

NEWS & RECORD

Harry Warren (R)

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Name: Harry Warren

Office sought: 13th District

Party affiliation: Republican

Lives in: Salisbury

Contact: www.harrywarrenforcongress.com

Age: 65

Profession: Human resource specialist

Highest degree earned: Bachelor of Arts, political science/pre-law

Leadership experience: I have more than 30 years of business management experience in the sales, construction and restaurant industries. As a three-term legislator, I have drafted, sponsored and co-sponsored some of the most significant legislation in state history. I was the primary sponsor of the Voter ID and the E-Verify acts.

QUESTIONS

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful member of Congress?: Experience in drafting, sponsoring and successfully promoting effective legislation is critical in Congress, where there is no time to be wasted with "on-the-job training." Setting achievable goals, building collaborative relationships and negotiating without compromising principles are skills I have built in the business world and refined over three terms.

Give an example of how you have worked with someone from another political party to accomplish a goal? Or, if you haven't held elected office, how will you do this?: Most House legislation is passed with a strong bipartisan vote. The more controversial legislation requires true collaboration; the RECLAIM NC ACT was served by a senior Democratic leader who worked with me refining some key provisions and helped gain his party's support to pass the bill.

Would you support an independent commission for redistricting? Why or why not?: I am open to the idea and to hearing proposals but would need to be convinced that true objectivity could be achieved. Everyone has values that align with some political ideology or another. Checks and balances to protect against bias in the decision making process would be key.

How would you change federal health care?: Multiple plans have been proposed from the Republican Study Committee, the CATO Institute and the Heritage Foundation, as well as from members of Congress. There are alternatives that include replacing the Affordable Care Act with a free market model, creating competitive insurance pricing and providing tax incentives instead of tax burdens.

What would you do to reduce illegal immigration? What would you do about the illegal immigrants that are currently in the country?: Immediately implement the tightest border security possible, utilizing physical, natural and electronic surveillance barriers. Begin an aggressive program of detecting, capturing and deporting those illegally present, engaged in felony criminal activity. Begin hearings for those who have overstayed their visas and who are genuine refugees. Determine appropriate penalties; no amnesty.

Should there be a federally mandated minimum wage? Why or why not?: A federal minimum wage reduces unemployment and entitlement program costs, motivates the economy, impacts tax rates positively and clarifies employer-employee expectations. It ensures a level playing field for businesses and reduces the potential for employee abuse. The wage level should be market driven, only inflation adjusted.

What do you think the federal government should do to balance gun rights and safety?: Gun control/gun safety should be synonymous, meaning the only legislation, state or federal, relative to the constitutional right to bear arms, would be to address the safe handling and storage of arms. The federal government has no authority to abridge constitutional rights or make them contingent to certain conditions

How should the U.S. handle North Korea's expansion of its nuclear program?:The North Korean economy cannot withstand prolonged economic sanctions. The U.S. should push to reinstate international sanctions, freeze North Korean assets and impose a naval blockade to enforce an embargo until North Korea complies with predetermined conditions, including unannounced and unrestricted inspections to ensure the dismantling of their nuclear program.

How would you change the process for allowing refugees to relocate to the U.S. and the number allowed to do so each year?: The problem is the presidential power to circumvent the program by accepting thousands of refugees and a state's helplessness to refuse them. States should have the right of refusal and the authority to determine the number of refugees they would accept. Congress should have the sole authority to grant humanitarian exceptions.

What will you do to reduce the deficit?: This requires a multi-prong approach. I would support reforms that encourage economic growth, which increases revenue and creates employment. I support reducing corporate and personal income taxes, sensible regulatory reforms for small businesses and slowing the growth of mandatory spending in areas of health care, entitlement programs and foreign aid.