

# ELECTION2014

## U.S. SENATE

The Minnesota Newspaper Association sent questions to U.S. Senate candidates. The questions are below, along with their responses:

1. Briefly summarize your personal background and qualifications.
2. Top priority: If elected, what is your top priority for the 2015 Congress? Why are you running for office?
3. Social Security/Medicare: What role should these entitlement programs play in Americans' retirement plans? Be specific in any changes you may support in the existing programs to ensure they remain solvent.
4. Economy: What steps do you support to stimulate the growth of jobs?

### AL FRANKEN, D-INCUMBENT

1. It's been an honor serving the people of Minnesota in the United States Senate. And I'm proud of my record of working across party lines to get things done. I grew up in St. Louis Park. My dad didn't graduate high school. My brother and I grew up in a two bedroom, one bath house. But I considered myself the luckiest kid in the world. Because I was. I was growing up middle-class, at the height of the middle class in America. I felt like I could do anything. I wake every day fighting for the middle class and for those aspiring to be in the middle class. I want to build an economy for the future. So our kids can feel like I did. I ask for your vote on November 4th so I can have the honor of continuing my work. Thank you.

2. Too many Minnesotans



feel like the economy is rigged against them. We've experienced 55 straight months of private sector job growth but most of that has gone to the top—not to middle class families. Every day I wake up thinking of

how I can help the middle class and those aspiring to be in the middle class. My grandson Joe is 18 months old. When I put him to sleep I think about his future and all of the things he can grow up to be. He has two parents that love him and will be able to support him—I want that for every kid. I want to create an economy where our kids feel like I did when I was growing up, like they could do anything. It hasn't been easy in Washington, but I've gotten things done and I want to keep working hard to ensure everyone has a fair shot.

3. My wife's family made it after her father died in large part because of Social Security survivor benefits, so protecting this program and making sure it's there for future retirees is personal for me. I am funda-

mentally opposed to any form of privatization of Social Security, and would oppose attempts to cut benefits. I have long supported improving Social Security's future solvency by asking the wealthiest to pay a little more while holding the middle-class harmless. I am also committed to protecting and strengthening Medicare so it can continue to provide quality affordable health care coverage to seniors in Minnesota. I am opposed to any efforts to privatize Medicare or turn it into a voucher program. Instead, we should build on the reforms in the Affordable Care Act that improve benefits while reducing costs for seniors and taxpayers. I have also introduced legislation that would allow Medicare to negotiate with drug companies for

lower prices which would save \$240 billion over the next 10 years. Expanding the Diabetes Prevention Program—which I wrote into the health care reform law—to Medicare, will help improve seniors' lives and save taxpayers money.

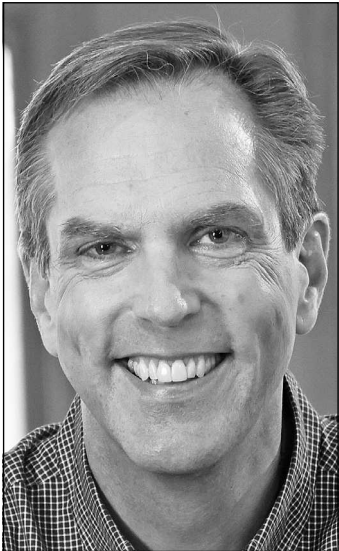
4. Our economy is starting to grow after the worst recession in generations, but too many Minnesotans aren't seeing the economy get better for them. We know what the keys to prosperity are in the 21st century. They're the same things that helped make us great in the 20th century: education, infrastructure, and research and development. Those are the things we need to support to help create new middle-class jobs. And we need to cut wasteful tax loopholes and spending to reduce our

deficit. I also think we need to create more demand, and to get more demand you have to put more money in peoples' pockets. Right now there are 3.5 million good, middle-class jobs that are going unfilled because employers can't find the workers with the right skills to fill them. I've heard from many Minnesota businesses that are struggling with these same problems So, I helped pass a bill to reform our workforce training system, and am pushing legislation to do more to train workers for unfilled jobs. There are two other simple things we can do to help make that a reality: pass legislation that will allow people to refinance their student loans and raise the federal minimum wage—I'm working hard to get both of these done.

### MIKE MCFADDEN, R

1. While I don't have political experience – something I am proud of – I do have the real-world experience Washington seems to be lacking. I've spent over 20 years working with small and medium-sized businesses in Minnesota and across the country, giving me the insight we need to jumpstart this stagnant economy.

2. I am running because we can do better. My wife Mary Kate and I have been married for 23 and are blessed with six children. I'm concerned with what we're leaving for our kids. Between a stagnant economy and over \$17 trillion in debt, a broken health care



system, and an education system that fails to serve everyone, Minnesotans

know we're headed in the wrong direction. I'm a problem solver. My priority will be sitting down with leaders from both parties and bringing real solutions to our nation's challenges.

3. We need to preserve and protect Social Security and Medicare to ensure that they are available to our children. I do not support any changes to these programs that affect those at or near retirement. That would not be fair. But it also is not fair to make promises to our young people that we cannot keep. We need to address the looming insolvency of our entitlement programs now,

so that we can ensure that we can meet our promises to everyone. If we do nothing, in the future, three things could happen: payroll taxes could go up, debt could go through the roof, or we could be forced to make cuts to benefits. We can avoid that situation with thoughtful planning now. We need to do right by our seniors of today and tomorrow. I'm a problem solver. For my whole career, I have sat down at tables with groups who want different outcomes and I have led negotiations to find solutions. That's what I'm going to do when I get to Washington. I will sit down with leaders from

both parties, put many options on the table, and preserve our entitlement programs.

4. Our economy has been stagnant. Labor force participation is lower than it's been in decades, and underemployment in Minnesota is over 50%. Prices of everything – from food to gas to electricity to health care – are going up, but wages are stagnant. In the last six years, average weekly wages have only grown by \$8. We can do better. I know how to get us on the path of growth and prosperity. My plan has three E's: Energy, Education, and Effective Government. Firstly, by

embracing the energy renaissance, we can lower gas prices and electricity prices, putting more money in Minnesotan's pockets and boosting our manufacturing sector. Secondly, every child deserves a first-class education, regardless of their zip code. Minnesota has one of the worst achievement gaps in the country, and we need to radically rethink our education system. Thirdly, we need to get government out of the way of growth. This means smart regulation instead of over regulation. It also means comprehensive tax reform, to make the tax code simpler and fairer for everyone.

VETERANS DAY  
CLOSURE

The Solid Waste  
Transfer Station/Recycling Center  
will be closed on Tuesday, November 11,  
in observance of Veterans Day.

NORMAL OPERATING HOURS ARE  
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday  
AND SATURDAY  
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

If you have any questions please contact the  
KOOCHICHIING COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT at  
283-1157

MINNESOTA  
DFL  
DEMOCRATIC-FARMER-LABOR PARTY

Vote DFL on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>

MARK DAYTON  
GOVERNOR

AL FRANKEN  
U.S. SENATE

RICK NOLAN  
U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 8

This is your official DFL Sample Ballot. On Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, help elect our DFL team for a Better Minnesota. If you have questions about voting or finding your polling place, call 1-888-273-6570 or visit [www.DFL.org](http://www.DFL.org).

DAVID DILL  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

STEVE SIMON  
SECRETARY OF STATE

LORI SWANSON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

STEVE SIMON  
Democratic-Farmer-Labor

REBECCA OTTO  
STATE AUDITOR

GOVERNOR AND  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
MARK DAYTON AND  
TINA SMITH  
Democratic-Farmer-Labor

SECRETARY OF STATE  
STEVE SIMON  
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STATE AUDITOR  
REBECCA OTTO  
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Ordered and paid for by Kooch DFL, Darlene Carlson, Assoc. Chair, 509 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Int'l Falls, MN

KOOCHICHIING LABOR ASSEMBLY  
PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THEIR  
2014 LABOR ENDORSEMENTS  
TO THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES

Sheriff - Brian Jespersen

Center Ward City Council - Joe Schwartz

West Ward City Council - Cynthia Jaksa

County Commissioner - Rob Ecklund

School Board- Tom Holt

School Board - Heather McBride

School Board - Toni Korpi

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