

Responses for Delegate Neil Parrott
Washington County Chamber of Commerce
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1. What are the most important responsibilities of a federal representative in Congress?

As a member of Congress, my primary focus will be on serving others through thoughtful, pragmatic, and action-orientated service. As a Maryland Delegate, I have never been a “party line” voter as I look for the practical impact on individuals and families from every piece of legislation.

Because I live in Western Maryland, my representation and service to my constituents will be sincere and organic. I live in the center of the District and interact with the constituents of Congressional District 6 every day. I shop here, do my business here, serve as a summer swim team coach here, go to church here, and have chosen to raise my family here.

Mr. Trone lives next to the DC Beltway, outside of our district, and his work takes him even further from our area. Representation by proxy does not provide the same level of service, understanding, or care.

Because of COVID-19, many families are hurting both financially and socially. YOU know how to spend your money better than the government. A Congressman should work to reduce the tax burden on families, reduce the intricate webs of bureaucracy for businesses so that they can create jobs, and work to bring manufacturing jobs back to our area.

In Congress, I will bring common-sense solutions to DC that will help our country and help our District. As a traffic engineer and State Delegate, I have been trained to look for practical solutions and to work with all members of the legislature to accomplish goals.

2. Name one issue you are truly passionate about and tell us why?

Dignity, Self-worth, and a sense of purpose can be earned by every single person through honest work. Our society needs to do more to encourage people from welfare to work. In 1996, President Clinton signed a bill to encourage people back to work.¹ Unfortunately, President Obama then gutted that law through numerous exemptions rendering the law useless for most places in the country.²

I believe that people are designed for useful, purposeful, and productive work. This not only helps all of society, but helps individuals. Ecclesiastes 2:24 reads, "There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good."³ Work supplies a mission and helps people be successful and self-sufficient, while at the same time minimizing addictions and risky behaviors.

As a Delegate, I worked with the Hogan Administration to remove the work exemptions for recipients of food stamps in Washington County. By giving able-bodied adults a 3-month limitation to receive food stamps. For those who cannot find a job, the requirements allow participants to join work training programs for 20 hours per week or to do community service/volunteering for roughly 6 hours a week.

Washington County implemented the no-waiver policy in April 2016 and in just 6 months the number of food stamp recipients dropped by 27% and the number people working on the program increased from 42% to 67%. This change needs to be implemented nationally to help citizens retain their dignity all across our nation.

¹ <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/08/22/clinton-signs-welfare-to-work-bill-aug-22-1996-790321>

² https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-obama-has-gutted-welfare-reform/2012/09/06/885b0092-f835-11e1-8b93-c4f4ab1c8d13_story.html

³ <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ecclesiastes+2&version=NASB>

3. What do you believe to be the greatest challenge facing the country in the coming two years, and how do you see being a part of the solution in Washington, DC?

I believe that the most serious long-term problem is our national debt. If we fail to take true action to reduce our debt, we will find our country bankrupt, similar to Greece, Venezuela, or Argentina.

H. Ross Perot warned about this looming catastrophe in 1992 when the debt had reached 62%⁴ of our nation's gross domestic product (GDP). Currently, our national debt has surpassed our GDP for the first time since WWII.⁵ If not addressed, the inflation rate will render our US dollar worthless, families will struggle to even feed their children, businesses will close, and our international position will become impotent.⁶

Instead of more government programs, Congress must create an environment where private business, including manufacturing and technology, can thrive. When private business thrives, the national income will go up because of increased output allowing us to pay down the debt and our families will benefit from more jobs and increased salaries.

Certain feel-good policies supported by my opponent, such as Green New Deal policies, would stifle innovation and growth. The Green New Deal would punish our businesses, leaving families out of work. This environmental policy would inadvertently create more pollution by forcing our manufacturing to nations without decent levels of pollution control.

My opponents new spending programs may sound helpful, but, when followed through to their eventual, logical conclusions, they will hurt our families and bankrupt our country. We must face the hard decisions pragmatically and not push uncontrollable debt onto our children and grandchildren.

⁴ <https://www.newsday.com/opinion/columnists/lane-filler/filler-ross-perot-deficit-national-debt-1.33692086>

⁵ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-debt-is-set-to-exceed-size-of-the-economy-for-year-a-first-since-world-war-ii-11599051137>

⁶ <https://fee.org/articles/massive-inflation-may-be-coming-because-the-us-government-has-cornered-itself-into-a-fiscal-end-game/>