

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

2018 GENERAL ELECTION

Position:\_\_\_4th Congressional District Representative\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Candidate:\_\_Dan Newhouse\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Biographical Information:*

* Education/Past & Present Employment/Business Experience

Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Economics, Washington State University. Graduate of the Agriculture and Forestry Leadership Program. Washington State House of Representatives 2003-2009.  Washington State Department of Agriculture Director, 2009-2013. Central Washington’s Representative in Congress since 2015. Operates a 700-acre farm near Sunnyside where he grows hops, tree fruit, grapes, corn and alfalfa.

* Past & Present Community Involvement

Past President, Hop Growers of America, Hop Growers of Washington, and Yakima County Farm Bureau. Member of the Columbia River Task Force, NRA, Central Washington Fair Board. Daybreak Rotary Club, Sunnyside Republican Club, Member of Sunnyside Presbyterian Church.

*Candidate Questionnaire:*

* Why are you running for office?

I feel I have been an effective voice as Central Washington’s representative in Congress, and I want to continue the important work I am doing. As a former state legislator and one of only about a dozen farmers in Congress, I am uniquely qualified to represent Central Washington’s values in Washington, D.C. In nearly four years serving in Congress, I have worked to address numerous priorities for our agricultural communities, to overhaul our broken immigration system, and to hold the federal government accountable to cleanup Hanford. We have made progress on those issues but there is still much work to be done, and that is why I would like to continue serving as Central Washington’s Congressman for another two years.

* What have you done to prepare for this position?

I have three and a half years of experience as a Congressman. I also served as the Washington State Department of Agriculture Director from 2009-2013 and in the Washington State House of Representatives from 2003-2009. I also have business experience both working on and operating my 700-acre family farm.

* What are three actions you would support to strengthen small business and entrepreneurship?

**Make the small business and individual tax cuts permanent.** As a part of House Republicans’ Tax Reform 2.0—our effort to enhance the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* the President signed into law late last year—I recently voted for the *Protecting family and Small Business Tax Cuts Act.* This legislation eliminates the expiration date on the tax cuts for individuals, families, and small businesses. I am committed to seeing this promise of comprehensive tax relief signed into law to empower small businesses and keep more dollars in the pockets of everyday Americans.

**Reduce regulations.** I have been a steadfast supporter of this Administration’s ongoing effort to roll back the burdensome regulations from the last Administration. While we have made great strides, there is more work to be done. We must permanently repeal the “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) rule, which expands federal control over waterways never intended to e covered by the Clean Water Act. This radical policy threatens farmers, small businesses, and rural communities like those in Central Washington.

**Incentivize growth and collaboration in the Tri-Cities technology and energy sectors.** The Tri-Cities is a corridor of innovation. Our region’s roots are grounded in the history and cleanup of the Hanford site, paired with the “diversity in action” mission at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory where scientists and engineers are tackling challenges in the fields of energy, environment, and national security. Due to the mainstays of our regional economy, an impressive network of entrepreneurship and collaboration has sprung up. Our access to capital and commercial resources, a high-skilled workforce, and world-class technology and equipment provide an incubator environment for entrepreneurs and startups to thrive. In my unique role on the Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee, I am committed to continuing to prioritize robust resources to incentivize economic competitiveness in these sectors.

* What do you believe is the greatest economic challenge facing our region and what would be your approach to address it?

Before I got involved in public service, I woke up each morning realizing the challenges I would have to face were less about managing the operations of my farm and small business, but increasingly were having to deal with the various bureaucratic regulatory policies being sent down from government. I believe it is my job in Congress to work to provide a limited federal government that restores fiscal accountability and fulfills its responsibilities, rather than continuing to be a perpetrator of burdensome regulations. This patchwork of red tape stifles the ability for small businesses to grow and contribute to our collective economic competitiveness. When I saw this affecting my neighbors and their ability to manage their farms and small businesses, I thought I could do something to change it. I am proud of the efforts we have made in Congress in partnership with the Administration to provide tax relief, streamline burdensome regulations, and strengthen the economy for all Americans. While we have made progress, I believe there is still work to be done to ensure small businesses and economic growth are not hindered by federal regulatory schemes.

* If elected, what will be your top two priority issues and how will you facilitate these changes and/or ideas?

My top two legislative priorities have been and will continue to be ensuring the federal government honors its obligation to clean up Hanford and overhauling our broken immigration system.

As a Member of the Appropriations Committee, I have a unique opportunity to help ensure Hanford workers have the funding and resources they need. When cuts to the Hanford budget have been proposed, I have always been a staunch opponent of such cuts. Hanford cleanup costs approximately $2.4 billion per year, and it is my duty to encourage my colleagues in Congress to continue to provide that funding each year. I am proud to say I have been successful in those efforts in the two terms that I have served so far.

Overhauling our broken immigration system is critical for Central Washington. We need to ensure our region’s farmers have reliable and quick access to the labor they need, and I have introduced legislation to do just that. My bill, the Ag and Legal Workforce Act, would create a new H-2C guest worker program that allows growers to get access to labor faster, and also allow dairies to get the year-round labor they need. Congress also needs to give legal certainty to the young people enrolled in the DACA program. I have met hundreds of DACA beneficiaries and their stories are inspiring. These young people are good students, they contribute to our economy, and they want nothing more than to be part of our great nation. My greatest frustration so far is that too many members of Congress—on both sides of the aisle—keep the immigration issue alive for temporary political gain. I will continue working to garner support from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to accomplish a solution to our immigration issues.

* Over 4500 Tri-Citians have already participated in the MyTri2030 Regional Vision project by helping to identify big opportunities that will benefit the entire region. In principle, do you support this community-driven effort? And as goals emerge, would you be interested in working together to advance regional initiatives?

I am supportive of the local MyTri2030 Regional Vision. Federal funding for Hanford cleanup will eventually stop coming to our region, and that is why it is critical to plan ahead to help foster a strong, diverse economy for the future of the Tri-Cities. Local jurisdictions are the most directly involved in the MyTri2030 Regional Vision, but I will continue to work to ensure the federal government addresses priorities for the Tri-Cities. Enhancing water storage and irrigation infrastructure, advocating for strong trade deals for our agriculture industry, creating an immigration system that works for everyone, and protecting our dams and the clean, affordable hydropower they provide are some of the ways I can continue to help the local community make the MyTri2030 Regional Vision a reality.

**\**Please attach a headshot photo with your submission\****

A one-minute (max) campaign video may be submitted with questionnaire responses

**Please return all responses by Wednesday, September 26th**

Via e-mail to: [stephanie.swanberg@tricityregionalchamber.com](mailto:austin.neilson@tricityregionalchamber.com)

Via fax: (509) 783-1733

Via mail: 7130 W. Grandridge Blvd., Suite C | Kennewick, WA 99336

***Thank you for completing the questionnaire!***