

2018 GLI Congressional Candidate Survey

Rep. John Yarmuth (D)

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 voted against both of the Republican tax cut bills this past year because they overwhelmingly benefit the wealthy and large corporations at the expense of everyone else. The new tax law has done little to benefit middle class and struggling families, fueling corporate stock buybacks instead of wage increases. As a result of the tax cuts, our debt and deficits are skyrocketing, leading Congressional Republicans to call for massive cuts to Social Security and Medicare, education, infrastructure, research and development, and other national priorities. I support responsible tax reform efforts that will close loopholes, help hard-working Americans families get ahead, and allow us to invest in a strong economic future.*

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

- *I generally support using all available options to end unfair trade practices which threaten our domestic manufacturers. That said, we should not jeopardize other domestic producers and hard-working families by pursuing ill-advised and misdirected tariff attacks against our allies.*

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 believe that our nation's immigration system is broken, and Congress should enact comprehensive immigration reform. Our immigration laws ought to reflect both our interest and values as Americans, which is why I support reforms that are tough, fair, and practical. That includes securing our borders, cracking down on employers who hire*

undocumented immigrants, and requiring those who came here without our permission to pass background checks, learn our language, and pay taxes while they earn the chance to become citizens. For the better part of 2013, I was part of a bipartisan group of House members working to craft a comprehensive immigration reform bill that promoted humane enforcement, provided a path to citizenship, and supported family reunification. Unfortunately, that bill was never brought to the House floor for a vote by Republican leadership. The President's decision to terminate the DACA program and upend the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people who have done everything asked of them is disgraceful and harmful to us all. I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Dream Act, which removes the threat of deportation and establishes a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients. Rather than restrict immigration, the United States should support immigrants by expanding legal immigration, creating pathways to citizenship, and keeping families together.

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?

- *From the construction of the new Ohio River bridges to renovating Dixie Highway, investing in Louisville's infrastructure has been – and will continue to be – a primary focus of mine. However, as cars and trucks continue to become more fuel efficient and electric vehicle sales continue to rise, the gas tax is quickly becoming obsolete. While I fully support increasing the federal investment in our nation's infrastructure, I don't believe solely raising the gas tax is the right way to fund that investment.*

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 do not support repealing the Affordable Care Act. Health care is a right, and I believe the government has a responsibility to guarantee that people have access to affordable, quality care. I am willing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make the ACA stronger, but will oppose any attempts to end coverage (as we are seeing here in Kentucky), weaken protections for those with pre-existing conditions, or destabilize the health insurance market needlessly raising rates for working families.*

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?

- *We have an obligation to protect our environment for current and future generations. The latest science indicates that climate change will have an increasing impact on our society and will contribute to droughts, floods, more extreme weather, and the erosion of our coastlines. There is a wide array of ways to reduce emissions, including integrating renewable energy sources, but unfortunately that has not been the focus of Congress or this Administration. Since Republicans became the majority party in the House in 2011, their leadership has consistently worked to strip the EPA's authority to regulate carbon*

emissions and the agency's ability to enforce the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. Now, the Trump Administration is threatening the entire mission and work of the EPA by promising to gut funding for the agency by unprecedented levels. I strongly oppose these efforts that will jeopardize everything from new science and technology innovation to the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink, including the administration's Affordable Clean Energy Rule.

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?

- *The FCC recently voted to end net neutrality protections that were put in place during the Obama Administration. I have heard from thousands of Louisvillians who are vehemently opposed to this decision and support a fair and level playing field on the internet. I believe Congress needs to act, because I am concerned that under these revised rules, a handful of big corporations will now have near complete control over the internet, with the ability to pick winners and losers among small businesses and decide what content consumers can view or create online. That is why I am an original cosponsor of the Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution that would reverse the FCC's decision and reinstate the 2015 Net Neutrality Rules. I will continue to fight for equal access to the 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 voted against S. 2155, the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act when it passed Congress this spring. While I am willing to working on a bipartisan basis to protect consumers and provide targeted relief to community banks that weren't involved in the 2008 financial crisis, S. 2155 weakens the strong Wall Street oversight provisions of Dodd-Frank and allows big banks to once again put our economy at risk.*