

WAUKESHA COUNTY BUSINESS ALLIANCE

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United States Congressional Candidate Questionnaire – District 1

Candidates who participated: Cathy Meyers (D), Paul Nehlen (R), Nick Polce (R), Kevin Adam Steen (R), Bryan Steil (R)

1. Do you believe the state of our free enterprise system is currently flourishing, on the right track, neutral, being threatened or declining?

Cathy Meyers (D): Being threatened. The direction of our economy is being decided by big businesses that are monopolizing more and more of our industries at the expense of small businesses. The recent tax reform bill, our trade deals, the closure of the export-import bank, and deregulation are harming consumers and making it harder for small businesses to compete with big business.

Paul Nehlen (R): Being threatened. We have far too many illegal aliens in this country creating an enormous strain on infrastructure and negatively impacting businesses. Automation is coming and we will be left with unskilled people in our midst. This linked article from a non-profit shows a \$116B per year cost to U.S. taxpayers: <https://www.fairus.org/issue/publications-resources/fiscal-burden-illegal-immigr-ation-united-states-taxpayers>

Nick Polce (R): On the right track– With the current administration we are moving back toward a free market.

Kevin Adam Steen (R): On the right track. I believe it is headed in the right direction. Unemployment is low and there are more jobs available now that there are workers to fill them. Now hiring signs are everywhere and printed on every receipt you get from every business.

Bryan Steil (R): On the right track.

2. Do you believe that tax increases affect job creation? Why or why not?

Cathy Meyers (D): Yes, increasing taxes on the middle class and low-income Americans lowers demand and decreases job creation. Increasing taxes on the wealthy and large corporations to invest in programs that put money in the pockets of the poor and middle class will increase demand and increase job creation. Trickle down economics has failed, so we need to try putting money in the pockets of those who will reinvest it in our economy.

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Paul Nehlen (R): Tax increases negatively impact job creation. I've had a highly successful business career for 30+ years, and have built/relocated highly engineered manufacturing businesses from foreign countries back to the U.S. including to Delavan and Beaver Dam Wisconsin. The tax impact was certainly factored into those decisions.

Nick Polce (R): Yes, tax increases affect job creation. When Businesses are forced to pay more in taxes they have less money to use to build or grow their business. Low tax environments increase prosperity and help to allow individuals to prosper.

Kevin Adam Steen (R): Tax increases do slow down job creation. Look what has happened under Trump's tax cuts which have increased pay for employees and certainly aided the creation of more jobs.

Bryan Steil (R): Tax increases limit job creation. The conservative reforms enacted in Wisconsin over the past few years have created the strong pro-jobs environment we have today. Washington spends too much of our money. We need to restore fiscal discipline to the budget process while also continuing pro-growth policies to unleash the full strength of the American economy.

3. Explain how your background will help you to be a successful elected official, representing a broad range of interests and competing demands.

Cathy Meyers (D): I've served as an elected official on the Janesville School Board since 2013. When I joined the board, I didn't have the votes to pass my top priorities, so I built a bipartisan coalition and we successfully passed a farm-to-school lunch program to provide better food for our students. I know how to work in a bipartisan way to balance a tight budget because we've done it every year I've been on the school board.

Paul Nehlen (R): As a leader of Fortune 500 firms and private equity firms around the globe, I will bring a unique set of skills to help businesses think through the process of growing and how to keep government at bay or helpful, never in the way of business growth. I'm a good listener and have a high capacity for work and love to see growth in local business.

Nick Polce (R): I have a decade in the U.S. Army Special Forces and several years as a small business owner. Leading individuals in combat forces you to build common ground and focus on the broader strategic mission of putting the team ahead of the individual. In business, your focus is on meeting the needs of the consumer – your customer. The business put satisfaction of the customer ahead of their individual needs.

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Kevin Adam Steen (R): I am married to my wife Hannah, we have a daughter Ella and one on the way due in December. I grew up on a farm where I learned a hard work ethic, which I continue to use to this day. I hold a degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and I work full time at Putzmiester as an applications engineer while campaigning. Being a one income house hold I have a conservative budget and I know how to limit spending. I am a family man, with a conservative wallet and a hard work ethic. I would love to get to know more people in this district, so please contact us via our website at steenforcongress.com.

Bryan Steil (R): Washington needs more problem solvers. My background is in manufacturing and education, working for Rock County manufacturers for the last nine years and serving on the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents since May 2016. Every day I solve problems to get product in and out the door. On the Board of Regents, I've voted to maintain a tuition freeze so that students across Wisconsin have access to affordable and high-quality education.

4. Why should members of the Waukesha County Business Alliance vote for you?

Cathy Meyers (D): Republicans in Congress are beholden to big business, not small businesses. I support progressive economic policies will put money in the pockets of your customers. My top priority is passing Medicare for All, which would save lives, lower our overall healthcare spending, and relieve businesses that bear the burden of our employer-based healthcare system. Doing so will drastically reduce one of the most significant employer costs so you can invest in your products and workers.

Paul Nehlen (R): I'm loyal to the businesses in this district, this state, and this country. My platform has been America First since I first ran in 2016 to stop the horrible Trans Pacific Partnership trade deal. America First means looking out for Wisconsin/American business interests that support a strong community that can weather any economic storm.

Nick Polce (R): I am the only one in the race who has military experience and has owned a small business. As a result I have been on the receiving end of the rules and regulations that emerge from Washington. I recognize that individuals rather than the political class have the knowledge to make decisions for themselves. We need more individuals in Washington who will work for you instead of ruling over you.

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Kevin Adam Steen (R): I am not a career politician, but a hard working young married man with a desire to represent the people of the 1st Congressional District and am not trying to be someone I am not. What you see is what you get. I am not looking for a career in Washington but want to represent the people of the 1st congressional district and make a positive impact on America and Wisconsin.

Bryan Steil (R): My background in the private sector and in education has given me the experience needed to serve the people of Southeast Wisconsin. I'll bring a private sector approach to addressing and solving problems in Washington. Having spent the last nine years working for Rock County manufacturers, I know what it takes to get the job done.

5. What is one thing that you believe government either does well, or has improved upon?

Cathy Meyers (D): I think our government does a good job of providing tax incentives for new construction of and improvements to low-income housing. It's incredibly important to ensure that low-income workers are able to live, raise a family, and get to work in the communities they serve. Low-income housing tax credits encourage all types of new construction and improvements to our housing infrastructure that might not otherwise attract investment, but makes our communities safer and more resilient.

Paul Nehlen (R): Recently, cutting regulations has been a theme and a successful path towards attracting and fostering business growth. Both at the state and national level we are seeing the effects of that play out in rising productivity and new business starts.

Nick Polce (R): National Defense. The combination of military, intelligence and law enforcement agencies continually work to defend this country from many different threats.

Kevin Adam Steen (R): The best thing that government does is mess up most everything they get involved in. The more they are involved the more they mess it up. Government needs to have common sense, hardworking, individuals that are seeking to make our state and nation a better place for all individuals and not seeking a life time career as a politician who goes to Washington and then is only interested in getting re-elected until they can retire on a government pension.

Bryan Steil (R): Over the past year, the federal government enacted some conservative reforms, such as the tax reform legislation. This legislation put about \$2,500 back in the pockets of the people of Southeast Wisconsin. Tax reform not only benefited families, but also small businesses that create the bulk of new jobs in America.

6. What would you do to control rising health care costs? Be specific.

Cathy Meyers (D): I believe health care is a basic human right, so I support Medicare for All. We need to eliminate the inefficient and burdensome employer-based healthcare system, eliminate the insurance company middleman, and invest their profits into improving health outcomes for Americans. A single-payer system will reduce our overall healthcare spending by encouraging preventative care and increasing access to basic health care, which will allow us to identify problems before they become more costly.

Paul Nehlen (R): I would take the Federal government out of determining what a qualified health care plan is. Insurance companies should legitimately offer cafeteria style plans that work for their customers (us) and not because of a government mandate. I'd work to see more experimental / cost effective treatments fast-tracked through FDA and into the marketplace.

Nick Polce (R): There are a few things we can begin with: 1. Repeal the Affordable care Act. 2. Change the tax codes so that individuals receive the same tax incentives as businesses when they purchase health insurance. 3. Remove regulations that prevent consumers from purchasing insurance in different parts of the country and that prevent competition. 4. Uncap the HSA limits. 5. Increase awareness of 401H plans.

Kevin Adam Steen (R): The government should not be controlling health care and we need to systematically pull the government out.

Bryan Steil (R): The focus needs to be on the individual and the doctor making decisions that are best for individuals, and not a one-size-fits-all approach. The federal government has increased the cost of healthcare. We have a system that is failing patients, families, doctors and providers. I'll work to expand the use of Health Savings Accounts and give states flexibility to implement reforms. This will lead to lower costs and higher quality care.

7. What role should the education system play on preparing students for the workforce?

Cathy Meyers (D): We need an education system that's nimble enough to meet the rapidly changing needs of our economy. That's why I support investing in technical education in our public schools and offering free community college. Nearly one-third of all jobs are projected to be displaced by automation by 2030, so we need an education system that is prepared to meet the needs of Americans who need retraining for a second career in jobs of the future.

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Paul Nehlen (R): The Federal department of education is redundant. Scrap it. Each state can manage its education requirements. In this way, regional differences in likely post HS opportunity may be addressed through vocational or apprentice training, not just the college path. That said, a strong STEM curriculum is more beneficial than a non-science based one.

Nick Polce (R): The role the education system should continue to prepare children for the 21st century changes in the business world.

Kevin Adam Steen (R): We should be doing more with vocational training. Not all graduates from high school will move on to college and we need to better prepare them for the jobs that are available right here in the first district.

Bryan Steil (R): Southeast Wisconsin has the best workforce in the world. New opportunities are coming to Wisconsin, and we need to prepare our workers for the jobs of the future. As a member of the UW Board of Regents, I have seen the importance of quality high schools, effective technical colleges and affordable, high-quality universities. We have all of these in Wisconsin, and I'll work to ensure that the federal government provides our schools flexibility to improve and grow our workforce.

8. What role should the federal government play in maintaining and developing transportation infrastructure in the United States?

Cathy Meyers (D): Past generations invested in the infrastructure that our businesses rely on to this day, but our highways, railroads, and bridges are crumbling. Our federal government has deferred maintenance on existing infrastructure and investment in modern transportation to the point that it is a threat to our national security. We need to invest in high speed rail, local bus and light rail transportation, and clean energy infrastructure to encourage Americans to switch to electric transportation.

Paul Nehlen (R): The Army Corps of Engineers should be consulted on projects that are led by the states. I'm not a fan of the fact that the federal government is seven times as large as when FDR was president. Removing this redundancy of the federal government will ultimately give the state's citizens control over what happens with their tax dollars.

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Nick Polce (R): The federal government's role in our lives has grown too large. We have moved far away from the role outlined in our Constitution. The federal government's role in our transportation infrastructure should remain limited. We should allow the individual states to keep more of their money at the state level and determine how best to develop the infrastructure in their respective states instead of having our money sent to Washington.

Kevin Adam Steen (R): First we need to limit spending so that we do not pass this enormous burden of debt onto our children and grandchildren. Once we can form a budget and stick to the budget, we do need to encourage strengthening of our transportation system to allow businesses to flourish and grow not only in the first district of Wisconsin, but throughout the United States.

Bryan Steil (R): Infrastructure is vital to our economy. We need safe and efficient roads for Wisconsinites to transport goods. The I-94 Corridor is essential to the Wisconsin economy and we need to maintain these essential arteries to continue our economic success. We must invest in our infrastructure to allow the economy to continue to expand.

9. What immigration reforms, if any, would you support?

Cathy Meyers (D): My top priorities are passing a clean DREAM Act and reuniting families that have been separated by the Trump administration. Our economy has encouraged migrant workers to seek jobs in our country, and Wisconsin farmers and manufacturers have come to rely on their labor. I support securing our border, investing in a functioning legal immigration process, and providing a pathway to citizenship for the 13 million undocumented immigrants because it's the humane thing to do.

Paul Nehlen (R): I would support ENFORCEMENT of existing immigration laws, which obviously hasn't been taking place for several decades. Japan doesn't import illegal aliens to increase output. They automate. Same in Europe. We must work to automate, while enforcing existing immigration law. It should be a meritocracy who gets to come to the U.S., not a lottery.

Nick Polce (R): Immigration reform begins with border security. We also need to improve the laws and regulations that are a part of our broken immigration system. We can begin by funding a wall. The next step is to increase, if necessary, funding for immigration enforcement and to allow our immigration officials to do their job. Then we need to modify or remove existing immigration law to close loopholes and put the interests of American citizens and workers first.

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Kevin Adam Steen (R): We have to stop illegal immigration at our borders. Building the wall on the southern border will certainly help in this situation. I am in favor of legal immigration, but we must get illegal immigration under control. Once we stop the illegal immigration then we must work out a system to deal with the illegal immigrants that are already here. Ideally their employers would be able to sponsor the current illegal workforce that is here through the fast track system to allow for legal immigration. Currently many illegal immigrants are receiving benefits that are placing burdens on all aspects of our society and this has to stop.

Bryan Steil (R): Our immigration system is broken and needs comprehensive reform. Our first step must be to secure the border. After we have secured the border, we need comprehensive reform. A part of the solution should include matching legal immigration to our workforce needs here in Wisconsin.