

Senators

GENERAL ELECTION QUESTIONS

Deb Fischer

How important are political party considerations, or protection or opposition to the president, in your legislative decision-making? On what specific issues do you disagree with your party or the president?

My job is to represent Nebraska. I vote 100 percent of the time for Nebraska. For each and every vote, I carefully consider the thoughts and ideas of Nebraskans. I've brought my perspective as a wife, mother, rancher, and small business owner to the Senate and use Nebraska commonsense and build consensus to solve our nation's challenges.



What are the chief challenges facing the country and the Congress?

Over the past six years, I've fought every single day to make life easier for Nebraska families and keep our country safe. I want to continue working to make a difference for our families and provide for our national security. We also need to continue cutting back regulations that are hurting our farmers and ranchers.

What, if anything, needs to be done to protect schools and other public venues from gun violence? Would you support reinstatement of a federal assault weapons ban? Why or why not?

It's paramount all elected officials address the safety and security of children in schools. On the federal level, I have supported the Fix NICS solution, which improves reporting into the existing National Instant Criminal Background Check System and helps keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous people. I also supported a measure that directed \$1.5 million to Nebraska communities.

What would be your priorities for 2019, legislative and otherwise?

Congress must continue to prioritize rebuilding our military and taking care of our veterans. To help Nebraska families, Congress needs to make the tax cuts permanent for individual ratepayers. As we get additional details about the U.S., Mexico, Canada trade agreement, it will be up to the Senate to expeditiously review and approve the updated trade agreement.

What would be your priorities for the next six years?

As a senior member of the Armed Services Committee and chair of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, our nation's security will remain my top priority. I'll also stay focused on providing regulatory relief, certainty, and new markets for ag producers. I will continue to lead on infrastructure and support legislation to lower the cost of health care for families.

Are you willing to depart from your party or the president on legislation or issues when you disagree? Could you identify some differences?

Trade is critical for Nebraska's economy. I have openly disagreed with many of this administration's trade policies, making Nebraska's case directly to President Trump. I have always opposed taxpayer funding for charter schools. I voted to repeal No Child Left Behind and replace it with legislation supporting local control. I also support Renewable Fuel Standard and have been a vocal champion for ethanol.

What legislation would you introduce or support that might specifically benefit Nebraska?

Every bill I've introduced benefits Nebraska. I have a long record of Nebraska wins, including \$1.5 billion in highway funding, legislation enabling development of new VA facilities, \$25 million Tiger grant for Lincoln South Beltway and passage of a historic federal paid family leave policy. I'll build on these wins and push for the farm bill I'm helping write

Jane Raybould

How important are political party considerations, or protection or opposition to the president, in your legislative decision-making? On what specific issues do you disagree with your party or the president?



A political party isn't a consideration to me in my legislative decision-making, or any decision-making for that matter. I agree with President Trump calling for a ban on bump stocks and raising the minimum age for the purchase of firearms. I disagree with some of the burdensome environmental regulations put in place by the previous administration

What are the chief challenges facing the country and the Congress?

The rising cost of health care is a huge concern that has impacts on career choices and even saving for retirement. There is frustration with Washington politicians who've pushed us into this trade war that hurts our state's farming families. Many worry about

campaign contributions from big, corporate special interest groups that drown out the voices of everyday people.

What, if anything, needs to be done to protect schools and other public venues from gun violence? Would you support reinstatement of a federal assault weapons ban? Why or why not?

I support the Second Amendment. My family enjoyed skeet shooting just last Christmas. But I also think more can be done to keep our children safe than the politicians who offer “thoughts and prayers.” I will work to prevent gun violence by passing commonsense gun safety measures that close the loopholes and make our background check system stronger.

What would be your priorities for 2019, legislative and otherwise?

First, I'll work to end the trade war by working with my colleagues on both sides to reassert the authority of the Congress over trade policy. My first policy proposal will be to end the influence corporate PAC money has over the lawmaking process. I'll also work to lower the cost of health care and protect retirement security for Nebraskans.

Why are you running and what do you want to accomplish in office?

I'm running because I think it's time that we had a senator who actually listened to her constituents and cares more about doing what's right for our families than anything else. In office, I hope to be a voice for Nebraskans on issues that matter to them, from health care to the farm bill to cutting taxes for the middle class.

What would be your priorities for the next six years?

- * Protecting our aging Nebraskans by safeguarding Social Security and Medicare for those Nebraskans that have paid into these programs all their working lives
- * Creating jobs, supporting small businesses and expanding our agricultural economy
- * Ensuring access to quality, affordable health care for all Nebraskans
- * Preparing our kids for 21st century jobs by continuing to invest in public education

Are you willing to depart from your party or the president on legislation or issues when you disagree? Could you identify some differences?

I don't think that either political party has all the answers. I've disagreed with leaders from my own party who wanted to over-regulate or increase taxes, putting burdens on businesses that get in the way of their ability to grow and succeed. I will continue to be a fiscal conservative and an independent-minded leader in the U.S. Senate.

What legislation would you introduce or support that might specifically benefit Nebraska?

I will work to modernize the farm bill and create a modern-day Homestead Act to attract young families and a diverse, skilled workforce to Nebraska. I would prioritize deployment of reliable rural broadband, public school excellence, health care accessibility and bring cutting-edge agricultural technology to Nebraska. I would propose tax credits and tax reforms for small businesses that are the job creators.

Jim Schultz

How important are political party considerations, or protection or opposition to the president, in your legislative decision-making? On what specific issues do you disagree with your party or the president?

As a third-party candidate, I recognize that I will have to work with one party or the other at almost every juncture. I respect the office of the president and see no point in opposing him based on political party. I fully support my party's platform of free markets, fiscal responsibility, limited government and individual rights.



What are the chief challenges facing the country and the Congress?

The chief challenge facing this country is the government's out-of-control spending. The average taxpayer pays 30 percent of their income in federal, state and local taxes and Congress still managed to build a \$21 trillion debt and a nearly \$1 trillion budget deficit. We simply can't keep spending like that any longer.

What, if anything, needs to be done to protect schools and other public venues from gun violence? Would you support reinstatement of a federal assault weapons ban? Why or why not?

Violent crime has been falling since the 1980s. The first thing we need to do is to start being honest about the scope and nature of the problem. Many facility changes are already being made to control access and detect threats. I would oppose any federal assault weapons ban. Bans do not work and the Second Amendment prohibits it.

What would be your priorities for 2019, legislative and otherwise?

Reducing government spending is my top priority. I believe that will automatically lead to smaller government and greater liberty.