

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 U.S. Congressional 3rd District Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Tom Niermann

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Political Party Affiliation: Democrat

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Campaign Website:

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Campaign Video Link: N/A

Occupation/Work History (last 5 years – 25 words or less):

High School American History Teacher

If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization, please list what organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held:

N/A

Other recent political/community experience? (25 words or less)

N/A

As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues? (10 words or less per issue)

Make public schools a federal priority -Keep our kids safe with commonsense gun safety reform -
Make healthcare more affordable & work towards universal coverage

What are your views on the federal tax policy changes approved last December, known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act? (100 words or less)

As a member of a working family, I understand just how helpful tax relief for the middle class could be. That's not what was in the GOP Tax Plan passed last year - instead, House Republicans gave a \$1.5 trillion giveaway to the donor class without paying for it. It was fiscally irresponsible, and detracts from critical priorities like public education & infrastructure.

What are your views on long-term funding solutions for transportation infrastructure? (75 words or less)

We must roll back the tax bill passed last year, and pass a revenue package that keeps the U.S. competitive but ensures everyone pays their fair share.

What are your views on international trade and tariffs? (75 words or less)

No one wins in a trade war, and tariffs should be used only in extreme circumstances with great scrutiny and oversight, if at all. We should strive to make trade more open across the global economy, while demanding recognized and enforceable environmental and labor protections.

What role should the federal government have in determining workplace employment practices and benefits offered to employees? (50 words or less)

The federal government should work to implement basic protections for employees, so that everyone who is able can work for a middle class standard of living.

What are your views on national environmental policy? (50 words or less)

My students are concerned about the world they will inherit - we have neglected our planet for too long and must act quickly to reverse climate change. In Congress, I will fight for green energy incentives, protect our clean water sources, and conserve our natural spaces for generations to come.

What do you see as the federal government's role in workforce development? (50 words or less)

The federal government should help facilitate a talent pipeline for the trades and important emerging industries like advanced manufacturing, and renewable energies. The federal government should expand grant programs for community college education for skilled labor, and work to make two-year degrees tuition free.

What are your views on national immigration policy? Do you support employment-based immigration reforms to assist with workforce shortages in specified industries? (50 words or less)

We must fix our broken immigration system to make it easier to become a U.S. citizen legally. In order to continue economic growth in the U.S., we need immigrant labor. I support a clean DREAM Act, and a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants already here.

What are your views on the Affordable Care Act? (50 words or less)

This issue is personal - my wife has a pre-existing condition. The ACA has critical protections for people who were uninsurable before. We should fix the flaws of the ACA to provide immediate relief to families struggling with premiums, reverse the Trump administration's sabotage, and work towards universal coverage.

What do you believe is the appropriate balance between data privacy and national security? (50 words or less)

The courts have long established a precedent of a right to privacy, and a right against unwarranted searches and seizures. The federal government should re-evaluate its processes to be constitutionally compliant, but use all publicly available & volunteered data to advance national security.

What project have you been most proud to work on? (50 words or less)

I'm proud of my entire career as a teacher. I had the opportunity to work with young people and their families every day to improve our communities and help others find opportunity. I gained a deep insight to the problems facing our community, and will take that perspective to Congress.

What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s)? (50 words or less)

As a teacher, I have personal experience with the issues our citizens are most frustrated about. I've lost students to gun violence, I've taught in under-funded classrooms, and had to work three jobs to make ends meet. I'm running to improve our community, not for a political career.