

WAUKESHA COUNTY BUSINESS ALLIANCE

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Wisconsin State Assembly Candidate Questionnaire – District 14

Candidates who participated: Matt Adamczyk (R), Linda Boucher (R), Robin Moore (R), Rick Braun (L), Joshua Parr (R)

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

Matt Adamczyk (R): On the right track

Linda Boucher (R): Although we have new businesses coming to Wisconsin we are losing well established businesses at the same time. Oshkosh by Gosh, Mercury, and others left WI. Harley Davidson is now cutting back and may build a plant out of the U.S.

Rick Braun (L): On the right track. In general it is on the right track despite the government's efforts to intervene, but there are still many improvements to make in order to make it more free from government meddling.

Robin Moore (R): On the right track.

Joshua Parr (R): Flourishing

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

Matt Adamczyk (R): Tax increases certainly hurt job creation, as higher taxes take money from employers that could better use the money to expand business.

Linda Boucher (R): Tax increases put a financial strain on funds that could be utilized for business expansion, employee wage increases or to purchase and/or replace equipment for the operation. Tax increases force businesses to make decisions based on less funds causing; Decreased productivity and sales, cutting back employee force and hindering expansion.

Rick Braun (L): Yes, increasing taxes on the individual reduces the amount of discretionary income people have to spend, which slows economic growth. Taxing businesses reduces the funds available to businesses to grow their businesses and hire new workers.

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Robin Moore (R): Yes. A successful business owner puts profits back into the business to grow. Growth= jobs. Less taxes = more profit. Profit= growth.

Joshua Parr (R): Yes. The more currency that is circulated, the more the economy grows. When it grows, everyone gets more wealthy, which allows for more money to go to more jobs, or for people to afford to start their own companies. When taxes are increased, it slows the exchange of money and thus lowers job growth or even reverses the trend.

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

Matt Adamczyk (R): I was elected in 2014 as the Wisconsin State Treasurer. I have used my time in office to make government more efficient and smaller. I also have helped operate a small family business and operate a small rental management company.

Linda Boucher (R): My work experience in varied jobs allows me to understand and represent a range of constituents. School Board-Chairperson of Legislative & Community Engagement, Finance & Operation. Special Ed. teacher, partner of a small business, loaded trucks for UPS, cashier, account executive -sold advertising, factory worker at Dean Foods & car hop.

Rick Braun (L): Serving in the Marine Corps in leadership positions, I have years of experience managing competing demands. I also have degrees in Business and Political Science and over a decade of experience in the private sector and understand how increasing taxes or even the possibility of tax increases prevent businesses from taking risks.

Robin Moore (R): 25 years in sales and service to businesses of all sizes in Wisconsin and the Midwest. I have worked for myself in small business and large corporations.

Joshua Parr (R): I lived in Montana for 5 years and studied their DOT to reform our DOT. I have many family and friends that own small business which gives me an inside to their needs. I served in the USMC to fight for and defend the innocent which I translate into being tough on crime. I am getting married in August and I want to leave a better WI for my family.

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

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Matt Adamczyk (R): I have a proven track record as a strong fiscal conservative. I know that businesses do best with less government involvement.

Linda Boucher (R): My platform is based on building a successful program for the juvenile justice system. It is my vision to provide skill training, internships and mentoring through a grant based partnership with businesses. I see business partnerships with teen offenders as a positive pathway for a second chance opportunity to transition them into the workforce.

Rick Braun (L): I am a fresh perspective that will work both against increasing taxes and against those who wish to use influence in Madison to reduce competition. I believe in a level playing field and want to reduce barriers to entry for entrepreneurs.

Robin Moore (R): I will be the strongest pro-business voice. Good business = jobs = prosperity = Wisconsin moves forward!

Joshua Parr (R): I believe strongly in the free market system and capitalism. Government should not pick winners and losers, but it should reward businesses and companies that start, expand, and move to WI. Currency must circulate for a strong economy. I want to lower taxes, regulations, burdens and inflation. I want more tax holidays, credits, and incentives.

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

Matt Adamczyk (R): Since Governor Walker was elected, Wisconsin has done a much better job creating an environment for business to thrive, which is much improved from the Doyle days.

Linda Boucher (R): Wisconsin has recently awarded grant money to school districts throughout the state for implementation of school safety programs.

Rick Braun (L): I do not believe the government does anything better than the private sector.

Robin Moore (R): Over the last 8 years the Wisconsin State Legislature and government have implied the business climate. Has improved and does it well!

Joshua Parr (R): I believe the main goal of government is to be a stabilizing entity and to protect the innocent. When government does this, it does a good job. When it goes outside of this, it falters.

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6. Do you support the intent and subsequent results of Act 10, which passed through the legislature in 2011?

Matt Adamczyk (R): Yes. As a former staffer for Sen. Leah Vukmir, I was proud to work in the building during the successful and historic passage of Act 10.

Linda Boucher (R): I do not agree with the way it came down. There was no discussion informing the stakeholders as to what was included in Act 10. The unforeseen results: mass retirements, teacher shortage, early retirement of other professionals who were scare of losing their pensions, lowering of licensures for teachers and realtors and people leaving the state to secure employment elsewhere. Joining a union or not joining a union should be and individual choice not a requirement for employment.

Rick Braun (L): Yes. The focus of government spending should be on the students and the facilities instead of teachers unions and their contracts.

Robin Moore (R): Yes

Joshua Parr (R): Yes.

7. Wisconsin is facing a major funding shortfall for transportation infrastructure. What are your ideas to address this issue to ensure that Wisconsin's infrastructure is maintained and we can show that the state is "open for business?"

Matt Adamczyk (R): The most important thing is to make sure all money earmarked for roads is being spent wisely and efficiently. I will help lead this effort if elected. Simply put, there is still waste in government.

Linda Boucher (R): To fund the transportation infrastructure a minimal flat shipping fee should be mandatory for on line ordering from the internet. Instead of free shipping a 50 cent or dollar fee should go into a transportation fund. Web based shipping sites utilize the transportation systems so they should contribute to the transportation infrastructure.

Rick Braun (L): Costs per construction bid can be severely reduced simply by requiring more than one bid per contract. The majority of road construction projects are awarded to contractors without having any competition for the project. Competition would immediately lower the costs per project and would help eliminate the shortfall.

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Robin Moore (R): Transportation: 1. Control spending- save money on length of projects and manage to come in under budget and ahead of schedule. Sect. Ross is doing this! 2. Long term solution; if a tax must offset elsewhere.

Joshua Parr (R): We don't have a funding issue. We have a spending issue. I plan on adopting a DOT model that is based off of Montana's DOT. They can do it a lot faster, cheaper, and more efficient than we can. They also have a worse environment and lower tax base, I believe we can do similar to what they can do.

8. If elected, what are the top 3 priorities you will have in Madison? Be specific.

Matt Adamczyk (R): 1. Reign in government spending to allow for tax reductions 2. Make government more efficient, thus freeing up funds for necessary spending 3. Work to fight the drug and crime problem spreading in our area.

Linda Boucher (R): I support increased aids & services for AODA, mental health treatment and intervention for those in crisis situations. I hope to develop a program for juvenile offenders to work with businesses on job training and skills. I support continuing and expanding funding and/or grant money to encourage educational institutions and business partnerships.

Rick Braun (L): Getting spending under control, fixing the transportation budget shortfall, and eliminating excessive and arbitrary government regulations.

Robin Moore (R): 1. Skillsgap/High school skills training 2. Healthcare costs 3. Community safety

Joshua Parr (R): DOT Reform: We spend too much, on too little, and take too long on getting it done. Criminal Justice Reform: we should be the innocent and law abiding citizens first, not criminals. Small and New Business Advocacy: I've many friends and family that have small businesses. They have given me jobs and opportunities, and I want to give back to them.

9. What will you do, specifically, to encourage and support economic development in this district and around the state?

Matt Adamczyk (R): In many ways, I will support the good work done over the last few years by Gov. Walker and Republican legislators

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Linda Boucher (R): I support the Tax increment financing (TIF) for the redevelopment in the Brookfield Square area. The proposed community development is projected to include a Hotel Conference center, Marcus Theater and other major business expansions.

Robin Moore (R): 1. Liason and Listen to business owners. Reduce regulations

Joshua Parr (R): I want to lower taxes, regulations, burdens, and inflation. I want more tax holidays, credits, and breaks. I want to give incentives to companies that start up here, move here, and expand here along with their employees, clients, those they do business with. Small business owners are taxed worse than anyone else in this country, and that is wrong.

10. Knowing that many out-of-state residents who receive higher education in Wisconsin leave, what can the state do better to keep, and employ, those individuals after graduation?

Matt Adamczyk (R): We need to continue to foster an environment that allows businesses to thrive. In doing so, the jobs created by those businesses will keep people here.

Robin Moore (R): Provide jobs that support families and reduce taxes to make Wisconsin a place to retire!

Joshua Parr (R): One possible solution is to match of students with local companies that fit their majors as interns and encourage co-op programs. If they see themselves with immediate job opportunities with in-state companies, it might encourage them to stay. (For further info see answer to #11).

11. What policies would you pursue, if any, to ensure that our education institutions continue to meet the needs of our state?

Matt Adamczyk (R): I am a big believer of keeping money in the classroom. In addition, I believe that high schools could do a better job training workers that don't want to immediately pursue a college degree.

Linda Boucher (R): I would pursue policies to Offer incentives and grants for school business partnerships, to match the areas of employment in greatest demand through expanding high school course offerings, internships and skill training. I would continue to support AP & youth options for early college credit and encourage university and high school partnerships.

Robin Moore (R): Provide an oversight committee for WPI

Joshua Parr (R): Businesses and the market should determine the majors that we encourage. We should also spend the government aided tuition in majors that will provide a return and not in majors where there is no need for them. Our K-12 and UW-systems needs major reforms. I don't know yet how to do that, but if elected, I will dedicate myself to figuring it out.

12. What specifically would you do to increase the labor participation rate among able-bodied adults in the state?

Matt Adamczyk (R): I would support the policies either enacted or proposed by Republican legislators over the last few terms.

Linda Boucher (R): In order to increase the labor force for able bodied adults we need to first identify the root cause of non-participation and then offer a solution. What is needed to accomplish participation? EX Transportation, skill training, reasonable day care, loss of Badger care or health insurance if employed, is housing assistance negatively affected etc.

Robin Moore (R): Provide local municipalities methods and messaging to install a positive work ethic. Reform welfare to encourage more welfare to work.

Joshua Parr (R): At the moment, we are at near full employment in the state of Wisconsin. Anyone who wants a job, can have a job. Most of the growth has been in SE WI and I want to encourage growth in the other parts of WI and encourage more forms of industry and new industry. I also want to open up the "green belt" for mining.

13. What is your opinion on the performance of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and do you support economic incentives such as tax credits to assist business expansion within the state?

Matt Adamczyk (R): I believe that WEDC has done a better job recently in keeping Wisconsin a place that employers want to stay or locate.

Linda Boucher (R): There has been a positive impact of WEDC. It has made Wisconsin a great place to establish and expand a business. Grants for redevelopment throughout the state have been made

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possible because of WEDC. I whole heartedly support Tax credits to assist business expansion within the state of Wisconsin.

Robin Moore (R): WEDC provides an instrumental role and has a benefit of bringing solutions to grow new and existing business. Tax credits, when done correctly, can work if they don't have a negative impact on taxpayers.

Joshua Parr (R): I support the WEDC and economic incentives.