



2020 MUSKEGON COUNTY – FEDERAL OFFICIALS
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Bill Huizenga Phone: 616-283-3026
Office Sought: MI-02 Federal Representative Party: Republican
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1. Have you ever been appointed or elected to public office?
If yes, what office?

Michigan State Legislature (2003-2008)
District Director for former Rep. Pete Hoekstra (6 years)
U.S. Representative for Michigan's 2nd Congressional District (2011-present)

2. Have you ever owned a business or has someone in your family owned a business? If yes, please describe.

Third-generation Small Business Owner – Huizenga Gravel

3. Briefly describe the qualifications and experience you possess that make you the best candidate for this office.

I was born in Zeeland, Michigan, and have spent my whole life here in West Michigan. As a small business owner and a former Realtor, I know that it is the private sector that creates jobs. As your Congressman, I have worked to protect the Great Lakes as well as implement real solutions that remove government barriers and increase opportunity for hardworking families in Muskegon County and across West Michigan. Most importantly, I am a husband and a father of five amazing children.

4. What do you believe should be the role of government in today's world?

As a conservative, I believe, as Ronald Reagan did, that government should "work with us, not over us; to stand by our side, not ride on our back. Government," said President Reagan, "can and must provide opportunity, not smother it; foster productivity, not stifle it."

I believe in limited government. Government should, as a first resort, set the table for private action and private institutions — creating a context in which social and civic institutions can flourish. People are right to be generally skeptical of centralized government action because the world is too complicated to be run by technocrats and planners. Limited government is more often good government; and it is good government because it secures individual liberty, takes into account human nature and people's self-interest, and allows people to pursue their potential and achieve great things that improve lives beyond their own.

4. What do you consider to be the top three (3) issues facing Muskegon County businesses today and how can the State government address them?

Since the COVID outbreak began, by far the biggest issue I have heard from Muskegon business owners is the need for the economy to safely reopen. Business owners small and large are struggling, and while programs like the Paycheck Protection Program have helped, West Michigan needs to be open for business. Congress should pass common sense measures to get people back to work, incentivize businesses to hire workers, and minimize programs that discourage able-body adults from not only seeking but gaining employment. I will continue to push measures like my legislation, the Patriot Bonus Act of 2020, to help job creators get back up and running again.

During these trying times, we must remain vigilant about the impact of over regulation. Burdensome regulations from Washington fall heaviest on small businesses, the engine of our economy. Businesses with fewer than 20 employees spend more than \$2,000 per employee than big businesses to comply with federal mandates. I have no problem with commonsense regulation but will use every available tool to combat bureaucratic overreach and eliminate unnecessary regulations that slow economic growth and threaten West Michigan jobs.

For years, we have seen a concerted effort by the Chinese Communist Party to hollow out our nation's manufacturing. China has deep reserves of cheap labor and engages in illegal trade abuses such as currency manipulation and intellectual property theft. Through tough negotiations and positive developments such as the USMCA, America's position is improving. I will continue to look at ways to strengthen manufacturing in Muskegon as well as examine ways to potentially bring jobs home to Muskegon County. This is not just in our economic interest, but as we have seen clearly the last few months it is also a matter of national security. Strengthening our domestic supply chain has been a topic of discussion for some time. The coronavirus has made it crystal clear that policymakers at all levels must act to rebuild our supply chain in the United States and in my mind there is no place better to start than Muskegon.

6. Name one thing that you think is going right in Muskegon County and one thing that you think could be changed right away.

There has been a significant transformation and revitalization of Muskegon over the last few years. So many community and business leaders, as well as government officials, have been working tirelessly to actively maximize Muskegon's true potential and develop Muskegon into a primary destination in West Michigan.

As Co-Chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, a bipartisan group focused on policies and programs that enhance the environmental and economic health of the Great Lakes, I have successfully led bipartisan efforts to increase funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). This past year, with the support of the Administration, we worked to secure \$320 million for the GLRI. I am also a cosponsor of legislation that would reauthorize the GLRI and increase its funding to \$475 million. Additionally, I have led a separate bipartisan effort to restore the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to ensure the federal government lives up to its obligations to properly maintain and dredge the Port of Muskegon and harbors across the Great Lakes. Recently, the House of Representatives passed water infrastructure legislation that would provide billions for harbor maintenance activities through the HMTF and increase the authorized funding for Great Lakes harbors.

Since 2010, Congress has provided over \$3 billion in funding to promote the cleanup of toxic hotspots, prevent the spread of invasive species, curb the growth of harmful algal blooms, and promote the overall well-being of the Great Lakes.

We have seen the impact right here in West Michigan. This is demonstrated by a recent GVSU study, which showed massive economic benefits in Muskegon because of the restoration efforts at Muskegon Lake. The study found efforts led by the GLRI have increased recreational activity by \$27.9 million annually. The study also found that the number of visitors to Muskegon Lake has increased by an estimated 485,000 people annually, property values have increased by nearly \$8 million, and there has been an annual increase of 4% in recreational spending across Muskegon County.

7. In what areas can you make the most difference as a Federal elected official?

As your representative, I have proven myself to be a leader in Washington. Since the pandemic began, I've been diligently working with my Congressional colleagues to pass common sense measures that get people back to work and incentivize businesses to hire workers. I continue to push measures like my legislation, the Patriot Bonus Act, which would help job creators get back up and running again. Business owners small and large are struggling, and while programs like the Paycheck Protection Program have helped, West Michigan needs to be open for business.

Additionally, I continue to focus on protecting the sanctity of life, limiting the role of the federal government, preserving the Great Lakes, and creating a sensible regulatory environment that does not negatively impact the private sector's ability to expand and create jobs.

8. How will you leverage and utilize the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce as a resource should you be elected?

The Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce is a very important business organization that represents a wide variety of business interests which I will continue to work with in order to help implement pro-business policies that create jobs and grow our local economy.

9. If elected, what are your top 3 priorities?

When COVID-19 threatened small businesses, families, and our way of life across West Michigan, I rose to the challenge and quickly introduced legislation to help keep doctors and nurses at work, deliveries on the road, and food on the shelves at our local grocery stores.

I will continue working to create an environment for new and better jobs. As a small business owner, I understand the challenges of today's economy. I want to ensure that everyone in West Michigan has the opportunity to better their lives.

Lastly, I will continue working for families, safer schools, affordable healthcare, to defend the Great Lakes, and to protect the unborn.

10. Is there anything else you want to add?

Send completed questionnaires to:
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