

2024 Candidate Survey - Carmen Bucco

Question 1:

Candidate Name

Answer:

Carmen Bucco

Question 2:

Office Sought/Congressional District

Answer:

Congressional District 10

Question 3:

H.R. 906, the "Right to Equitable and Professional Auto Industry Repair Act or the REPAIR Act", would guarantee that consumers and auto repair shops are able to access a vehicle's data related to diagnostics, repair, service, wear, and calibration or recalibration of parts and systems of the vehicle, thereby preventing big car manufacturers from locking out small businesses and forcing consumers to get their repair work done only at dealerships. Would you support the REPAIR Act?

Answer:

Yes

Question 4:

Credit card interchange fees have become one of the largest expenses a business incurs. Visa and MasterCard have created a virtual monopoly and are able to charge retailers whatever rate they wish, knowing no business in this modern age can survive without accepting their cards. Small businesses in the US pay credit card fees that are seven times higher than the rates charged in Europe. The Credit Card Competition Act (H.R. 3881) is bipartisan legislation to lower the cost of credit card fees by injecting competition into the market by providing choice in how transactions are routed. It would not set any caps on fees, just allow for more competition. Would you support this legislation?

Answer:

Yes

Question 5:

Would you support federal legislation to ensure that all motorists will continue to have the option to purchase gasoline powered motor vehicles?

Answer:

Yes

Question 6:

Most NJGCA members, like most small businesses, are organized as “pass-through entities” for the purposes of taxation; meaning the business is taxed when the owner pays their income tax. Would you oppose legislation which would increase the federal tax on income less than \$400,000 per year per individual/\$500,000 for married couple filing jointly?

Answer:

Yes

Question 7:

OSHA has proposed broad new regulations that will significantly impact small businesses in New Jersey. Businesses like repair shops will have to maintain records of their indoor temperatures and closely track the minutes their technicians are working to force them to take breaks every 2 hours, adding up to 30-45 minutes a day of extra paid breaks on hot days, a cost which will have to be passed on in the form of higher repair bills. NJ’s unique full-serve gas mandate will be threatened on summer days when the only attendant is forced to go on a break and customers will not be legally able to buy gas for that 15-minute window every 2 hours. Do you support this proposal?

Answer:

No

Question 8:

New Jersey’s minimum wage is currently \$15.13 for most employers, and will continue to be increased annually based on inflation. Would you oppose a bill that would set a higher federal minimum wage than New Jersey’s rate?

Answer:

Yes

Question 9:

The FDA has proposed a ban on the sale of menthol cigarettes. Historically, prohibitions have led to black markets, hurting honest retailers while not improving the public health. A few months ago, the FDA backed off their proposal, though they may bring it back. Do you support this ban?

Answer:

No

Question 10:

For years the estate tax, or death tax as it is commonly known, has been a burden on small business owners who want to pass their business and their life's work onto their family. Under the 2017 tax reform law, the exemption level was set at \$13.6 million for individuals, protecting a huge portion of small businesses. Would you oppose legislation that would lower this threshold?

Answer:

No

Question 11:

Since 2015, Congress has been raiding the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) and selling off its contents for no reason other than to fund federal spending. The recent supply crisis has shown how critical the SPR is for our nation's energy security, and with the SPR at the lowest level in 40 years, we must focus on refilling it rather than selling it off for cash. Would you oppose future sales of SPR oil being conducted just to generate revenue?

Answer:

Yes

Question 12:

A lack of infrastructure has been pointed out as one of the primary reasons more motorists have not adopted zero emission vehicles. There already exists a nationwide infrastructure of businesses that motorists are accustomed to refueling at: gas stations. Would you support providing grants or other funding to motor fuel retailers which install hydrogen refueling stations or EV battery fast chargers?

Answer:

Yes

Question 13:

Tariffs have become more popular among some politicians. Of particular concern to independent auto repairers are tariffs on automotive parts and tires, which will increase the cost of repairing and maintaining all motor vehicles, a cost which small businesses will be forced to pass on to consumers. Do you support tariffs on these items?

Answer:

No

Question 14:

Would you oppose an increase in the federal cigarette tax?

Answer:

Yes

Question 15:

Over the last decade domestic oil drilling has dramatically expanded, keeping gas prices far lower than would have been without this drilling. Hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" has been the key to this expansion of supply. Some believe that the technique should be banned by the federal government, a move that would significantly increase the price of oil, gasoline, diesel, heating oil, and natural gas. Would you oppose a federal ban on fracking?

Answer:

Yes

Question 16:

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act created the Section 199A deduction for pass-through businesses of 20%, which has been an important boost to small businesses like our members. This deduction is scheduled to expire next year. Would you support making this deduction permanent?

Answer:

Yes

Question 17:

Any further comments or additions to the above answers?

Answer: