



Candidate Questionnaire: Angel Sides

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February 25, 2018

Office sought: 13th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representative

Political party: Democratic

Education: B.A. Psychology

Family: Sammy the Cockatoo

Website: gofundme.com/voteAngel

Social Media sites: facebook.com/angel.sides3

What makes you the best candidate for this office?

For the last ten years, I have produced political commentary on Free Speech tv (independent media) covering the subject matter of how our media is corrupted. I would support subsidizing our media because when corporations sponsor our media, they will report very little on a subject, when it affects corporate America's profits. Psychologists are employed to test rhetoric and propaganda that will influence the public to vote against their own interest. Public officials need to know what the problems are in the world in order to solve those problems. For the last ten years I have been splicing and editing commentaries and documentaries and it paints a bleak picture that scares me and I refuse to grow old and die without doing anything, without saying anything. This is one of the main reasons I am running for office.

What people need to know is when politicians accept corporate, campaign contributions; they then pass legislation that benefits those corporations. A big pharma contribution equals high drug prices. An oil Industry contribution equals pollution and global warming. An insurance industry contribution equals high insurance premiums and votes against expanding Medicare. Therefore, what people need to look at to know how to vote for a candidate is who or what finances a candidate's campaign and how long has a candidate been saying what they're saying. I have not taken corporate lobbyist money during my campaign and I will never be a corporate puppet. I have been an activist for the last twenty years, so I am not exactly pandering to the vote. I have gone around the country for the last twenty years marching, protesting, speaking, and even being arrested. I am authentically disgusted with our system and I authentically want change.

If elected what would be your top priority, and how would you champion it?

I am an environmental activist because it affects all life: plants, animals, and humans now and in the future. Global warming is the biggest threat to mankind according to the Pentagon but what Americans want first and foremost are jobs. Our government should, kill two birds with one stone, stop subsidizing the oil and coal industry, and move full throttle to a federal environmental jobs program. If every road, sidewalk, and parking lot were solar it would provide any given city with three times the city's electric needs. At some point, houses and buildings could be converted to electric heat and gas companies would be obsolete. Taxes used to repair and repave roads could be used to supplement replacing the roads with solar roads. The new ones are computers and under them are corridors for electrical lines and to channel rain water to replace lead contaminated water lines. Solar roads have the ability to melt snow which can save taxes to build more solar roads. Scott and Julie Brusaw are testing roads that detect trees and large animals on the highway which can also save lives. We can also address climate change by planting more trees.

There is not less of a carbon footprint in Nuclear Energy when you consider storing the toxic byproduct that will be radioactive for 245 thousand years or more. Nuclear power plants leak radiation on a regular basis and they are designed to do so. Uranium has proven to be cancerous no matter how small the amount tested. We do not have to have a natural disaster to have a disaster on our hands. Nuclear power plants also get old. We have got to stop subsidizing and building new nuclear power plants.

How should Congress work to provide adequate health care to residents of this district?

I believe in capitalism but that one family should own one business and multinational corporations should be reigned in to operate within the state they originated from. This would open up more mom and pop operations in every state. Some aspects of our society, however, should be socialized. We already have socialism: Social Security, the Post Office, Library, and schools to name a few. I also do not believe our health care should be for profit. I think HR 676, expanding Medicare, would benefit this country greatly. Every other industrialized country in Europe has guaranteed health care for all of their citizens. The U.S. is the richest country in the world and we do not. When the cost of insurance premiums is considered, the bill saves the average family of four, four thousand dollars a year. HR 676 would save health care costs for 95% of Americans and it covers everyone, including drug rehabilitation and in home care for the elderly. It phases out the middle man (the insurance companies) and retrains the workers within the new system. Insurance Company's CEO's make over 160 million dollars/yr while everyone's premiums sky rocket! People shouldn't have to fight the insurance companies, or be financially stressed, when they are sick! While I campaign, I would like to remind people to call Dick Durbin (217-492-4062) and ask him to whip the members of the Democratic Party to cosponsor the HR 676 health care bill, to expand Medicare.

Should there be concealed-carry reciprocity in the United States (why/why not?)

If every state in the union has passed conceal and carry, it is less confusing to have concealed-carry reciprocity among the states.

When I was getting signatures I was told over and over guns don't just shoot themselves. This is true. There is a link to gun violence and certain psychotropic drugs. According to whistleblower, Blair Hamlick, Eli Lilly and other drug companies hid research that showed Prozac, Paxil and other psychotropic drugs increase violence. The documentary "The Dark Side of a Pill," illustrated that specific psychotropic drugs and pain killers have not just been linked to suicide but mass killings. In the 1950's, depression was not treated with pills and mass shootings were unheard of. There should be more oversight and regulations in place concerning drugs and drug companies. When big pharma is allowed to dump an unlimited amount of money into political campaigns, in return, they get laws passed, like the Prescription Drug User Fee Act. This law allows the FDA to collect a \$100,000 fee to ensure drugs get on the market faster, before they are properly tested. Public officials need to start talking about ending the pharmaceutical and government corruption concerning gun safety.

Do you favor the tax plan just enacted, and would you advocate for any changes?

The new tax plan has a provision in it that opens up drilling in the Arctic. Under the new tax plan students would pay taxes on tuition assistance and they would lose their \$2,500 tax deduction on student loan interest. Millionaires and billionaires are subject to a 15-20 percent tax rate instead of a top marginal income tax rate of 35%. The unfair tax policy of capital income allows some millionaires and billionaires to pay a lower tax rate than many middle class households. The multinational corporation Apple paid 1% in capital income taxes by stashing their profits in Ireland. The new Republican Tax Plan should end the tax loopholes and the plan should not have a permanent status for the corporate elite. The Tax Policy Institute has stated by 2027, 83% of the tax benefits in the new tax plan would benefit the 1%. The tax benefits for the 1% are permanent, whereas, the small tax breaks for the middle class are temporary. Equalizing the tax treatment of ordinary income and capital income would substantially improve the economy and wealth inequality. The U.S. would then be able to afford things like guaranteed health care, converting to alternative energy, and improving our infrastructure.

How should the U.S. best deal with the North Korean nuclear threat?

The U.S. should negotiate a freeze of North Korea's nuclear and long-range ballistic program in exchange for a U.S. security guarantee that would include suspending U.S.-South Korea military exercises. The 1953 Armistice Agreement should be replaced with a binding peace agreement to end the Korean War. The retrieval of U.S. Korean War servicemen's remains and Korean-American family reunions should be facilitated by establishing a liaison office in Washington and Pyongyang. Our military is quietly preparing for war with North Korea. John Perkins, author of Confessions of An Economic Hitman, describes how as a highly paid professional, he helped the U.S. cheat poor countries around the globe out of trillions of dollars by lending them more money than they could possibly repay and then take over their economies. Therefore, a war with North Korea would have to be a self defense type cause before I would support it. Most Americans want these perpetual, for profit wars to end.

What types of trade agreements should the U.S. strive to have with foreign countries?

The U.S. trade agreements should promote fair and free trade that benefits the economy of our country. Products imported into this country should comply with the environmental manufacturing standards of the U.S. I would support legislation that would prohibit our country from exporting weapons to countries that distribute them to radical terror groups like ISIS. The U.S. should promote trade that supports diversity and respects human rights and working conditions. A U. S. trade agreement should not be “fast tracked” or negotiated behind closed doors. True fair trade creates shared value throughout supply chains and supports diversity.

What else would you like to share about yourself with voters?

I will fight to return to hand ballots and hand counted audits. There were many lawsuits concerning the last presidential election. There were large discrepancies in the exit polls and when lawsuits were threatened, the corporate media announced they would no longer conduct exit polls. No matter what candidate you supported, all Americans should want our elections to be fair and accurate. I am asking the public to call their County Clerk and ask for a public audit for the upcoming primary and after every election. Spread the word on this one, because it should be implemented all across the country and in every county!

While getting signatures I have talked to many concerned people about the environment and global warming. Whistleblowers, who worked for Exxon, exposed Exxon knew about global warming back in the 70's and instead of addressing this issue, they chose to set up think tanks to convince the public that the science is controversial. These think tanks go by the names of: Cato, ALEC, American's For Prosperity, Freedom Works, and The Heritage Foundation. As I campaign, I'm asking the public to put their savings and money into a bank that has divested from fossil fuels!

Most Americans do not believe in socialism for the rich and yet our tax dollars go to bank bailouts, subsidizing industry, and 56% of our discretionary spending goes to perpetual, for profit wars and the military industrial complex. The Pentagon can't account for 6.5 trillion dollars! If all this could not help pay for things like: tuition free higher education, health care, and balancing the budget, then maybe just maybe, if we ended the tax loopholes, and the millionaires and billionaires paid their fair share of taxes, that would pay for the rest.