

Why Do I Think I am Qualified to Be a United States Congressman?

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December 23, 2009

Introduction

I have been asked on more than one occasion why I think I am qualified to be a United States Congressman. What qualifies anyone to be a first-time Congressman? Education, Experience, Skills, Work Ethic, and Character are the qualities I look for when voting for someone. Unlike an interview for a normal job, this interview process is several months long and requires me to convince a majority of people whom I will never meet in person to hire me. Even after being hired, it is understood that the interview process begins again...this time including job performance reviews.

Below, you will find something similar to a resume' to help you decide if I am qualified to be your U.S. Congressman. For my views on specific issues, please go to the Issues page of my web site.

My Experience

- 25 years in information systems development – consulting and as an employee
 - Analyzing problems
 - Negotiating with project stakeholders
 - Critical thinking
 - Developing effective, efficient, and maintainable solutions
 - Project management – CompTIA Project+ certification
 - Lots of long hours worked to complete projects on time
 - Lots of odd hours worked to support customers without disrupting their work
- Owned and operated business built from scratch to profitability
 - Sold successful business (which is still in operation and growing, based on the systems I created)
- Worked in all 3 branches of government at the state and county levels
 - State legislature, state executive branch (2 different departments), county court clerk
- Worked in several private sector industries from Fortune 500 companies to small businesses
 - Industries – hospitality, medical office, telecommunications, health insurance, freight and logistics, government support, travel and entertainment, waste management, manufacturing, pharmaceutical distribution, retail
- Worked with people from all levels of organizations from the bottom to the executive level
- Worked as computer literacy instructor for 2 different kinds of students
 - UAW workers
 - 3-5 year old children

Education

- Earned 21 college credits while attending high school
- Associate's degree in Business Data Processing
- Bachelor's degree in Information Technology
- Master's in Business Administration
- Currently working on PhD in Information Systems
- Constantly learning new technologies to remain competitive
- Education is a Huge Part of My Life
 - Maternal Grandmother and Aunt were K-12 teachers
 - Paternal Grandmother attended continuing education college classes (1 with me) Well into Her 70's

Work Ethic

- Worked in full time minimum-wage and near-minimum-wage jobs while attending school full time earning an Associate's degree
- Worked full time while attending school full time earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees
- Retrained myself in new technologies, including becoming certified after losing job to offshore outsourcing
- Started over in entry level positions after losing job and returning to information technology industry upon selling my business

Character Building and Unique Educational Experiences

- Small midwestern town upbringing
- Member of First United Methodist Church Youth Choir
- Member of Boy Scouts of America and Explorer Scouts unit associated with the local police department
 - Achieved rank of "Life Scout"
- Member of high school marching and concert bands
- Member of National Honor Society
- Participated in Habitat For Humanity house build
- Participated in Model United Nations while in high school
- Participated in State and Local Government symposium while in high school
- Joined U.S. Army with intent to Be military policeman in Europe for 2 years
 - Injured during basic training and discharged honorably under medical circumstances

Skills and Lessons Learned

- Customer Service
 - From working as a retail clerk and business owner to working with project stakeholders

- Ability to Learn Quickly
 - I had to learn new industries, systems, and technologies quickly to gain and maintain employment
- Analysis, Design, and Critical Thinking
 - Many of the projects required me to understand the big picture while dealing with the details
 - In my work and in my education, I had to be able to do research and think critically about the source material to eliminate unsubstantiated sources and find the best Solutions
- Work Ethic
 - Hard work is in my nature. I hate being bored. If something needs doing, I will jump in to help, even if it means learning a new role.
 - Multi-tasking is a requirement of most jobs now days, but I learned early on how to work on multiple projects at once

Conclusion

To me, being a United States Congressman requires someone to be a good role model. He or she must have a sense of purpose. I believe that the purpose of government is to protect and serve its citizens. The Representative's job has 3 main components; serving the constituents directly as an ombudsman, developing and negotiating effective legislation, and oversight over the government. To do these things, the Representative must be able to:

- To listen to the constituents and help them deal with the different branches and agencies of the Federal government. This requires the following skills:
 - Customer service
 - Ability to quickly understand the problem at hand, analyze it and help the constituent find an equitable solution
- Quickly Understand Issues and Decide an Appropriate Vote and/or Develop Appropriate Legislation. This requires the following skills:
 - The ability to learn new and complex things quickly and thoroughly
 - The ability to research all sides of the Issue
 - Think critically about the issue and different points of view
 - Analyze different solutions and develop an efficient and effective solution
- Negotiate the issues with stakeholders to reach the best possible solution
- Analyze, monitor, and provide oversight to current governmental programs to determine what is working and what isn't
- Understand the economy and global financial systems
- Understand our role in the global family of nations
- Understand the consequences of legislation and actions taken by the government
 - Be able to understand when things aren't working and come up with effective solutions to fix the problems