

United States Congressional Candidate Questionnaire – District 1

Candidates who participated:

1st Congressional District: Bryan Steil (R)

5th Congressional District: Tom Palzewicz (D)

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

1st Congressional District:

Bryan Steil (R): On the right track.

5th Congressional District:

Tom Palzewicz (D): Being threatened. When large corporations force cities and states to come up with large incentive packages using public funds, that is not free enterprise, it's crony capitalism. The 40-year incumbent in my district hasn't pushed back on this, and it's time for change. If governments are going to invest in economic development, they should be investing in small businesses & entrepreneurs who need help getting off the ground, not well established companies that seek subsidies to increase their profit margin.

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

1st Congressional District:

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.

5th Congressional District:

Tom Palzewicz (D): Tax rates can potentially have an effect on job creation. Job creation is built off of shared resources, and these shared resources need to be paid for by the entities using them. Education, Infrastructure and Health Care are examples of shared resources. The key is to collaborate with all stakeholders and find the appropriate tax rates.

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

1st Congressional District:

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.

5th Congressional District:

Tom Palzewicz (D): My 6 years in the Navy & 4 on a submarine, 15 years in risk management for banks and 14 years as a small business owner helping other businesses grow has taught me servant leadership, economic understanding & the value of collaboration. I believe these are the skills needed to achieve bipartisan policies that benefit all businesses and residents.

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

1st Congressional District:

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.

5th Congressional District:

Tom Palzewicz (D): As a member of the WCBA and facilitator for Leadership Waukesha, I feel uniquely positioned to understand the issues that regional businesses face. I'll work with everyone to find common ground and smart answers. I'm a pro-business Democrat, because we need thriving businesses, smart environmental policies, and stronger wage growth.

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

1st Congressional District:

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.

5th Congressional District:

Tom Palzewicz (D): Municipalities continue to maintain infrastructure despite shrinking local control & less resources. Our schools are adapting to sustain the quality of education as technology rapidly evolves & our fire and police keep protecting us all. We need our federal gov. to have better priorities while improving organization and lowering bureaucratic costs.

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

1st Congressional District:

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.

5th Congressional District:

Tom Palzewicz (D): Universal coverage is the first step to drive down healthcare costs. Uncoupling coverage from employment is key to increased entrepreneurship & job mobility. A more proactive model and more accountability will bring America's healthcare costs more in line with other developed countries and lower the cost impact of our aging population.

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

1st Congressional 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.

5th Congressional District:

Tom Palzewicz (D): Education is one of the most important services that our government provides and ensures that everyone in our society has an opportunity to reach their full potential. Not every child is best suited for a four-year institution and our education system should take into account every potential career path including entrepreneurship and the trades.

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

1st Congressional District:

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.

5th Congressional District:

Tom Palzewicz (D): Robust commerce is predicated on its ability to utilize a well-funded & evolving transportation infrastructure. As an essential component to economic development, this system requires a national, cooperative mechanism like our government for oversight & organization as well as for sharing the cost among all who benefit from it as a shared resource.

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

1st Congressional District:

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.

5th Congressional District:

Tom Palzewicz (D): Many businesses in our region rely on consistent immigration for labor. Fixing our outdated immigration system, while protecting the dignity and rights of migrants, can be accomplished. I support reinstating DACA and providing immigrants within our country an easier path to citizenship and I oppose any policy that separates children from families.