



Education

- **Support quality public education.** I believe the public school system is one of the greatest developments in American history. Unfortunately, it hasn't lived up to its potential. The answer isn't to undermine the system with vouchers that leave the most vulnerable children out in the cold. Instead, I will always fight to ensure our country has quality public schools no matter where they are.
- **Empower teachers in the classroom.** I believe growth targets should be set by the teachers and school districts that know their students best. Further, we should move away from the cumbersome standardized testing that often forces teachers to teach to a test instead of teaching.
- **Prepare the workforce of the future.** Jobs of the 21st century often require an education beyond a high school diploma. The federal government should help people attain a secondary education by making four-year colleges more affordable and making further investments in community colleges and trade schools for those who decide to take an alternative path.

Health Care

- **Health care is a right.** Every American should have access to high quality, affordable, and reliable health care.
- **Enact a low-cost public option.** Force private insurers to find ways to lower costs on overly-expensive healthcare plans. Competition against a low-cost public option, lowers costs for all consumers.
- **Allow Americans near retirement age to buy into Medicare.** Americans near retirement age can secure Medicare just as their healthcare costs increase. Allowing a buy-in also makes the Medicare pool younger, healthier, and more cost effective.
- **Allow the federal government to negotiate drug prices.** The Veterans Administration negotiates drug prices for its patients. This negotiation results in substantially lower drug prices for their patients. Just as the V.A. The federal government should do the same for all Americans.

Jobs

- **Invest in education, including trade schools.** We should ensure that more Americans are able to afford a four-year college education by expanding Pell Grants and lowering federal student loan interest rates. But we must also invest in community colleges and trade schools to ensure all children can get the knowledge and skills they need to live comfortably in the 21st century.
- **Raise the minimum wage.** Minimum wages have not kept up with the costs of living. This means that many Americans work 40 hours a week and still live in poverty. When working Americans are forced to rely on social services to get by, our economy doesn't grow.

States and localities that raised the minimum wage since it was last raised have seen greater economic growth than those which haven't. We should seize on that example and raise the minimum wage.

- **Invest in infrastructure projects.** Passing a plan to rebuild and expand our roads, bridges, railways, waterways, power sources, and telecommunications systems will create good-paying jobs that can't be outsourced. Most importantly, this long overdue overhaul will give the American economy the modern tools it needs to succeed in the 21st century.
- **End the assault on organized labor.** A simple rule that has not failed me is, "*If it's good for the middle class, it's good for the economy.*" One of the best things our leaders can do is support a strong labor movement. I know this because my mom was a union teacher, my wife is a union teacher, and my brother is a union teacher. The labor movement built and sustained the middle class for decades after World War II. We need to stop the assault of labor at both the federal and state level

The Environment

- **Lead on clean energy.** America should be making the investments necessary to lead the world in clean energy research and development. Today, nearly 95 percent of solar panels are manufactured in China. The United States needs to step up to compete for the business opportunity of the century, and the federal government should support that effort.
- **Rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement.** Leaving the Paris Agreement willfully ignores the science that tells us that our planet is at risk. As Mayor of Montgomery, I signed on as a Climate Mayor, promising that Montgomery will continue to live up to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. I also joined 50 mayors from around the world to sign the Chicago Climate Charter in December. In Congress, I will be an environmental leader so we can leave the planet healthier and safer for our children.

Taxes

- **Stop buying into trickle down.** Republicans have promised for 40 years that tax cuts on the wealthiest Americans would lead to a stronger economy for everyone. Four decades later, we're still waiting for that growth. We shouldn't be raising taxes on the middle class to cut taxes for the wealthy, we should be cutting taxes for the middle class.
- **Restore middle class spending power.** By cutting taxes on the middle class, we can restore their spending power and grow the economy more equitably. History shows that when the middle class has spending power, they economy grows for everyone; not just the richest few.
- **Restore the SALT deduction.** Repealing the SALT deduction will lower home values in the 14th district by as much as 10 percent. The middle class shouldn't be punished with higher taxes and lower home values to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. We must restore the SALT deduction.

Good Government

- **Overturn *Citizens United*.** We are at risk of losing our democracy to the whims of a very wealthy few who can influence elections with their wallets. In Congress, I pledge to lead on the effort to pass a constitutional amendment that would overturn the *Citizens United* decision and get big money out of politics.
- **Reject corporate PAC money.** I have pledged not to accept a dollar of corporate PAC money to ensure I am representing the residents of the 14th district and not faraway corporate interests. If elected, I will earn every vote, not buy every vote.