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United Way IL Candidate Survey: 72nd District Challenger Glen Evans (R-Rock Island)

United Way recently asked legislative candidates in Iowa and Illinois to complete a candidate survey so that we could share their stands on issues related to our priorities: education, income, health and equity.

While United Way does not participate in partisan or political activity, we are pleased to offer this information so that voters can assess each candidate's alignment with issues important to United Way as they prepare to cast their ballots.

All answers below are posted in their entirety, as submitted by the candidate. To see the full list of responses to candidate surveys ahead of the 2020 General Election, visit www.unitedwayqc.org/candidate-surveys.

1. What specific actions can the State of Illinois take to address the disparities in school achievement and graduation rates between African American students and their white peers?

The State should support School Choice and School Vouchers. We should get rid of Common Core and Progressive/Maxists studies that perpetuate Black Americans as victims and promotes treating the Black population like Faberge Eggs.

2. Would you support changes to the school-aid formula to provide additional support to districts with high rates of poverty, minority populations and English language learners to help stem the decline in academic success among these populations?

I support School Choice and School Voucher programs as well as the expansion of Charter Schools. If the changes to the school-aid formula support those things then yes. I don't support English Learner programs in schools unless it is funded by another source other than regular academic funds. I don't want other programs to be cut in order to accomodate English language learners. The English language learners should have an afterschool program in a library or a Charter school tailored specifically for English as 2nd language students.

3. What role could the State of Illinois play in ensuring all K-12 students have access to broadband and technology to enable virtual learning?

I am not a supporter of Virtual learning. Children need to socialize and learn to play and associate with others to properly develop mentally and physically.

4. A network of quality, affordable childcare services – including wrap-around care for school-age children – is critical to parents remaining in the workforce and businesses retaining staff. Do you support additional state investment in childcare services and, if so, what ideas do you have for strengthening the childcare system in Illinois during the COVID crisis and post COVID?

I do support additional state investment only after they get the state budget under control. We can't continue to throw money at things thinking that is a solution. We need to clean up the books and streamline processes before we get to the point of needing more money. The Citizens of Illinois do not want more taxes. They want less taxes. When we say "investment" that means money that we don't have. So even though I support childcare services I can NOT support spending more money without a full overhaul and audit of what we've already invested. According to the CDC children are least affected by the COVID 19 virus so I think regular precautions are adequate.

5. Rock Island County has a high rate of poverty which dramatically impacts the health and stability of families and the community. What could the State of Illinois do to provide more opportunities for residents to achieve economic independence and meet basic needs?

The State should set up a program that promotes the many advantages of the "Opportunity Zones" program that is specifically designed to bring businesses into these communities to create jobs. We also need to hold our local officials accountable to making sure the money that is ear marked for these neighborhoods is actually being used to help the residents of the neighborhood. There should be an SBA facility in every economically challenged neighborhood and the programs within the facility should include outreach to the community. The problem is that the people of these communities do not have access to the same information that other neighborhoods have. There are plenty of hairdressers and bakers, and cooks that could benefit from the information available from the SBA but they aren't aware of it and if they are aware they don't know how to access the information. That's one of the many things the local officials should be engaging in on a regular basis. The community should own the stores and the barber shops in the area first and foremost, they just need the tools to help them achieve their goals that they may not even know they have!

6. Describe what you'd like to see the State of Illinois do – perhaps in partnership with city and county governments – to address systemic racism.

There is no such thing as systematic Racism in relation to only black people unless you want to include the rhetoric about how we are inferior because of "White Privilege". That is a talking

point used to keep Black people down. We need to stop blaming others. We have many examples of Successful Black People during a time when there was genuine systematic racism, so we as a people have no excuse today. I refuse to allow this victimhood mentality to persist without speaking out against it. WE CAN DO BETTER! We need to promote father's in the home and education and respect for life. We need to promote self reliance as well as home ownership, business ownership and the traditional family unit. Black people in the time of systematic racism had a marriage rate of 75% and we had very successful men and women. Very successful black neighborhoods and schools....once the fathers left the homes and the mothers adopted the act of relying on government for housing and food, that is when our communities started to decline. We have to get back to a 75% marriage rate (father in the home!!!!) to restore our communities and return to successful communities. The only systemic racism going on right now is the media and these organizations trying to create racial divide with their commentary and rhetoric against white people and police. ANYTIME we try to make people feel inferior and we unjustly include an entire group of people just as was done to us (Black Americans)....we are no better! We all need to come together as Americans and I would wholeheartedly support Patriotism and Americanism. We are all Americans and the only thing that matters is Character. Martin Luther King is spinning in his grave over this nonsense we are living through today.

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About United Way of the Quad Cities

United Way is a community-based social change organization that puts opportunity in the hands of all Quad Citizens. Working with our determined partners, volunteers, advocates and donors, we lead the charge to improve education, income and health – the building blocks of opportunity. The result is a mobilized community where every Quad Citizen is living their best possible life. unitedwayqc.org