



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**PLEASE RETURN BY July 12, 2010**

The following questionnaire was developed by the Rhode Island Chapter of the National Organization for Women Political Action Committee (RI NOW PAC). The RI NOW PAC is interested in being informed of your position on the following issues, particularly if you are seeking our endorsement. Please type or print legibly (an electronic version of this questionnaire can be obtained by emailing [pac@rinow.org](mailto:pac@rinow.org)). Please give specific and complete answers to questions. Use additional sheets if necessary. Thank you.

**PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Party Affiliation:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>Office Sought:</b>	<b>District:</b>
<b>Opponents in Primary:</b>	
<b>Opponents in General Election:</b>	
<b>Incumbent? Yes/No</b>	
<b>Primary Date:</b>	<b>General Election Date:</b>
<b>Group, club or organizational affiliations:</b>	

**PART B: REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

B.1. Do you support a woman's right to make her own reproductive health care decisions, including the decision to terminate a pregnancy in accordance with federal law?

Yes..... [    ]  
 No..... [    ]

B.2. Would you support legislation that seeks to further codify this right in state law and *oppose* legislation that interferes with a woman's ability to exercise that right? (For example, bills have been introduced that would establish fetal personhood and/or *require* that women listen to a detailed description of ultrasound images before an abortion can be performed.)

Yes..... [    ]  
 No..... [    ]

B.3. Current RI Medicaid policy does not allow for state Medicaid dollars to cover abortion for our state's lowest income women. Would you support public funding for abortion for low-income women?

Yes..... [    ]  
 No..... [    ]

B.4. During the last several legislative sessions, a “24 hour waiting bill” was introduced which would increase informed consent requirements for abortion services, require multiple trips to the doctor’s office to fulfill the waiting requirement, require onerous reporting by doctors, grant rights to “fathers” and “grandparents” and require disclosure regarding who would be performing the procedure. What is your position on such legislation?

Support..... [ ]  
Oppose ..... [ ]

B.5. Current RI law requires minors seeking abortions to obtain the consent of a parent or get permission from a judge. Do you support state legislation that would allow for additional adult relatives, state-licensed health care and/or social service professionals to provide consent in the event that obtaining parental consent would jeopardize the health or safety of the minor?

Yes..... [ ]  
No..... [ ]

B.6. Abortion is often covered by private insurance. Federal health care reform would allow states to prevent private insurers from covering abortion in the health care exchanges expected to be operational by 2014. What is your position on efforts to ban abortion coverage by private insurers in RI?

Support..... [ ]  
Oppose ..... [ ]

B.7. Do you support efforts to ensure that age-appropriate, medically accurate comprehensive health education, including sex education, is provided in grades K-12 in Rhode Island public schools?

Yes..... [ ]  
No..... [ ]

**Comments on Part B:**

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**PART C: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

C.1. Despite Rhode Island’s achievements in the area of domestic violence, including the effective implementation of the mandatory arrest law, comprehensive police training programs, and enactment of the Lindsey Ann Burke Act to prevent dating violence, much more needs to be done. Funding services for all victims, including children who witness domestic violence, is crucial. Would you make funding these services a priority?

Yes..... [ ]  
No..... [ ]

C.2. Research shows that 97% of sexual assaults are committed by men. Support programs and services that address the needs of perpetrators, including anger management and promoting positive male role models, are effective in reducing sexual harassment as well as sexual assault and other violence against women. Would you make mandating and funding these programs/services for perpetrators a priority?

Yes..... [ ]  
No..... [ ]

C.3. Rhode Island makes little financial commitment to ending domestic violence and no financial commitment to ending or responding to sexual violence. Given the prevalence of violence against women in RI, would you make funding programs and services in these areas a priority?

Yes..... [ ]  
No..... [ ]

C.4. Do you support mandatory protocols for assessing victims of human trafficking when responding to prostitution calls?

Yes..... [ ]  
No..... [ ]

C.5. Do you support comprehensive diversion programs for women in prostitution?

Yes..... [ ]  
No..... [ ]

*Comments on Part C:*

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**PART D: CONSTITUTIONAL EQUALITY**

D.1. Do you support adding Equal Rights Amendments to the state and U.S. Constitutions?

Yes..... [ ]  
No..... [ ]

*Comments on Part D:*

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**PART E: LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDERED (LGBT) RIGHTS**

E.1. Do you support legal marriage for same sex couples?

Yes..... [ ]  
No..... [ ]

E.2. If you do not support legal marriage for same sex couples, do you support civil unions?

Yes..... [ ]  
No..... [ ]

*Comments on Part E:*

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**PART F: ECONOMIC EQUITY**

F.1. Nearly 43 percent of female-headed households in Rhode Island live below the poverty level—more than double that of male-headed households. Currently, the RI Works program limits receipt of cash benefits to 48 months over a lifetime. Would you support increasing the time limit to 60 months, the federally permitted maximum?

Yes..... [ ]  
No..... [ ]

F.2. Currently, beneficiaries of the RI Works program must cease receiving the program's childcare subsidy after their income reaches 180% of the federal poverty level. Many RI Works beneficiaries report foregoing higher-paying job opportunities in order to keep their childcare. Would you support raising the childcare subsidy eligibility limit to 225% of the poverty level so that low-income women can pursue the types of employment opportunities that will allow them and their families to move out of poverty?

Yes..... [ ]  
No..... [ ]

F.3. Do you support affirmative action?

Yes..... [ ]  
No..... [ ]

*Comments on Part F:*

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**PART G: RACIAL JUSTICE**

G.1. There is concern that the federal “E-Verify” database used to confirm the immigration status of potential employees has a high error rate and may have a chilling effect on employers’ willingness to hire people of color. Would you oppose legislation that would *mandate* that Rhode Island businesses, state agencies, and contractors use this database?

Yes..... [ ]  
No..... [ ]

G.2. Would you support strengthening the state’s existing racial profiling law by banning police practices that lead to racial profiling and establishing greater accountability through mandated reporting by local police departments?

Yes..... [ ]  
No..... [ ]

G.3. Would you oppose an Arizona-style immigration law in Rhode Island, which would make the failure to carry immigration documents a crime and give the police broad power to detain anyone suspected of being in the country illegally?

Yes..... [ ]  
No..... [ ]

***Comments on Part G:***

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**PART H: LEADERSHIP**

H.1. What leadership have you taken on issues that impact women, including but not limited to the issues addressed in this questionnaire?

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H.2. If elected, on what issues affecting women are you willing to take a leadership role?

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H.3. Do you have any additional comments regarding your positions on issues that impact women and girls in Rhode Island?

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*Thank you for taking the time to inform us of your positions on many of the issues affecting women in Rhode Island. If you have any questions, please contact the RI NOW PAC Chair, Carolyn Mark, at pac@rinow.org.*

*Paid for by the RI NOW PAC  
PO Box 8413, Warwick, RI 02888*