

CANDIDATE PROFILE – U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, INDIANA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

SCOTT COSTELLO in his own words ...

Climate Change The climate change crisis is a threat to all of humanity and all life on earth. As your congressman, I will fight tooth and nail for the Green New Deal. I will fight to re-join the Paris Accord and fight for a very strong EPA. I will fight for massive amounts of investment in sustainable energy technology development, millions of electrical vehicles, high speed rail, bridge and road repair, water system upgrades, and much more in order to provide 10-20 million jobs, with a 2-4 trillion dollar investment right here in America, while at the same time, fighting climate change and pollution. There is much more that can be done, these are just the high points. Pollution from coal, oil and natural gas is profound and affects all our health. Every body of water in America has very high levels of mercury from coal emissions. This mercury causes infertility for example. I took a pledge to support the GND – the only candidate to do this. So, we need the EPA, the GND and to reinstate the roll-back of environmental protections by the dangerous Trump administration.

Gun Law Reform With Women's month approaching, one of the best gifts we can give this year are laws that make our communities safer and protect our nation's women and children from unnecessary violence and tragic death. About 1 million women have been shot, or shot at, by their partners; 4.5 million women have been threatened with gun violence. Over 50% of mass shootings involve domestic relationships as part of the incident. More women are buying guns and as a result more women are dying from gun related suicides and homicides. 60% of gun deaths are suicides - this includes when mass shooters kill themselves. The suicide rate has significantly increased for white men and middle-aged women since 2008, the Great Recession, from which we have not recovered. If you own a gun, you or someone you love are much more likely to die from it than defend yourself with it. On average, 21 children are shot each day, about 8 by accident and about 2 die. This is out of about 10 0 persons who die every day by gun violence. I support Moms Demand Action and you should too! I support the following: Not arming teachers, Red flag protections, Limiting access to assault weapons, Limiting high capacity magazines, End the "boyfriend" loophole, Expand federal background check, Close the "Charleston loophole," Violent crime conviction = no gun, Illegal gun purchase notification, Public Health research on gun violence causes, Multi-level broad scope interventions to prevent gun violence, Repeal the "Tiahrt" amendment, Repeal pre-preemptive violence laws, Federal Code violation for Straw Man and Gun Trafficking, Repeal PLCAA civil immunity for Gun Corporations, Expand ATF authority over gun dealers to prevent reckless or careless behaviors.

Healthcare Obamacare, or the ACA has failed in that it does not cover all Americans, it is too expensive for individuals and businesses, and it maintained the profit-motive which undermines doctor freedom. I do not support a Medicare “buy-in” because it does not cover all Americans, it would cost too much for many Americans and it does not improve the current healthcare market. I find it unacceptable that other candidates are willing to accept the best public plan for themselves, paid for by our taxes, but are against it for you. I support Medicare for All. You can visit my website to read more about M4A, www.scottcostello.org. In addition to M4A, I support community hospital modernization, nursing home modernization, rural emergency rooms, and increasing urgent care centers around the nation to improve access to healthcare.

Immigration Aside from slavery, we are a nation of immigrants who pushed out indigenous people to make room for Western European economic expansion. No one ethnic group can lay claim to the identity of America. American businesses along with the US Government have always sought immigrants to provide labor for economic growth – both industrial and agricultural. My maternal great grandfather, who was a son a serf from Poland came to America after reading flyers in his hometown that read, “The streets in America are paved in gold.” But many American leaders pretend the immigrants need us more than we need them. In fact, the current leadership of the Republican party is hurting the American economy and the soul of our nation by how they are treating immigrants and refugees. It is nothing less than evil as well as economically unsound. The bottom line is that our economy will decline without immigrants. I am for developing a pathway to citizenship. We should waive fees for citizenship applications because people coming to America are too poor to afford it; fees make them vulnerable to further victimization. I understand many Americans worry about immigrants taking their jobs. However, there are much more humane and creative solutions to employment problems than putting people in jail or deporting them. I support repealing the racist Muslim ban and a moratorium on deportations.

Reproductive Rights Let’s get real about abortion. After Roe v Wade, the Southern Baptist convention wrote that, “Those whose conscience or religious convictions are not violated by abortion may not now be forbidden by a religious law to obtain an abortion if they so choose. People whose conscience forbids abortion are not compelled by law to have abortions.” It was not until many years after Roe v Wade that Southern pastors rallied together at the request of mega church pastor Paul Weyrich, against abortion, but, it was because the anti-abortion crusade was more palatable than the Religious Right’s real motive: protecting segregated religious schools. Weyrich was under investigation by the IRS for violating his tax free status. If we were to rely on the bible to guide women’s rights, forced miscarriage was not an abomination as was tattoos, eating shellfish and other things that today’s people do daily. The fact is, all throughout history, religions and laws did not see the unborn as having rights, period. We live in a democracy, not a theocracy. It is no secret that Christian Nationalists want to make America into their version of “great” by creating a theocracy with the help of Trump, Kavanaugh, Thomas, McConnell and others. The fight for women’s rights ties into the greater fight against the latest tide of Christian Nationalists. Throwing women in jail or punishing them for abortion, as Trump has called for is abhorrent. So, Americans who believe in democracy should fight against the infringement of personal freedoms at every turn. I believe that a woman’s body is her own to do with as she pleases.

Economy/Taxation/Structural Change One reason I support the Green New Deal is because America has no national economic policy. All we have a corporations who vote with their dollars which outnumber Americans in the order or trillions. They own the news shows, they lobby for laws they write, and even in the worst of times, they fight to protect their profits over the very lives of Americans; this fact is crystal clear after observing Trump and Republicans mismanage the pandemic response, even before it started, by disbanding the pandemic response office in 2018 in order to “save money.” The GND provides a framework to move forward with laws that protect labor, unions, indigenous people, jobs and wages and the environment. I support lowering the tax rate for all Americans who earn less than \$400,000 annually and increasing the tax rates for those who make more than that. I am also for a wealth tax on mega-millionaires and billionaires. I am for reinstating the death tax on mega-millionaires and billionaires with some exceptions to farms and businesses. I am for eliminating the self-employment tax and veterans should pay no federal tax ever. The corporate tax rate should be boosted to 40% for 5 years, then decrease over time to 32% and

stay there. I also support increasing capital gains and a financial transaction tax for super-rich investors. For small businesses, we need a robust low interest loan system. We need a banking system for minority populations, run by minority populations. Women are the largest minority group in America, and they earn much less than men across the board. However, women make excellent entrepreneurs and business owners. So, we need to encourage investment in this neglected and discriminated segment of our economy. Providing access to credit and capital is the only way to do this since the current banking system continues to fail minority populations. These are just a few of my ideas.

College Tuition/Student Loan Forgiveness/Public Education I support waiving the 90% of tuition debt held by the federal government. This is money that has already been spent and paid for, so, this would require NO new taxes for anyone! Also, it will free-up money for people to spend in their local economies. The average amount of debt is \$40,000, and most debtors will never pay this off; many of these individuals are older and entering retirement. I support public education at public institutions through master’s level. With automation looming, 50% of our jobs will be lost and the jobs that remain will require more education than what people can afford. We also have a doctor and nursing shortage, so we need to incentivize healthcare degrees through public education. In the meantime, I am for lowering the interest rate on federal loans to -0- and to 1-2% for private loans. We need to pay primary education teachers much more. The starting salary in Indiana is \$35,000. That will discourage people from taking on student loans to become a teacher. Teachers are the backbone of our society – we would not have an educated workforce without them! I support ending the Charter School experiment which science shows has failed – which is a bad indicator considering they had lower standards. In the meantime, Charter school teachers should have a right to unionize and charter schools must be held to the same standards as public education. We should strengthen ESSA and increase federal funding for education as well as improve educational standards, but without increasing testing. Teachers need to be free to teach and students learn without the burden of excessive testing which does not help anyone – it is a costly waste of time and money – testing only predicts how well a child will perform on a test, nothing else!

Criminal Justice Reform/Racial Justice/Legalization I am against private prisons and prison expansion. We need to decriminalize drug use/addition and focus on expanding and compelling treatment. We need to legalize marijuana but with the caveat that it is potentially harmful to teenagers, in that it causes psychosis, mania, and anxiety in many of them. It also can cause attention and memory problems in adults. However, the benefit of legalization outweighs the cost of keeping it in an illegal market where growers use dangerous pesticides and dangerous adulterants that harm people, our environment, animal and insect life. We know from hundreds of years of experience and research that criminal behavior is directly related to the economy, racism and discrimination. This is not debatable. Blacks especially continue to be excluded from America’s economic gains. In 1865, blacks owned 1% of America’s wealth, today they own 1.5%. So, we have made no progress with advancing the economic status of Black Americans. What little gains were made through Affirmative Action has been lost as the black middle class shrank and people aged out of the economy. Therefore, we need minority owned banks. We also need to increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, increase the EITC until the minimum wage is increased, and we need some form of reparations for Black Americans in order to heal the wounds caused by the delusions of white supremacy, slavery, Jim Crow laws, and on-going racism in the fabric of the Religious Right and Christian Nationalists. Reparations can come in many forms, such as through the GND affordable housing framework, a jobs guarantee, and so on.

Corporate PAC Money? I am one of two candidates (Ryan Farrar is the other) running a grass roots campaign in our district, where we only take individual donations of \$200 or less. Every other candidate is willing or taking large donations and PAC contributions. I took a pledge to take no corporate PAC donations. We cannot wait for campaign finance laws to change! We all need to make changes now. Voters need to wield their power and demand that candidates stop taking donations over \$200 and donations from PACS of any type. Voters could boycott town forums of candidates who are not grass roots. Voters could go to www.propublica.org and review the donor information about each candidate and then share that information. Candidates and voters can act now. We are foolish to wait for elected politicians to pass laws that will cause them to lose elections!

Statehood for DC and Puerto Rico? I support Statehood for DC and Puerto Rico. It is not fair for either of these areas to be without representation in our congress.

Are you now or have you ever been a lobbyist? No.

Should lobbyists be allowed to run for public office? I do not think that lobbyists should be able to run for public office, however, it may be unconstitutional to bar anyone lobbyists from running for public office. I also support laws which bar elected officials from becoming lobbyists within ten years after leaving any State or Federal office or appointment and five years for any Federal or State department executive level position. I am for lobbying reform. Lobbyists and campaign finance are interrelated problems. The website, www.OpenSecrets.org writes: “...lobbyists pursue relationships with lawmakers in order to shape legislation so that it benefits clients ... On the other hand, lobbyists are frequently targeted by lawmakers as sources of campaign money, which the lobbyists feel beholden to give to improve their clients' prospects of success.” All Americans should have equal access to their representatives, however, lobbyists have more access based on their ability to pay for expensive campaign fundraiser dinners, for example. We need regulations and transparency to prevent and discourage unfair influence. Historically, US Congresspersons do not represent the needs and wants of the constituents very well, usually supporting 30% of less of the bills they would like. The current slate of candidates is not much different. They take large donations; they are for the status quo and said they would govern like Pete Visclosky. Many voters in NWI probably do not know how much Pete Visclosky worked with lobbyists at the expense of voters. One convicted lobbyist said that Visclosky’s aide offered earmarks for donations, and a government ethics watchdog named Visclosky one of the most corrupt politicians in Congress. So, I will not govern anything like Visclosky, and I am happy to NOT have his endorsement!