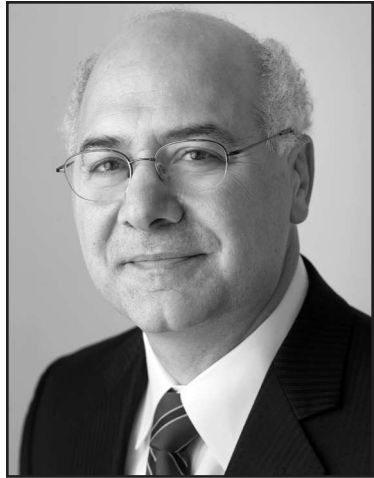


Candidates for Congressional District 1 answer forum questions

From page 1

The questions will be given first, followed by the candidate responses in alphabetical order.

1. What steps will you take to see that jobs are retained and new one made?



Brad Avakian

Avakian – There are two crucial pieces to get people back to work; need to educate the population. I've worked to get shop classes back in schools. 10 schools will be rolling out shop classes first. And, we need to restart WPA to rebuild infrastructure and keep logs in the U.S., instead of exporting them to [sawmills in] China and Japan.



Suzanne Bonamici

Bonamici – Need to get back to work on infrastructure, but not everyone does those jobs, so we need to help keep small businesses here by expanding the opportunities for small business in the state, and use work share and jobs to retro-fit schools to help rebuild consumer confidence.

Delgado-Morgan (no picture available) – We need to stop poor spending like the Columbia River Crossing where millions of dollars have been spent with nothing to show for it. We need to cut down on waste and put the dollars into

common sense projects that put people to work.



Brad Witt

Witt – We need to begin managing for forest health to retain value and to realize economic and resources. Our nation needs to be focused on energy and infrastructure so we have the best in infrastructure. We need to end the Bush tax cuts and invest them now.

2. We have no urgent care in Columbia County, one in five have no health insurance. What are your thoughts on health care and steps congress can take to get health care to rural communities?

Avakian – The health care bill supported by Obama is just a small step, but they took a huge step in the wrong direction helping big insurance companies by forcing people to buy insurance. What I hope is that congress does not think this is the end of the discussion. We need to make health care for all, so all get the same coverage as legislators in D.C.

Bonamici – Affordable care is only the first step. We need a federal prescription plan and need to recruit physicians to rural settings.

Delgado-Morgan – 350 million people on one system is not the answer. Something like Salud that gives free health care, and local clinics is what is needed.

Witt – Too many people have to forego health care because they can't afford it. Our health care is ranked 13th of 16 western industrial nations in the world. We are spending a lot of money and not getting good care. We need something like Medicare for everyone.

3. How will you protect your vulnerable constituents and help them get through government bureaucracy?

Avakian – As a civil rights attorney, a large part of my business was helping people

get Social Security benefits. As your representative, I would focus on the system. Social Security is not going to run out of money. Medicare needs purchasing programs to bring down the cost. We need more preventive care. For the constituents, I will have staff here to work on those issues (then he gave out his personal cell phone number).

Bonamici – I've worked on affordable housing. I want to make clear – we're not in this place because of the middle class. We absolutely can make helping those constituents who need it a priority, I promise.

Delgado-Morgan – Social Security needs to stay exactly as it is for now, but younger people should be able to privatized and use the best of their ability. All Medicare and Medicaid money should stay in the states. The Feds should only get our money for defense and a few other things. I will have staff and volunteers available 24 hours to solve constituent problems.

Witt – We need changes in access to medical care. Every single citizen needs to have access to health care.

4. Do you agree it's wrong to scapegoat illegals? What do you propose on immigration?

Avakian, Bonamici, Delgado-Morgan, and Witt all an-

swered similarly...that we are a nation of immigrants and we need to have an efficient path for people to become citizens.

5. We have been neglecting our infrastructure. What can we do to avoid further loss of infrastructure?

Avakian – Reactivate WPA program and here's how to pay for it – end Wall Street loopholes, make the rich pay their fair share. And bring our troops home. We need to improve education policy and keep the feds out of schools. End No Child Left Behind and bring back music and shop classes.

Bonamici – I got involved in politics to strengthen education. Get rid of No Child Left Behind and retrofit schools, help small businesses to revitalize and rebuild infrastructure.

Delgado-Morgan – We can decide to fix all neighborhoods, it all depends on how the money is spent. Get rid of big departments and bring the money back to Oregon.

Witt – The way we get out of the economic crisis and create more good jobs is to invest in infrastructure. Construction oriented jobs will help, then we have adequate revenues to support schools and the rest.

6. Do you support Oregon becoming a Right to Work state? (*Editor's Note: A Right to*

Work law prohibits any agreement between an employer and a labor union to make union membership a condition of employment.)

Avakian – For me, this state will never be a Right to Work state.

Bonamici – No! I appreciate unions, and I'm tired of the war on the middle class.

Delgado-Morgan – I have no problem with Right to Work. They've all been trained and are safe.

Witt – Absolutely no! Right to Work is another attempt to bury the middle class. When Idaho went Right to Work, the wages dropped by a third and businesses have closed. I'll never to my last breath allow Right to Work in this state.

7. What do you believe is the affect on jobs of trade deals and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)?


Avakian – I have always opposed NAFTA. We in Oregon are seventh out of all the states in job losses. I'd have a strong no vote on shipping jobs overseas.

Bonamici – I would have to look at each trade agreement to see how it affects jobs in our district and state.

Delgado-Morgan – We should not be shipping jobs

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