

## 2018 GLI Congressional Candidate Survey

### Senator Joe Donnelly (D-IN)

**Tax Reform:** In July of this year, the Committee on Ways and Means in the U.S. House released a [framework](#) for the next round of federal tax reform. As a member of the 116th Congress, what would be your top priorities for changes to the federal tax code?

- *I support and have repeatedly voted for middle class tax cuts. I repeatedly voted to extend and make permanent the Bush Tax Cuts for the vast majority of Americans, for instance. Last fall, I met with President Trump at the White House, and he and I agreed that the tax bill should cut taxes for middle class families, not increase the deficit, and discourage outsourcing. Those are my top priorities in any bill to address our tax code. However, the bill Mitch McConnell brought to the Senate last year did none of those three things.*

*The cuts for middle class families are not permanent, and will be wiped out by higher health care premiums created by this bill. Hoosiers' insurance rates are expected to increase as much as 50 percent over the next three years due to the McConnell tax bill.*

*The federal deficit will increase by \$1 trillion as a result of this bill. It will pass down \$2 trillion in additional debt to our kids.*

*And if Republicans plan to pay for it at all, they have made clear they will do so by voting for drastic cuts to Medicare and Social Security for our seniors.*

*That's not what the President and I discussed, and therefore I could not support it.*

**International Trade:** In general, do you support or oppose the new tariffs imposed by the Trump administration?

- *We all agree that China cheats and needs to change its behavior. In response, we need to take measured and precise action to protect the steel and aluminum industries and prevent intellectual property theft. That's how we best ensure Hoosiers — including manufacturers, steelworkers, and pork, soybean, corn and all of our farmers—can continue to sell quality products fairly in markets all over the world. However, I'd like to see the administration crack down on bad actors like China in a targeted way and avoid a blanket approach that hurts American interests at the same time.*

*Throughout my time in Congress, I've supported efforts to promote exports. I introduced legislation—now law—to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, which has helped 84 Hoosier companies export \$2 billion in goods since 2013.*

*Indiana is the most manufacturing intensive state in the country. We are rightly proud of that, and I will do everything I can in Congress to fight to make sure our state's manufacturers have all the tools they need to succeed.*

**Immigration:** Would you support or oppose legislation authorizing DACA recipients and DACA-eligible individuals to permanently and legally live and work in the United States? Why or why not?

- *I come from an immigrant family. My grandmother came to the United States with nothing but \$10 in her pocket. I believe that in this nation of immigrants we can both strengthen our border and offer protections for DACA recipients. In 2013, I voted for bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform, which would have established a pathway to citizenship for certain undocumented immigrants, reformed visa programs, and strengthened enforcement mechanisms. I believe we should still pursue a comprehensive approach to fixing our broken system.*

*I voted just this year for multiple proposals to offer protections to DACA youth, offered by both Democrats and Republicans. At the same time, I have also voted to provide additional funding for border security. To truly address our broken immigration system, we must be willing to fully address all sides of the problem.*

**Infrastructure:** Do you support increasing the federal motor vehicle fuel user fee, or gas tax, as a means to increase funding for infrastructure projects in the United States?

- *I oppose raising the gas tax. I believe Hoosiers have seen gas prices fluctuate a great deal within the last decade, and we can find innovative ways to fund necessary infrastructure improvements without adding to that burden. My job as your Senator is to make sure Indiana is getting its fair share of highway funds and that other projects like*

*local bridges and other repairs are getting the grant funding they need to be completed, so that you are driving to work and home on roads that are safe and smooth. As the "Crossroads of America," Hoosiers know how important our roads are to the success of our state, and we need to make sure we keep our roads safe, repaired, and fully funded.*

**Healthcare:** Do you support the repeal of the Affordable Care Act? If so, what would you want to replace it with? If not, what changes would you seek to make to the ACA?

- *I have always said that the Affordable Care Act is not perfect and would work with anyone to improve it. However, the law is a step toward ensuring that all Americans, including those with pre-existing conditions like diabetes, multiple sclerosis, or cancer, have access to health care. It requires insurance companies to cover essential health benefits, such as prescription drugs, mental health care, and ER visits.*

*Moreover, then-Governor Pence and I were able to work together to expand access to quality health care to more than 200,000 Hoosiers through HIP 2.0, which is the state's ACA Medicaid expansion. Some who are currently covered under HIP 2.0 are receiving coverage for the first time. Without the ACA, this important program would not be in place to help us fight the opioid epidemic, to expand access to coverage, and to help build a healthier state.*

*Despite these benefits, I have always recognized that the ACA needs to be improved, and I've worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stabilize and strengthen our health care system and expand access to quality and affordable health care for Hoosiers. Whether that means working to repeal the law's medical device tax or introducing legislation to redefine the law's full-time definition, I will always be open to any good ideas to improve the law and expand coverage.*

*I'm not open, however, to dismantling the health care system and putting coverage out of reach in the name of scoring political points. I opposed last year's health care repeal bill in the Senate because it would have raised premiums for the average Hoosier by \$1,000 annually, cut \$800 billion from Medicaid and gutted HIP 2.0, and made coverage for the 1.1 million Hoosiers under 65 with pre-existing conditions unaffordable.*

**Environment:** Do you support or oppose the Trump administration's Affordable Clean Energy Rule and what role do you think Congress should play in regulating greenhouse gas emissions?

- *As your Senator, I remain committed to reducing our carbon emissions and protecting our environment. However, I believe that regulations to reduce emission should draw on input from Hoosier stakeholders, rather than being implemented by Washington bureaucrats who are disengaged from the everyday life of people in our*

*state. Members of Congress should have a say in implementing these regulations, as we work for you.*

**Net Neutrality:** Should Congress pass a comprehensive net neutrality bill or should oversight of the internet be left to the FCC and the states? If you support passage of comprehensive legislation by Congress, what measures would you like to see in a net neutrality bill?

- *An open internet is vital. Without Net Neutrality, Hoosiers could lose access to an open internet, which would limit consumers' opportunity to access the content of their choice. That's why I signed on to a resolution in the Senate to reverse the FCC's decision to repeal Net Neutrality. In May, the Senate voted to pass the resolution. I was proud to vote for an open internet. From small businesses, to entrepreneurs, to Hoosier families, the internet is critical to our economy. It is a powerful tool for innovation, communication, research, and the robust exchange of information. Congress should work together to reverse the FCC's decision and for a free and open internet.*

**Banking:** Do you agree or disagree with the changes made to Dodd-Frank by the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act passed by Congress in May 2018?

- *I was one of the bipartisan authors of the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act. The bill frees local and community banks from unnecessary regulations to help local economies. The bill prioritized main street over Wall Street, as it maintained many of the rules on big banks that were passed in 2010 to prevent another financial collapse.*

*As a result of this legislation, Indiana's 154 credit unions and 103 community banks are freed up to provide mortgages to families and loans to small businesses without the worry of unnecessary red tape. I am especially proud of proposals in the bill to protect servicemembers and veterans and to provide new consumer protections in response to the Equifax data breach. The bill is among the 44 legislative proposals I've had signed into law during my time in the Senate.*