

## **Michael Slattery, candidate for the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional district**

Facebook page — <https://www.facebook.com/slatteryforcongress/?fref=nf>

Campaign page — <http://michaelslatteryforcongress.com>

### **Background:**

For the past 17 years, I have farmed with my wife in Manitowoc County, been on the state board of the Wisconsin Farmers Union and run their grain and investment committees, been on the state board of Call to Action, active in several interfaith justice and peace groups, and have promoted environmentally focused farm stewardship.

Prior to that, I worked in Tokyo for 6 years for a large US finance company and was responsible for initiating several new businesses for them; before that, I worked in the World Trade Center in New York for 12 years for Japan's largest bank for which I was responsible for credit underwriting and getting them into several new businesses among other activities.

I have a PhD, a MALD, and MA in international relations, a MST in theology, and BA in philosophy and sociology.

I was a member of a religious order, the Jesuits, in the Catholic Church for 13 years where my focus and life style was centered on social justice. I walked the talk.

### **Why I should be elected:**

I have worked with international issues for nearly 50 years and national issues for 30 years. I was responsible for the two largest financial institutions to do strategic planning and economic analysis, understand finance and the financial sector in almost all of its forms, bank regulatory reporting, municipal finance, national debt restructuring, and business development for many different types of financial businesses.

Over the past 6 years, I have formulated about two-thirds of the policy for the Farmers Union, with heavy emphasis on the handling of environmental and water issues, the promotion of environmental stewardship through methods such as cover cropping, no- or reduced-tillage, insertion of more small grains in the rotation system, buffer strips, etc. As both a farmer and business person, I have sought to improve the natural environment for ourselves and our posterity.

My academic training focused on law and diplomacy, international finance, economic development, Asian history, political development, morality and ethics. As a business person and farmer, I have initiated and executed businesses, worked with all types of individuals, and assembled teams that

resulted in tens of billions of dollars of investments. I am not an academic, but a business person who gets things done on time and leads the process.

## **Questionnaire responses**

### **1. If the Republicans retain control of the House, how would you work with the majority?**

First, I would find areas of commonality. Second, I would engage in an approach that treats the other party with respect and with civility and would not demonize or personalize issues. Third, I would find people with common values and common interests in order to build alliances. With regard to water issues, for example, I would focus on the Great Lakes states and representatives whose districts have experienced problems with contamination, pollution, or rapid depletion of water in order to build a coalition to address these issues for the public good, not for the interests of private corporations.

### **2. What do you think is the biggest issue in your district and why?**

The biggest issue for me in the district differs from what the common citizen in a Republican district considers most important. The biggest structural issue is income distribution whereby the lower income brackets are effectively subsidizing the incomes of the top 10 percent. For most people in the district, their biggest issue is the paralysis of the federal government, the lack of interaction in Washington, DC between the two parties, and the ineptness of elected, career politicians. Citizens are tired and fed up with the inability of legislators to execute and make government actually work for them.

### **3. What is your approach to the federal budget—raise taxes? Cut spending?**

I am a business person and a farmer. As a business person, there are two sides to the income statement -- income/revenue and expenditure. You cannot just continue to cut expenditure as Republicans and career politicians continue to focus. As in a family or a corporation, if you only focus on cutting expenditures, you reach a point where you cannot function efficiently. Similarly, a country or a state cannot sustain itself by reducing expenditure to bare bones or beyond. How you raise revenue and the extent to which you raise it are just as important as getting rid of fat and inefficiencies in government. Further, what you appropriate funds for and the rate at which you appropriate them are equally important. A budget is a moral document! The level of debt always must be held in consideration. Debt is maintained by households, corporations, and governments for them to function and advance the interests of the state, particularly in times that the private sector

is not acting as multiplier of needed inputs to the expansion of the economy. Too much debt can bankrupt you; too little debt can make you an inefficient and non-competitive actor.

As per my website, you will see my priorities for addressing fiscal issues. The tax system needs to address the inequities in income distribution through eliminating loopholes exploited by the super-rich and major (not small and mid-size) corporations. Earned benefits such as Social Security and Medicare need to be funded. Privatization of our public agencies and works is not the means to protect the public good. Our military expenditure is out of line with the rest of the world and needs to be reduced, while maintaining defense of the country. We are bleeding the country dry with our constant wars. Our infrastructure is rapidly deteriorating which will make us uncompetitive in a global economy. The degradation of our environment, inclusive of the effects on climate change, need to be addressed in order, not just to preserve, but to improve the environment for future generations. How we treat the marginalized, individuals whose lives have been adversely affected by exploitation, is a justice issue that we cannot avoid and must be vigilantly and timely addressed.