

MELISSA BOROM in her own words ...

Climate Change

Climate change is an existential threat to the planet and strong, immediate action must be taken. I am in favor of the United States rejoining the Paris Climate Accord. I also am in favor of increased spending on clean and renewable energy. Finally, I would make sure that the EPA has the resources needed to effectively do its job, such as cleaning up SuperFund sites.

Gun Law Reform

I have known victims of gun violence. I am in favor of comprehensive gun reform legislation that would take assault weapons off the street, close the gun show loophole, and allow victims of gun violence to take legal action against gun manufacturers.

Healthcare

Healthcare is very important to me. As a young girl, I contracted a serious case of pneumonia which almost cost me my life. My father's health care that he had through his job as a school teacher saved my life. I currently serve on the board of Northshore Health Center here in Northwest Indiana, one of the largest providers of care in the region. I would continue my work on Health care by fighting to fix the Affordable Care Act and by fully funding Medicare and Medicaid, which so many of our residents rely on.

Immigration

I think that our country is stronger because of immigration. We need to allow for a pathway to citizenship for those already in our country and make it easier for others to enter our country and become citizens. We also need to expand access to H1B Visas. Finally, we need to fight back against the Muslim ban.

Reproductive Rights

I am a strong advocate for protecting reproductive rights. I would be a strong defender of Roe v Wade - and work to expand access to reproductive care.

Economy/Taxation/Structural Change

I think the biggest issue facing the 1st congressional (and the country) is the lack of good jobs. I think the government should make it a priority to increase access to good paying jobs by expanding funding for job and skills training programs. This will allow people to work good jobs so they can have access to health care and other benefits. I also believe that the wealthy do not pay their fair share in taxes, so I am in favor of increasing taxes on the top 2% to expand economic opportunity and access to health care and other vital needs.

College Tuition/Student Loan Forgiveness/Public Education

I am in favor of expanding student loan forgiveness programs, especially those for people that go into professions such as teaching that provide a vital service. I also think that interest rates on student loans should be reduced. Finally, I think that the government should actively increase spending on pell grants and other programs that allow people to attend college. I also believe that two-year certifications/degrees should be free.

Criminal Justice Reform/Racial Justice/Legalization

As a young African-American woman, I know first hand that the criminal justice system needs immediate reform. Personally, I have had friends locked up for minor crimes and offenses such as marijuana possession. I think there are a number of steps that can and should be taken. First, we should ban the box. People should not be denied employment because of a past offense. Second, we should stop funding private prisons that profit off of incarceration. Third, we should legalize marijuana use. Finally, we need to allow the Department of Justice to have a stronger hand to investigate police offenses.

Corporate PAC Money?

I am an advocate for campaign finance reform.

Statehood for DC and Puerto Rico?

I do believe that DC and Puerto Rico should have statehood. It is unfair that they pay taxes and are considered part of the country, yet they don't have equal representation with voting power in Washington.

Are you now or have you ever been a lobbyist?

I have never been a registered lobbyist. (*Note that when we sat down with Ms. Borom to ask questions, she verbally responded "yes." I think the key word in the written answer she provided, as is reflected here, is "registered.")

Should lobbyists be allowed to run for public office?

I am in favor of a delay for elected officials taking lobbyist jobs and for bringing about campaign finance reform. Also, I believe that every person should have the ability to take part in the democratic process and run for office.