

**Nick Stankevich, U.S. House of Representatives, New York, District 27**

**Campaign financing: 6**

*Are you in support of the Citizens United Supreme Court Decision?*

No

*Will you be willing to restrict your campaign financing to small individual donations?*

Yes

*Please comment more fully on how you plan to raise campaign funds.*

I've signed an Anti-Corruption contract with the organization, Candidates with a Contract to fight to take Big Money out of politics, end crony-capitalism, and bring our government back to the people. Our campaign is a grassroots effort. We are not accepting or asking for corporate PAC donations. We are relying on individual contributions. We believe that there is too much money influence by the top 1% and the wealthy multinational corporations in our government.

**Voter Access: 10**

*Do you support legislation and/or any other initiative that would improve voter access and/or increase voter turnout?*

Yes

*Please comment on what you have done in your career to increase voter access or what specific initiative/legislation you would be willing to support.*

We need to make it easier to vote for our citizens, not more restrictive. I support H.R. 2840 Automatic Voter Registration Act, which will automatically register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office when registered at the DMV

**Climate Change: 1**

*Do you believe that climate change is due in part to human activity?*

Yes

*Please comment on any legislation you would support/propose related to climate change.*

Climate change is the #1 threat facing humanity and our way of life. I support H.R.2242 - Keep It in the Ground Act of 2017, which will prohibit drilling in the outer Continental Shelf, to prohibit coal leases on Federal land. I believe we can thrive through this crisis by being proactive rather than reactive. We need to transition into a 100% renewable economy, which will create infrastructure jobs, new industries, and opportunities. Let's lead as a community and bring WNY back to prominence.

**Gun Safety: 5**

*Do you support public safety initiatives/legislation to prevent gun violence?*

Yes

*Please comment on the type of gun safety legislation, if any, you would want to see enacted.*

I support and defend the 2nd Amendment. I believe in the hunter's right as sportsmen. That being said, Military Assault Rifles, specifically the AR-15, are the weapon of choice for mass-shootings, which are designed to kill as many people as possible on a battlefield. These weapons are designed to be handled by trained soldiers. I don't believe you need an AR-15 to go hunting - if you do, I think you are doing it wrong.

### **Economic Issues: 3**

*Which do you believe is a means of promoting economic growth?*

Federal Spending

*Do you support increasing the minimum wage to \$15/hour?*

Yes

*Do you support enacting paid sick and family leave?*

Yes

*Do you support raising the personal income taxes for citizens with incomes over \$100,000?*

No, however, I believe in progressive taxation over \$250,000.

*Please comment on what you see as the most important economic issues facing the country, and what legislation you would like to see enacted in response to those issues.*

We need to put people over corporations to ensure a healthy, modern, up-to-date society with strong roads, bridges and rail systems, fast and reliable rural internet, and economic development plans that don't treat workers like just another line-item on a balance sheet. We need pro-job growth projects to encourage innovation and give our youth a reason to stay in our communities. We need to embrace new and exciting technology based employment opportunities that will provide high paying jobs in Western New York. We can fix our broken economic system simply by having the wealthiest among us pay their fair share. We need to end "Trickle Down" policies, which do not work. I believe if you make under \$200k per year, you should get a tax cut.

### **First Amendment Rights: 11**

*Do you believe in the press having unfettered access to the actions of the government?*

Yes

*Do you believe that the government should have the right to conduct more, or less, surveillance of its citizens?*

Less

*Do you think hate-speech is protected speech under the First Amendment?*

Yes

*Please share your thoughts on gathering information on individuals and on an individual's right to peaceably assemble.*

As technology further involves our lives, we need updated privacy rights and security updates. Regarding individuals right to peaceably assemble, yes, the right to protest is truly American.

*Are there any terms and conditions that would warrant the restriction of an individual or a group's First Amendment rights?*

No, I don't believe there should be terms and conditions that would warrant the restriction of an individual or group First Amendment rights. That being said, actions do have consequences. I believe in our society to police a corporation that acts inappropriately, the people will voice their opinion through their votes and dollars.

## **Healthcare: 2**

*Do you support repealing the 2010 Affordable Health Care Act (Obamacare)?*

No

*Do you support a "Single Payer" health care as an option?*

Yes

*Please comment on the pros and cons of NY adopting a "Single Payer" health care option.*

Healthcare is a human right. I believe a single-payer system is the best solution because it's fiscally responsible, saving our society money and increasing profits by decreasing overhead of our small businesses and family farmers. Ultimately, it's both morally right and economically beneficial. I support H.R. 676 Medicare for All Act

## **Immigration: 4**

*Do you support a religion-based test for enacting US immigration policy?*

No

*Do you support a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants?*

Yes

*Do you support Rochester's status as a sanctuary city?*

Yes

*Do you support resisting turning undocumented persons into ICE, even if it is federally mandated?*

Yes

*Please comment on your position as it relates to US immigration policy.*

As the 3rd largest dairy producer and #1 Greek Yogurt producer in the United States, we need an immigration policy that supports our economic system. We need to expand the H2A Agricultural Guest worker program from seasonal to year-round, with a path to

citizenship for experienced workers who choose to stay. Some have been here for 10-20 years and are not easily replaced. This will have 3 positive outcomes: 1. Saving taxpayer money by decreasing the work of a government agency. 2. Giving our farm laborers, who are vital to our economy, peace of mind. 3. It will restore our family farmers as rightful pillars in our rural communities by making their businesses whole again with reliable labor to produce their product.

### **LGBTQ Rights: 9**

*Do you support same-sex marriage?*  
Yes

*Do you believe that religious affiliation should allow an individual or entity to deny a member of the LGBTQ community goods or services?*  
No

*Please comment on your support of LGBTQ anti-discrimination laws, and specifically, whether they should be enacted at the Federal, State, or Local level.*

It's 2018 and there is no place for discrimination of any human being. All members of our society should be treated with respect. We need protections at the Federal level for LGBTQ rights and the rights of all people to protect against discrimination.

### **Racial Justice/Criminal Justice/Prison Reform: 7**

*Do you support the issues raised by the Black Lives Matter movement?*  
Yes

*Do you support mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders?*  
No

*Please comment on the policies you would support toward the goal of criminal justice and prison reform, and on the role of government in preventing discrimination based on race.*

I support H.R.3227 - Justice is Not For Sale Act of 2017, which improves Federal sentencing and corrections practices. Also we must end private prisons and mass incarceration. We need to de-militarize our police and return to community policing.

### **Reproductive Rights: 8**

*In general, which position do you support: (Choose one)*  
Pro-choice

*Do you support the continued federal funding of Planned Parenthood?*  
Yes

*Do you believe that free contraceptives should be part of a basic health care plan?*  
Yes

*Please comment on your position related to abortion rights and access to contraception.*

This is a freedom issue. Women should have the ability to take care of their health and family planning concerns without impediment from the government. This is a highly personal health issue and like all health issues, should be between a woman and her physician, not decided in legislative bodies.

***Have you ever run for office before? If so, what have you learned from that experiences?***

Enough of the status quo, it's time Western New York fights for a future that listens and puts people first. As a first time candidate running for political office, I am not beholden to big money donors and will fight for the constituents of New York's 27th district.

***How do you plan to communicate with your constituents once you are elected?***

Absolutely, I will continue to listen and meet with constituents of Western New York by holding regular town hall events, direct meetings with residents to fight for the future of our communities.

***In what ways have you worked to break down institutional barriers on the basis of race, creed, culture, religion, sexual orientation/transgender, persons who are differently able, et al, or the intersectionality of any of these? Have there been lasting changes as a result of your efforts?***

A few years back during business school, I had the opportunity to help organize and advocate for a LGBTQ student club. We began the conversation and a few years of coordinated effort later that effort came to fruition. It's 2018; there is no place for discrimination of any human being.

***When it comes to voting on a specific issue, do you defer to your conscience, your constituents, or your political party?***

It's all about putting people first. When you lead with people, it doesn't matter what the issues are, you will always be on the right side of every side. That being said, when it comes to voting on a specific issue, I defer to my conscience and constituents.

***Will you be willing to stand in direct opposition to your party's leadership? If you've done so in the past, please explain.***

Yes, as a non-party, non-politician, I will always put people before party and people before profits. I am not beholden to anyone.

***Are you willing to work with people regardless of party affiliation to improve results for your community?***

Yes, as your representative and regardless of party affiliation, I am committed to putting people before party. I will always fight for the citizens of Western New York and fight for the progress of our great nation. Let's take back our future.