bipartisan effort in Congress to address this situation. I will work closely with the members of Congress to achieve a solution to this critical issue.

9. What is your position on access to and affordability of reproductive health care, birth control, and abortion services?

**ANSWER:**

**I agree with access and affordability to these programs. Part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) promotes the health of women that covers preventive care without co-pays. Services such as mammograms will not be charged a deductible and contraception will be covered without cost sharing. Statistics have shown that over 45 million women have benefitted already. With this law in place more women and families will be assisted in years to come.**

10. In general, what kind of tax plan would you support?

**ANSWER:**

**In 2010 I supported to end the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and give more back to lower and middle income families. I would continue this philosophy. With more income to spend, tax decreases can help make our economy thrive. In the long term that can create more jobs and help grow small businesses.**

**Most wealthy Americans are more likely to save any additional money they collect. That would not be beneficial to our economy. In short, I would stop cuts for the wealthiest Americans but keep them for lower and middle income families.**

11. The Supreme Court's Citizens United decision has changed the rules on campaign finance. What campaign finance or disclosure reform should be enacted, if any?

**ANSWER:**

**The influence of money in politics needs to come to an end. My candidacy accepts no monetary contributions and is self-funded. In 2010 candidates seeking office in the House of Representatives raised over \$1 billion dollars to be spent. In 2012 the number will be higher. Imagine what a fraction of that money could have been spent on? Contributions that were spent on campaigns could have gone to programs for education, environment and stem cell research just to name a few. I believe in strict campaign finance reform. Each election should have a limit on what could be raised from local elections up to the Presidency. The less influence money has on politics will make for fair elections for all political parties.**

12. Our transportation system, utilities, and other infrastructure are aging and need upgrade and preventive maintenance for the safety of our citizens. How do you propose to address this issue?

**ANSWER:**

In early 2009 the American Society of Civil Engineers gave an overall grade of D to our nation's infrastructure. How do we improve this grade? It all starts at the local level. With growing technology our communities can improve our highways, bridges, railroads and more. Nationally we need to make a commitment to investing more of our GDP (Gross Domestic Product) towards projects that will improve our infrastructure. If other countries can make this investment, why can't we? A failed infrastructure will have a domino effect causing our fragile economy to get worse. It is vital we make improvements as soon as possible.

**PLEASE SIGN TO CERTIFY YOUR ANSWERS**

I certify that the answers to the above questions are my own.

Date 9/7/2012

Candidate's name (please print) Kenneth J. Cody

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