

United States Senate Candidate Questionnaire

Candidates who participated: Charles Barman (R), Kevin Nicholson (R), Leah Vukmir (R)

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

Charles Barman (R): On the right track

Kevin Nicholson (R): On the right track. President Trump's tax reform has made U.S. corporate and personal income tax rates more competitive with the rest of the world, and has given the American people more resources to invest in their future. The Trump administration's push to eliminate excessive regulation encourages economic growth and benefits the people of Wisconsin and America. Our tax code should be simpler: low, broad, and consistently applied tax rates are good for all citizens and businesses, and should be our ultimate goal.

Leah Vukmir (R): On the right track. Our economy is growing and more people are working than ever before, but we still need conservative senators who will balance our budget, fix our broken healthcare system, and reduce burdensome regulations on business.

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

Charles Barman (R): Yes, the government needs to stay out of the pockets of the working man.

Kevin Nicholson (R): Yes, tax increases reallocate capital from private industry to the government, preventing businesses from re-investing in themselves. Politicians do not create jobs, but they can create a pro-growth business environment. Low, broad, and consistently applied tax rates free up resources for businesses to invest, and allow them to plan for the future.

Leah Vukmir (R): Yes. Since historic tax cuts implemented by President Donald Trump, we have seen record job growth and historically low unemployment. During the Obama administration we watched businesses leave the country because of high corporate income taxes. Now we are seeing these same companies reinvest back into the United States, build new headquarters, and hire more American workers.

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

Charles Barman (R): as a steel mill worker for 20 years, and a construction superintendent for 25 years when the infra structure funds are available from the Federal Government, highway, bridges and roads for the State of Wisconsin the work will be done by Wisconsin RESIDENTS.

Kevin Nicholson (R): I am a political outsider; I am not part of the political class, but I have spent my professional life solving problems from combat to business. Political outsiders like President Trump and Ron Johnson have been most effective in solving problems in Washington. I'm the kind of outsider who will push back on the establishment to get things do.

Leah Vukmir (R): As a certified nurse practitioner I was trained to listen about people's ailments, diagnose the cause of those ailments, and implement a plan to treat patients. The same process is involved in developing and creating good public policy. As an elected official you must speak with local and business leaders about problems affecting the community and implement public policy strategies to fix those problems.

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

Charles Barman (R): My platform is based on the water issue, the Fox River needs to be drained so the farmers and Wisconsin business can prosper by stopping the CITY of CHICAGO from dumping 1 BILLION plus gallons of water into the ILLINOIS River per DAY. This dumping is causing major flooding in the Fox and Desplaines River valleys thru to Union Grove, WI.

Kevin Nicholson (R): It's going to take an outsider to beat Tammy Baldwin, and it's going to take an outsider to go to Washington and actually stop repeating the mistakes of the political class: things like a 2,000-page omnibus spending bill that produces no budget discipline. I won't give in to the political practices leading us on a path to financial ruin.

Leah Vukmir (R): As a member of the legislature in Wisconsin I have worked with Governor Walker to create \$8 billion dollars in tax cuts and create a prosperous economic environment. More people are working than ever before in Wisconsin and you can rest assured that once elected to the U.S. senate I will work with Ron Johnson and Donald Trump to reduce burdensome regulations, cut taxes, and eliminate wasteful government spending like we have here in Wisconsin.

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

Charles Barman (R): Sorry I am not of that belief.

Kevin Nicholson (R): I believe that the men and women who wear our nation's uniform selflessly commit themselves to sacrifice on behalf of our nation's constitution and its founding principles. The political class has often failed them, but even so, their devotion to their nation remains resolute.

Leah Vukmir (R): Donald Trump and the legislature continue to appoint Supreme Court justices who uphold the constitution. Justices are not appointed to the bench to enact public policy, but are there to interpret that law as written. Throughout Trump's first term he has confirmed Neil Gorsuch, who continues to uphold the Constitution, and recently appointed Brett Kavanaugh who has also demonstrated to be a strict constitutionalist.

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

Charles Barman (R): Stop allowing people to come from foreign countries and access the benefits equal to \$864 per week.

Kevin Nicholson (R): We must introduce market forces into the health care industry: things like price transparency, real consumer choice, and health care savings accounts. Only with the introduction of these market forces will our nation's health care consumers be able to make rational choices that will begin to suppress rising costs.

Leah Vukmir (R): We need to bring healthcare back to the states and give them as much freedom as possible to operate. We need to provide consumers with information and tools to make informed choices, and we need to remove the requirements that all insurance plans have one-size fits all benefits. We must also allow for the option to purchase plans across state lines. Opening up the market create greater competition, decreases costs and will exponentially increase choices.

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

Charles Barman (R): Vocational classes and trades must be developed into what they were at the height of the industrial revolution.

Kevin Nicholson (R): Greater local control is critical to allowing K-12 students opportunities to choose elective education that enables them to hone in on career skills as soon as they are ready; and for communities to customize their offerings based on their needs. In higher education, institutions need to be incentivized to be more practical and cost efficient.

Leah Vukmir (R): The educational system should provide tools and resources to best prepare students for successful careers. This is done by providing a robust school choice marketplace that gives parents choices of where to send their children. At the secondary level we need vocational and technical schools that teach trades and skilled professions where we desperately need skilled workers to fill high-paying jobs.

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

Charles Barman (R): The Federal Government must return to the states the money due each state and not rob from one state to give to another.

Kevin Nicholson (R): Just like a business, the federal government should depreciate its assets and consistently invest in the maintenance of all roads, bridges, and other utilities that it maintains. We will not go broke off of properly maintaining our infrastructure; we will go broke from over-extending our long-term obligations.

Leah Vukmir (R): A strong economy depends on a strong infrastructure. I agree with President Trump that America needs to make a serious investment into improving our infrastructure. One of the main obstacles to infrastructure improvements is burdensome bureaucratic regulation that needs to be followed on public works projects. Cutting red-tape and eliminating prevailing wage laws will make it easier and more affordable to make infrastructure improvements we desperately need.

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

Charles Barman (R): The Constitution of the US states that Congress regulates naturalization and immigration. No DACA, build a "wall."

Kevin Nicholson (R): I support President Trump's plan to build a wall to permanently stop illegal immigration. I believe we also need to quickly move forward to construct a merit-based and economically sustainable immigration program that considers our nation's unemployment figures when determining how many new immigrants to admit on an annualized basis.

Leah Vukmir (R): First and foremost, we need to secure our southern border with Mexico. Any and all reforms must start with border security. If we cannot control the influx of illegal immigration and drug trafficking into our country, any reforms we implement will be automatically undone. Once we secure the border we can begin to implement reforms that are best for America and our economy.