

Buffalo Niagara Partnership Congressional Candidate Questionnaire 2008

Candidate Name: Christopher J. Lee

District: New York's 26th Congressional District

E-mail Address: info@chrisleeforcongress.com

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:

Buffalo Niagara Partnership

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Attn: Glenn Aronow, Director, Government Relations

This document is necessary for consideration of support by the Partnership and may be used for future voter education purposes.

Campaign Information

Campaign Manager: Nick Langworthy

Campaign Address: 150 Essjay Road Suite 210 Williamsville, NY 14221

Campaign Phone: 716-632-2008

Campaign Fax: 716-625-1409

Campaign Committee Name: Chris Lee for Congress

Communications Director: Andrea Bozek

Web Site Address: www.chrisleeforcongress.com

Party Affiliation: Republican

Party Endorsements Received: Republican, Conservative and Independence

Candidate Information

Current employment: Candidate for Congress

Name of employer (if applicable) _____

Employer address: _____

Have you ever been elected or appointed to public office?

Yes

No

If yes, years of service and office(s) _____

If no, have you ever run for an elected office?

Yes

No

Election year and office(s) _____

If you are (re) elected to Congress, list your top three priorities for your first/next term and why:

1. I will fight to create jobs in Western New York and reduce the tax burden on our working families and small businesses.

2. Our country will likely spend over \$700 billion on foreign oil this year. We need to reduce our addition to foreign oil for our economic and national security. We can create jobs right here in Western New York by investing in American-made alternative energy research and development. I will fight to encourage more facilities like the ethanol plant in Orleans and the hydrogen fuel cell research at Honeoye Falls

3. I will fight to restore fiscal responsibility in Congress by insisting on spending and earmark reform.

If (re) elected, on which committees would you most like to serve?

1. Energy and Commerce

2. Financial Services

3. Small Business

What is the top issue employers in your district are facing?

Washington and Albany for too long have inflicted too many regulations on small businesses, and haven't done enough to lower taxes to encourage job creation. Washington also has failed to develop a comprehensive energy policy or reform health care.

Partnership Priorities		
<p>Do you support increasing the amount of federal money to be used to clean up brownfields? Comments: <u>We need to ensure our businesses have a safe and habitable property to create successful ventures.</u></p>	YES	NO
<p>Do you support the creation of High Skill Immigration (HSI) Zones in Great Lakes metro areas? Comments:</p>	YES	NO
<p>Do you support federal ratification of the Great Lakes Compact? Comments: <u>I was pleased to see the recent passage of the Great Lakes Compact. We need to ensure the Great Lakes are protected and preserved for future generations.</u></p>	YES	NO
<p>Do you support federal funding for the Niagara Experience Center in Niagara Falls, NY? Comments: <u>We need to do all we can to increase tourism in Niagara Falls and surrounding communities.</u></p>	YES	NO
<p>Do you support restoring the Workforce Investment Act funding to the 2005 level (\$4.5 billion)? Comments: <u>This is important funding that could help train workers in Western New York and help create jobs.</u></p>	YES	NO
<p>Do you support reform of the federal highway financing system to reduce dependence on the fuel tax? Comments: _____ _____</p>	YES	NO
<p>Do you support funding for the remaining phases of Continental 1(the extension of U.S. 219)? Comments: _____ _____</p>	YES	NO
<p>Do you support reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU, which is due to expire in early 2009? Comments: <u>I would support SAFETEA-LU if it did not include frivolous spending projects.</u></p>	YES	NO

<p>Do you support funding for the remaining phases of Buffalo's "Cars on Main Street" initiative? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Fiscal/Tax Policy		
<p>Do you support making existing personal and business tax cuts permanent? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support simplifying the tax code and reducing the tax burden on business? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Health Care		
<p>Do you support allowing self-employed individuals to deduct health care premiums from payroll taxes? Comments: <u>We need to make it easier for small businesses and self-employed individuals to be successful.</u></p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support requiring employers to provide health care coverage to their employees? Comments: <u>We should leave health care decisions up to the business. Washington or Albany should not be dictating how businesses should be run.</u></p>	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support allowing tax incentives for the purchase of health insurance? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support using a payroll tax or employer "fair share" fee to finance a health care insurance program/plan? Comments: <u>Raising taxes is not the answer to solving the health care crisis.</u></p>	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO
Legal Reform		
<p>Do you support tort reform legislation to protect small businesses from frivolous lawsuits? Comments: _____ _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO

Labor Issues		
<p>Do you support lowering or eliminating the small business exemption (50 employees) to the Family and Medical Leave Act?</p> <p>Comments: <u>We should leave family and medical leave decisions up to the small businesses. Washington or Albany should not be dictating how businesses should be run.</u></p>	YES	NO
<p>Do you support legislation requiring employers to pay for employee sick leave?</p> <p>Comments: <u>We should leave family and medical leave decisions up to the small businesses. Washington or Albany should not be dictating how businesses should be run.</u></p>	YES	NO
<p>Do you support legislation requiring unions to notify its membership of their right to refuse to pay for union political activities?</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
<p>Do you support legislation requiring employers to recognize unions by way of signed authorization cards?</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support Allowing family-time (comp-time) that gives private sector employees the ability to choose time off instead of overtime pay?</p> <p>Comments: <u>We should leave these decisions up to the small businesses. Washington or Albany should not be dictating how businesses should be run.</u></p>	YES	NO

List two reasons Buffalo Niagara employers should support your campaign:

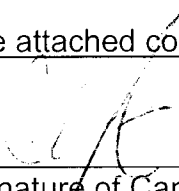
1. I am not a career politician – rather a local businessman who has run a business, created jobs in our area and met a payroll. I understand firsthand the problems facing Western New York businesses and will fight everyday to improve our economy, fix the needless regulations and lessen the tax burden placed on our businesses and families.

2. As a local businessman I understand how hard it is to earn a dollar and will therefore be a better steward of our hard earned tax dollars. I will fight against needless spending and restore taxpayer trust by holding career politicians accountable for wasteful spending.


If (re) elected, what specifically will you do to help increase private sector investment and jobs in Buffalo Niagara?

(Please feel free to attach additional pages)

See attached column.



Signature of Candidate



Date

I understand that the Buffalo Niagara Partnership considers the responses to this questionnaire to be formal policy positions and maintains the right to disclose responses for education purposes.

Building a 21st-Century Workforce in Western New York

Christopher J. Lee

Government policies don't create jobs, businesses do. It's that simple. As someone who was an owner of a Western New York business I know how tough it is to start a business. Severe regulations and high taxes are making it harder and harder for small businesses to stay alive. If there was ever a time we needed job growth it's now. Western New York is a great example of an area which has small town values, and a resilient workforce, but suffers from a shortage of job opportunities. With our economy fighting an uphill battle and millions of Americans losing faith in their government it's time we brought some real change to Washington. We must lower taxes and regulation, keep businesses in Western New York, and strengthen our workforce.

It starts by cutting the red tape involved in starting a small business, because small businesses are the building blocks of our economy. After all, 80% of job growth in the past decade was created by small businesses. Even the largest, most profitable corporations once started as small businesses, but heavy, unnecessary, job-killing regulations and high taxes make it difficult for everyday Americans to start businesses. The reason America has become a world superpower in the global economy has been our ability to be inventive; developing new technologies and finding more efficient business practices. We've been able to do this because of our free markets, but now, it is becoming much harder. Those high tax dollars go to creating unnecessary bureaucracies which in turn, create burdensome regulations. It wasn't a government bureaucracy that created the personal computer or the cell phone, nor was it a government bureaucracy that developed the first hybrid vehicle. No government bureaucracy can ever substitute for hardworking Americans who start businesses.

Western New York has the best work ethic in the world. We must invest in education to continue to strengthen our workforce. Let's make Western New York an example for America, by diversifying our workforce, through education and new jobs. When companies shut down and jobs are lost, we shouldn't just want to bring those jobs back but new ones that pay more and will last for generations to come. We should work to create opportunities for new businesses to start. With a diversified workforce that can adapt easily, our economy can change in stride, and we can be better prepared for the future.

Additionally, we need to participate in the international marketplace, we should be selling goods made in America throughout the world. Anyone who fails to realize that we need to compete on the international stage is out of touch. In order to compete, we need to protect our Western New York companies by ensuring our trading partners treat us fairly and the playing field must be level. We must keep the pressure on China, and all of our trading partners to abide by the law. I've come to see first hand the squeeze that China's policy has put on American businesses trying to compete with Chinese exporters. I have long been a believer that free, fair and open markets bring prosperity. But when a foreign country deliberately undervalues its currency and stacks the deck against Western New York businesses, we must counter their manipulation by changing our policy.

In addition, we must put in place effective enforcement trading rules so we can defend our companies when it comes to trade disputes and market manipulation - isolationism from the international marketplace is not the answer for securing our economic future.

The future of Western New York is dependent on not just keeping today's jobs, but ensuring the jobs of tomorrow are here as well. If we fight hard enough to make America, and Western New York, more competitive, then our children can stay right here at home to raise their families. Ultimately, we need to cut the growth of Washington so we can increase job creation in Western New York and cut the bloated government in Washington.

Chris Lee is a candidate for Congress in New York's 26th District.