U.S. HOUSE - DISTRICT 6

Laura Fjeld (D)



Lives in: Hurdle Mills

Contact: Laura@LauraForNC.com; www.LauraForNC.com.

Age: 60

Profession: Attorney

Highest degree earned: Juris doctor

Leadership experience: As general counsel of the UNC system, I worked well with Republicans and Democrats alike to ensure access and protect the quality of our 17-campus university.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful member of Congress? Congress has enough career politicians. We need to elect people who are dedicated to serving their constituents, not advancing a partisan agenda or their own interests. I will work with other members to find common ground and make progress for all North Carolinians.

Give an example of how you have worked with someone from another political party to accomplish a goal. Or, if you haven't held elected office, how will you do this? As someone who hasn't been a career politician, I have never focused on party labels in my career. When we stop worrying about "scoring points," we will have much more in common than not.

Where do you stand on issues of reproductive rights, including abortion and contraception? I believe that a woman's health care options should be between a woman and her doctor. Women should have affordable access to basic forms of contraception without government interference.

What should the U.S. role be in dealing with the rise of the Islamic State? ISIS is a threat to our national security, and we need to do what is necessary to eliminate them. I strongly support the airstrikes and will work with our military and intelligence communities to ensure that all strategic options are being assessed and we are doing everything reasonably possible to eradicate ISIS.

Would you support an independent commission for redistricting? Why or why not? Yes, it is a disgrace that politicians can gerrymander districts for the sole purpose of helping one party over another. Both parties have been guilty of this, and it needs to end.

What is your plan for federal health care reform? The website rollout was a disgrace, and I hold the president accountable for this failure. We need to ensure anyone who wants to keep their plan is able to do so. I will cut through the partisan rhetoric and work with both parties to fix the law.

In the event of another debt ceiling impasse, are you willing to let the federal government shut down? No, the government shutdown hurt thousands of North Carolina families and cost our citizens millions we couldn't afford to lose. We won't always agree, but we should never let those disagreements hurt the families we are supposed to protect.

Should there be a federally mandated minimum wage? Yes, we need to ensure that hard work pays a living wage. If someone is working full time, they should not be living below the poverty line. We can reduce the amount the government spends on food stamps by ensuring employees are paid a minimum wage of $10.10 per hour.

Do you think the federal government should promote more offshore energy development, stricter environmental regulations, or both? The United States needs to be energy independent so we aren't relying on foreign countries to meet our energy needs. This will require a balanced approach, but not at the expense of our health or natural treasures.

Should coal ash be designated as hazardous waste and regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency? The recent spill in the Dan River is a public health and environmental disaster. North Carolinians deserve answers, and those responsible should be held accountable. We need to rely upon scientists to advise on whether coal ash is a hazardous waste.

Mark Walker (R)



Lives in: Summerfield

Contact: mark@walker4nc.com

Age: 45

Profession: Minister

Highest degree earned: Bachelor of arts in Biblical studies, Piedmont Baptist College, 1999

Leadership experience: My experience began in the private sector in working as a business and finance manager for Flow Corp. I was appointed by the Greensboro City Council to serve on the War Memorial Commission. I also have executive pastoral leadership experience for multimillion (dollar) budgeted facilities and ministries.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful member of Congress? Experience can be a valuable tool. As a businessman and a pastor, I've served people from all walks of life. However, Washington is full of "experienced" lawyers and legislators. In 2013, Congress never reached 20 percent approval rating. The void in Washington is leadership, not career politicians.

Give an example of how you have worked with someone from another political party to accomplish a goal. Or, if you haven't held elected office, how will you do this? Our campaign is about "People before Politics." We've worked with many Democrats and unaffiliated though our inner-city work in Cleveland and Baltimore as well as local organizations, including Family Services of the Piedmont and Urban Ministry. Good leaders work with all party affiliations to accomplish great objectives.

Where do you stand on issues of reproductive rights, including abortion and contraception? I am pro-life. My desire is to extend as much support to mothers as possible while protecting the life of the unborn child. Women should have access to contraception and the quality health care we desire for all citizens.

What should the U.S. role be in dealing with the rise of the Islamic State? Keeping Americans safe has to be the federal government's top priority. We must confront new threats quickly and with the tools and confidence of victory — not because our military is bigger, but because our ideas and ideals are stronger than our enemies.

Would you support an independent commission for redistricting? Why or why not? I have no problem with an independent commission if it's truly bipartisan. I find many constituents who are frustrated with the redistricting process and desire long-term consistency.

What is your plan for federal health care reform? Opening state lines for all insurance companies to compete, moving swiftly on tort reform legislation and providing tax credits for personal health savings accounts is a healthy start. I've personally met with Congressman Tom Price in Washington to discuss the effectiveness of his responsible and alternative approach to Obamacare.

In the event of another debt ceiling impasse, are you willing to let the federal government shut down? I would struggle shutting down the government because of the hardship created for Americans. It is unfortunate our president, on numerous occasions, has refused to work with Congress. His Affordable Care Act is an example of the government's incompetence and ineffectiveness.

Should there be a federally mandated minimum wage? I don't believe the government should force a small business to increase its hourly wage. Independent organizations have agreed a mandate would cost 500,000 jobs. Our economy is fragile at best, and we must allow the private sector to dictate our best course.

Do you think the federal government should promote more offshore energy development, stricter environmental regulations, or both? To be consistent, my goal in Congress would be to limit the federal government and return such power to the states. **Should coal ash be designated as hazardous waste and regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency?** I don't believe it should. However, I was the only Republican candidate who went on record suggesting Duke Energy be held accountable for unlined coal ash ponds. They're taking responsibility, and it's time to move forward.

U.S. HOUSE - DIST. 12

Alma Adams (D)



Lives in: Greensboro

Contact: alma@almaadamsforcongress.com; www.almaadamsforcongress.com

Age: 68

Profession: Retired art professor; legislator, N.C. House District 58.

Highest degree earned: Ph.D., Ohio State University

Leadership Experience: Greensboro City School Board, 1984-1986; Greensboro City Council, 1987-1994; N.C. General Assembly House District 58, 1994-present.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful member of Congress? Having insight and demonstrated knowledge of local and state government legislative policies, practices and appropriations procedures is valuable in Congress. I have over 30 years of elected leadership experience, illustrating my ability to get things done. Experience on the local level makes for an easier transition to the federal level.

Give an example of how you have worked with someone from another political party to accomplish a goal. Or, if you haven't held elected office, how will you do this? In my 30 years experience in elected office, I have worked with both parties many times to accomplish goals. The most memorable was when I was working to increase the state's minimum wage. It was a nine-year fight, but ultimately, the bill passed with the help of both parties.

Would you support an independent commission for redistricting? Yes. An independent commission removes the bias and partisanship from the process, allowing for a greater balance and likelihood of increasing the public's trust and confidence in the electoral process.

What is your plan for federal health care reform? The Affordable Care Act is a step in the right direction; however, rollout issues need correcting. Every American, regardless of income, deserves access to quality, affordable health care. I support lowering health care costs for small businesses and eliminating states' rights to opt out of Medicaid expansion, closing the gap for the uninsured.

In the event of another debt ceiling impasse, are you willing to let the federal government shut down? No. Automatic and arbitrary spending cuts hurt North Carolina families, threaten jobs, jeopardize public safety and hurt our men and women in uniform. I will work with both parties to balance the budget while protecting our priorities to avoid a shutdown.

Should there be a federally mandated minimum wage? Why or why not? Absolutely. It helps level the playing field for workers, ensuring everyone earns the same minimum living wage. People should not have to work two and three jobs every day just to provide basic necessities and support for their families. Increasing the minimum wage circulates money back into our economy.

Do you think the federal government should promote more offshore energy development, stricter environmental regulations, or both? We need both. The federal government needs to continue investing in more renewable energy resources such as wind and tide. North Carolina has significant offshore wind resources that can provide more than 100 percent of our energy needs. We also need stricter environmental regulations on issues such as fracking.

What would you do to reduce illegal immigration? What would you do about the illegal immigrants that are currently in the country? We need to find a pathway for the more than 11 million aspiring Americans currently in our country. We also need to strengthen our borders and work to provide educational support for children illegally brought here by their parents.