

ELECTION2014

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

The Minnesota Newspaper Association sent questions to U.S. House 8th District 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. Health care: Cost and quality of health care is an ongoing concern. What can be done at the federal level to ensure Americans have access to quality and affordable health care? Do you support changes in the Affordable Care Act?

4. 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.

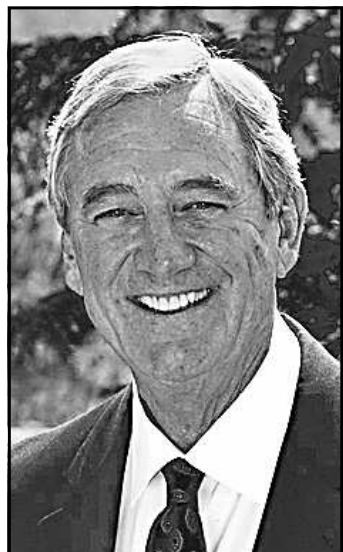
5. Agriculture: The proposed definition of the Waters of the U.S. would subject nearly any property owner, including farmers, to new layers of reviews and permitting. Do you support this proposal?

6. Economy: What steps do you support to stimulate the growth of jobs?

RICK NOLAN, D-INCUMBENT

1. I have represented Minnesota's 8th District since 2013, sitting on the House Committees on Agriculture and Transportation & Infrastructure. I'm a father and grandfather from Crosby, married to Mary Nolan for 30 years, and a successful small-business owner with decades of international business experience and a lifetime of public service.

2. I will continue working to expand the middle class by raising the national minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour; support Minnesota mining by enabling critical projects on the Iron Range to move forward – while making sure they adhere to the strictest environmental standards; promote our timber industry and the jobs it supports; rebuild our nation's transportation system; protect Social Security & Medicare from privatization; better serve our nation's veterans by hiring more VA claims



processors and expanding access to healthcare; get the money out of our politics; and protect our lakes, rivers, and streams – and tourism industry – from invasive species.

3. I'm a strong supporter of Affordable Care Act provisions that guarantee coverage for people with

pre-existing conditions, keep young adults on their parents' plans until they're 26, lower the cost of seniors' prescription drugs, and guarantee women don't pay more than men for their health care. Now that the ACA is the law of the land, we need to roll up our sleeves and fix what needs fixing, which is why I have a bipartisan bill in Congress that would eliminate an unnecessary fee associated with certain companies' insurance programs, putting a little more money in workers' pockets.

4. I firmly believe that Social Security and Medicare are earned benefits that seniors started paying for since their first day on the job. I will continue to strongly oppose any plan that cuts seniors' benefits or privatizes these vital programs, including implementing so-called "chained CPI," raising the retire-

ment age, means-testing recipients, and employing vouchers. I support requiring the super-rich to pay a higher percentage of their income in Social Security taxes. We must protect these programs, not turn them over to private insurance companies.

5. Clean water defines our region of northern Minnesota; it's essential to our health, our quality of life and our recreation and tourism economy. Opponents of this proposal have portrayed EPA's effort as an attempt to regulate birdbaths, farm ponds, puddles, and driveways. This is nonsense; the Clean Water Act doesn't apply to these sorts of things in the first place. EPA's proposal would ensure that waters and wetlands that provide hundreds of millions of Americans with drinking water, provide vital protection to our towns and communities, and pro-

vide valuable habitat to our native fish and wildlife are protected.

6. Last year, I passed a law that relieves small airplane manufacturers like Cirrus in Duluth from unnecessary burdensome regulations, enabling them to hire more Minnesotans. My amendments to the Water Resources bill will boost Great Lakes shipping and provide for jobs in the Duluth harbor by preventing future raids on the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and treating the Great Lakes as one connected system of waterways. Another of my amendments protects tourism and recreation jobs in northern Minnesota by closing the St. Anthony Lock and Dam in Minneapolis, preventing Asian carp and other invasive species from entering our Mississippi watershed and potentially the Great Lakes. I believe the best way to grow the economy is

from the bottom up and the middle out. History shows that “trickle-down” economics – tax breaks for the super wealthy – doesn’t work. I’ve worked on reforming our tax policies to reward the middle class for working hard, and make the millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share. We’ve also got to make sure our trade policies keep good-paying American jobs here, and I will do what I can to ensure trade agreements such as the ongoing TPP negotiations are conducted fairly and transparently. It’s unfair to ask our businesses and workers to compete with countries that don’t have the same high standards for wages, benefits, environment, health, and safety as we do. Above all, we need to immediately raise the minimum wage to a wage you can live on, because no one should have to work two to three jobs just to make a living.

STEWART MILLS III, R

1. I started work in our family business before the age of 14, sweeping floors and stocking shelves. Over the years, I worked my way up, and since 1999 have been in charge of Fleet Farm's self-insured health plan that provides coverage for over 6,000 employees and their families. I've seen first-hand how to bring down health care costs, and I want to work to bring some of those ideas to Washington. I know what it takes to create jobs and economic growth, and have seen how Democratic policies have put a target on the backs of our Main Street businesses. I'm not a politician and I've never thought about running for office before this – I see this as my opportunity for national service.

2. In our family, we have something called the Hunting Camp Doctrine. It comes from the first time I got to go hunting with my dad, when I was about 8 or 9 years old. At breakfast, I complained about runny eggs. My dad took me aside and said, "Here's how this works. If you complain about the food, you get the job to be

A black and white portrait of a man with long, wavy hair, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. He is wearing a dark, collared shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

the cook.” Over the years, I’ve found myself complaining about a lot of policies coming out of Washington these days, like Obamacare and assaults on our 2nd Amendment rights. After a lot of people in our community asked me to run, I realized I’d been doing a lot of complaining – and it was time to get the job to fix it. My top priority in Congress will be repealing Obamacare and replacing it with patient-centered solutions that will bring down costs and increase access to health

care. As plan administrator of our family business's self-insured health plan for over 6,000 employees, I've seen first hand the disastrous effects Obamacare has on health care, and I'll work to replace it.

3. One of the main pillars of my campaign is to repeal and replace Obamacare with real health care reform that will lower costs and increase access to care. As plan administrator of the self-insured health plan at our family's business, I've seen first hand the disastrous effects Obamacare will have on health care in our country. For the last 14 years, I've worked to provide over 6,000 employees and their families with quality, affordable care, and we've implemented a number of innovative reforms to do just that. The fundamental point here is that socialism doesn't work, but consumerism does. We need to have a health care economy that offers real choice alongside a strong social safety net that protects those who can't get insurance or care on their own. There are a number of reforms that incorporate

free market principles, and I'll fight to introduce those in Congress.

4. First and foremost, we have to protect Medicare and Social Security for our seniors and those who have already paid into the system. A promise made is a promise kept, and Minnesotans have earned the benefits they worked for and paid into throughout their lives. In Washington, I'll work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to find solutions that strengthen and preserve Medicare and Social Security so they're around for generations to come.

5. I absolutely do not support the Waters of the US rule. I have the endorsement of the Minnesota Farm Bureau, and I'm looking forward to standing up for the agricultural community in Congress. What I hear from every farmer and rancher that I talk to is that the Waters of the US rule will have disastrous effects on the farms that have been in their families for generations. Complying with this sort of regulatory overreach could cost thousands of dollars in remodeling costs, or farmers could choose to

pay even more in fines. All too often, we see the EPA trying to legislate the change they want to see. They'll pass these sorts of rules that have huge impacts on people all across the country without any oversight from the actual legislative branch. They're acting as judge, jury, and executioner; and that's just not how things should be.

6. One of the ways we can bring jobs to our part of Minnesota is by moving forward with some great energy policies and projects like PolyMet and the Sandpiper pipeline. PolyMet and Twin Metals will bring economic benefits and hundreds of new jobs to the Range in a time when unemployment is disproportionately high in our district. The environmental review and permitting process for these projects has gotten out of control, with PolyMet going on 9 years of waiting. Sandpiper is another great project that has potential to bring a great deal of tax revenue to our district — \$25 million overall in the first year alone. On top of that, Aitkin County — a place that sorely needs additional revenue — would get

about \$4 million each year in tax revenue from this pipeline. We have to pursue these projects in a responsible way without having to wade through years of red tape and bureaucracy. Additionally, we have to take the target off the backs of our Main Street businesses. Democrats claim to be for jobs, but then support the policies that attack job creators. In our part of Minnesota, 80% of our businesses are small businesses taxed at the personal individual level. These businesses could grow if we had a flatter and fairer tax code, and they could continue to employ our friends and neighbors in Minnesota. We have to look to our last best place of success on economic policies – President Ronald Reagan worked across the aisle with Tip O'Neill to implement tax reform, and as a result we saw the largest peacetime economic expansion in history. John F. Kennedy once said that a rising tide floats all boats, and tax reform that benefits small businesses would help improve the economy, stimulate economic growth, and create jobs.

 **Holiday**

 **Preview**

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A wonderful brunch
Program featuring holiday fashion
ideas and table decor

  **SOCIALIZE!** 

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 **SHOP!** 

 **Holiday Bake Sale**
Gift Table

Saturday, November 8th
Doors open at 10:30am • Brunch 11am


 **Faith United Church**

1001 Fifth Street • Int'l Falls

TICKETS: \$10

Advance tickets may be purchased at:
The Hideaway
Faith United Church • 9-noon/ M-F

Re-Elect Rob Ecklund Nov 4th for District 4 County Commissioner



- ✓ Proven Leadership
- ✓ Union Endorsed
- ✓ Promote a diversified Local Economy
- ✓ Balance Budgets without Sacrifice

✓ Strengthen and Promote our Forest Product Industry

✓ Work Collaboratively with ALL Local Government Units

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Paid for by the Committee to elect Rob Ecklund for County Commissioner, Dave Peterson, Treasurer, International Falls, MN.