

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW JERSEY 2014 Questionnaire

1. What measures would you support to stimulate the job market?

**ANSWER:**

**There are three initiatives that can stimulate our job market. First, I believe we need to support our small businesses by giving them tax break incentives. This will allow employers to have lower operating costs which can go to hiring new employees. Next, I will sponsor and vote for legislation that promotes investing in clean energy. The evolution of wind and solar power can create up to three million jobs nationwide. It will also put an end to our reliance on foreign oil and reduce pollution making for healthier living conditions. Lastly, we need more creation of infrastructure projects. Our roadways and utilities need upgrading. This will create job opportunity for many Americans who need work and it will reestablish our transportation system.**

2. What reforms would you suggest need to be made to the current tax system at the federal level?

**ANSWER:**

**Middle and lower income families need to have their taxes reduced. Lower taxes can boost our economy because families will be able to spend more and help businesses grow. We should also consider a decrease in our corporate income tax. Excessive corporate tax rates urges American businesses to invest in production overseas. This is a risk that we cannot afford to take especially with an unpredictable economy. The less we invest in the United States will mean sluggish job growth and lower wages for many hard working Americans.**

3. What changes, if any, would you make to ensure that higher education is accessible and affordable? For example, decreasing interest rates on student loan debt, increasing subsidies to colleges and universities, and/or increasing the funding to Pell Grants?

**ANSWER:**

**Incredibly student loan debt has surpassed credit card debt for the first time ever. Graduates who took out loans left college owing over \$25,000 on average. That is not acceptable and we must make changes for students to have an affordable and most importantly a quality education. Pell Grant award funding should substantially be increased. Students across the country need this award to help pay for college and make it more affordable. The internet can also help. I believe with advancing technology and the growth of social media we can make college courses available online at little or no cost. This will increase more student involvement and lower college and university marketing expenses. Proper education is one of the links to a bright fulfilling future.**

4. How would you propose to manage the large influx of unaccompanied and undocumented immigrant children entering the country? Do you support a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants?

**ANSWER:**

**For the most part an immigrant child is not to blame for entering our country unaccompanied and undocumented. These children need our assistance. Under the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 the Secretary of Health and Human Services has exclusive authority to make interim eligibility determinations. In the short-term it is the right thing to do. We need legislation that supports an "immigration amnesty" program where undocumented immigrants can come forward to authorities to see if they qualify to become American citizens through the proper process. After a period of a year any illegal immigrant found will need to return to their country of origin. We need to tighten our borders for the safety of all citizens in our country.**

5. Do you support the reforms set forth by the Affordable Care Act? What further reforms would you propose to improve the healthcare system?

**ANSWER:**

**While I do support the reforms set by the Affordable Care Act there are two concerns that need to be addressed. It is estimated by the year 2025 we will have a shortage of over fifty thousand primary care physicians due to growth in our nation's aging population. This will leave many Americans without access to doctors and physicians. To help, medical schools need to increase enrollment while making it affordable to students. Another concern is the lack of protection on rising premiums. The Affordable Care Act does not offer any provision against price gouging. Some states are enforcing those provisions while others do not. I would support a nationwide limit on premiums which can be reviewed yearly so that we avoid enormous payments.**

6. 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 47 million women have benefited already. Hopefully with growing technology we will be able to detect and prevent life threatening illnesses sooner. These programs that support preventive care will do that. With this law in place more women and families will be assisted in years to come.**

7. What role should the U.S. play in global crises such as Gaza, Russia/Ukraine? Do you believe that the U.S. should actively intervene in such areas?

**ANSWER:**

**I believe we should intervene when needed with caution. In a global crisis we must strive for diplomacy but when that fails we need to take action for what is right. The Ukraine needs support from the United States and our allies. To effectively achieve this goal with help from NATO countries we have to put in place strong and continued sanctions against Russia. This will put pressure on President Putin and hopefully get his attention to change his policy with Ukraine. I support the efforts by Israel in the recent conflict in Gaza. Israel has the right to defend themselves against any attack and should have the backing of the United States.**

8. Crumbling infrastructure and outdated, aging utilities are causing widespread problems across the country. What measures would you support to help combat these conditions?

**ANSWER:**

**In 2013 the American Society of Civil Engineers gave an overall grade of D+ to our nation's infrastructure. It is estimated by the year 2020; it will take 3.6 trillion dollars to make repairs. How do we improve this grade and how do we commit to our infrastructure? 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 not us? Making improvements is vital in so many ways. If we fail, it will have a domino effect causing our unstable economy to get worse.**

9. Would you propose to curb our dependence on non-renewable energy sources, such as petroleum, coal or natural gas? If so, do you think that alternative energy sources, such as wind or solar power, should be supported by government programs or aid? What specific policies or programs would you propose to encourage the use of these sources?

**ANSWER:**

**I believe the time has come to put an end to our reliance on foreign oil by investing in alternative energy sources. The growth of wind and solar power will create millions of jobs nationwide and improve our environment. Our government can help by supporting programs and fund projects that promote clean energy. One specific program that does that is called the Pickens Plan proposed by energy entrepreneur T. Boone Pickens which I support. The plan will help strengthen our economy by adding hundreds of billions of dollars every year instead of spending that money overseas on imported oil. It can also help pay for our investments in a smart grid that consists of wind and solar energy, and increased energy efficiency.**

10. What changes, if any, would you implement to improve current gun control regulations?

**ANSWER:**

**I believe that according to the second amendment of the Constitution you should have the right to bear arms. Many states have different rules and laws. There are several options that I believe that would improve gun control regulations if adopted nationwide. I support the following requirements: Universal background checks, state permits needed to purchase, owner license required, magazine capacity restrictions and open carry of a gun should be prohibited. Gun ownership should go to qualified individuals. These rules need to be enforced for the safety of our society, especially our children.**

11. The 2010 Citizens United case allows corporations to make campaign contributions as an exercise of their freedom of speech. In light of this ruling, what reforms, if any do you think need to be made to be made to existing federal campaign finance regulations to ensure accountability and transparency?

**ANSWER:**

**The influence of money in politics needs to come to an end. My candidacy accepts no monetary contributions and is self-funded. In 2012 candidates seeking office in the House of Representatives raised over \$1 billion dollars to be spent. In 2014 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. The Voting Rights Act was seriously eroded by a Supreme Court decision in 2013. To restore protections to the VRA, legislation known as the Voting Rights Amendment Act was recently introduced in Congress. What is your position on the legislation; will you support or oppose passage of the bill?

**ANSWER:**

**I support the new bipartisan legislation called the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014. This bill would strengthen the original Act of 1965 and reinstate important protections that the Supreme Court ruled against in the summer of 2013. By turning this bill into law we can help eradicate prejudiced barriers to full civic participation for millions of Americans. It will also reinstate critical voting rights and help defend the constitutional right to vote for all. Support of this legislation will restore equal political involvement at all levels of government. I would urge our elected officials to rally behind the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014.**

Participation in this questionnaire certifies the candidate's answers.

Date 9/20/2014

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

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Due Date: Monday, September 22, 2014