

Lisa Brown's answers to 2018 Candidate Questions for the United States House of Representatives representing Washington's 5th congressional district

1. What is the biggest problem in Washington's 5th Congressional District, and what would you do to solve it?

The cost of healthcare and prescription drugs is too high and Congress isn't doing anything about it. In the State Legislature, I strengthened the Children's Health Insurance Program, expanded mental health services, voted to protect people with preexisting health conditions, passed legislation to help people pay for prescription drugs, and led efforts to expand health care coverage for women- creating the breast and cervical cancer screening program. In Congress, I will stand up to pharmaceutical and insurance companies, work to lower prescription drug costs, fight policies that deny people with pre-existing conditions health coverage, fight against attacks on women's health and access to birth control, basic healthcare, and the right to choose- creating affordable health care for all!

2. What do you believe is the correct approach to balancing gun control and the right to bear arms?

I Support the Second Amendment and believe that we don't have to choose between Second Amendment Rights and community/school safety. There are evidence-based, bipartisan steps that Congress can take to reduce gun violence in this country right now.

3. Should the United States end family reunification visas?

I do not believe the United States should end family reunification visas. Although there are many aspects to comprehensive immigration legislation--which has been neglected by Congress for decades-- I believe families belong together. We need to stop family separations, and provide a path to citizenship.

4. If implemented, the gag rule would remove Planned Parenthood as a Title X provider which would impact tens of thousands of women in WA state. Community health centers have said they can't absorb these patients. What do you plan to do?

Reproductive rights is an integral issue within healthcare and will be a top issue priority for my campaign. I will oppose any legislation that limits or interferes with doctor-patient relationships, and a woman's right to choose.

5. Describe what you believe needs to be done to combat the opioid crisis.

One of my top priorities is championing affordable and comprehensive universal health care. This includes expanding Medicare, protecting children's health and lowering prescription drug prices. We need to address the national opioid crisis as we expand affordable and accessible health care. WSU is researching medications that can be used in treatment of opioid addictions, and I support further research into those practices. I support efforts such as the

needle replacement program at the Spokane Regional Health District, which successfully prevents the spread of diseases associated with needle sharing.

6. Describe your plan for communicating with your constituents should you be elected or re-elected in November.

First of all, I plan to continue to live here and be a part of the community. I believe to be an effective representative you have to be approachable, and available to constituents. I will continue to hold town halls, community forums on specific topics, and roundtable discussions. I will convene community councils on specific topics. I will also implement a robust and thorough constituent services department within my office to respond to and follow up to every person that contacts our office with an inquiry or a question.

7. What policies would you pursue to increase the number and quality of jobs in WA state?

I believe in an economy that works for everyone. While I served in the State Legislature, I worked across the aisle to bring economic investments to our region, including roads, bridges, water projects, and university buildings. I was the prime sponsor of critical state-wide economic tools such as the Rainy Day fund constitutional amendment, the Strategic Economic Development Fund, and the Local Increment Financing Tool. I led investments in the creative economy including the renovation of the Fox Theater and Motion Picture Incentive Program—bringing thousands of film industry jobs to the region. In Congress, I will prioritize investments in education, training programs and infrastructure and work to support and advance the primary economic sectors in eastern Washington, including aerospace, agriculture, and health sciences. If elected to Congress, I want to serve on the House Agriculture and Education & Workforce Development Committees to represent Eastern Washington's interests.