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Tennessee legislative office sought:*

State Rep 50th District

Please include the legislative district with this submission.

Campaign Website:

www.ninaground.us

Please list and explain your current occupation, your background, and any other biographical information you would like to share:

I am an alpha type individual who has no fear of the truth and helping people see it. I have a blog:
www.ninaground.com

I am a non profit animal rescue. I have four year degree that has no bearing on anything I have done or pursued.

I worked the road for almost 30 years and was involved with structure finance for a long time.

I have learned more on my own then from any class room. Street smart all the way and I read.. a lot of all kinds of information. No science fiction, just real information from people or about subjects I grave to learn more about. I am a habitual learner. Always in silos and on the Internet. Value net neutrality and fight to keep it. Very vocal about the direction this country is in. Not good and people are not real easy to wake up. but I try.

Section One- Revenue/ Spending

The demand for public services, including higher education, is at an all-time high, yet funding for those services is the lowest it's been in years, and cuts are looming. At the same time, major corporations doing business in Tennessee routinely use creative accounting practices to take their profits out of state to avoid paying taxes that fund our state services. Twenty-one states have enacted combined reporting to stop this drain on their state budgets and to level the field for locally owned small businesses.

Do you view Tennessee's budget crisis as one of revenue, spending, or both?: *

- Revenue
 Spending
 Both

Explain:

It has no clue of economics or structured finance. Deep pockets rule not deep thinking and planning.,
 The generations ahead have a huge, massive Federal debt and now this state is digging it self a hole.

Do you see cutting public services to reduce expenses as a better solution than increasing revenue?:*

- Yes
 No

Explain::

A serious deep audit is necessary. From there an assessment should be made and then decisions based on fact and real figures.
 I can not understand why the huge waste is tolerated.
 There is more to the picture then what most of the public and people know.

Will you support legislation to (check all that apply): *

- Enact combined reporting
 Close corporate tax loopholes
 Eliminate the sales tax exemption for cable television providers
 Eliminate the sales tax cap for single-item purchases

Other:

There is more.. for example public transits and their budgets. Huge money with no accountability to any one.

Section Two: Living Wage

Thousands of higher-education employees earn salaries that are at or below the poverty level. There are full-time employees, many with years of service, who qualify for public assistance.

Will you take steps to bring all state and higher education workers up to a living wage?: *

- Yes
 No

Explain::

I have said this over and over and it has to be fixed ASAP. It is a must.

Below are some concrete steps that could be taken by legislators to support a living wage. Please indicate your support:

- Sponsor, co-sponsor, or sign legislation enacting a living wage policy
- Speak to the media about the importance of a living wage
- Support equal-dollar raises rather than percentage raises in future university and college budgets

Please list and explain other steps you would take to support a living wage.:

Inflation is out of control. To get the Fed accountable make payroll accountable to the working person. A bill to adjust wages as inflation adjusts. With the new tax brackets and future tax policy changes even a raise will not help if we do not prepare for inflation and taxation.

Section Three- Employee Support

Tennessee state civil service employees have a standard, defined, grievance procedure (http://tn.gov/dohr/employees/pdf/Employee_Handbook.pdf). Employees at the public colleges and universities do not have a consistent policy, much less standard procedures.

Which of the following measures would you support to extend rights to higher education employees?:

- Sponsor, co-sponsor, or sign legislation to extend civil service grievance protections to higher education staff (exempt and non-exempt)
- Sponsor, co-sponsor, or sign legislation that would allow a worker to bring a representative of his/her choice to disciplinary hearings

Please list and explain other steps you would take to support extending rights to higher education employees:

Laborers are the back bone of this country and employers can use cult style intimidation as well as the desperation for work to subdue employees from speaking out for their safety, welfare and rights. This is suppose to be America but it seems more like a third world country at times and this has to be addressed.

United Campus Workers works to defend the rights of individual workers who have grievances with the university. When going through university channels to effect change hasn't worked, we have turned to our allies in the Tennessee General Assembly to appeal to university officials to rectify injustices.

If asked to support an employee who has a legitimate grievance, will you:

- Join delegations to appeal to university administrators
- Make phone calls to university administrators
- Send letters to university administrators
- Speak to the media about the situation

Please list and explain other ways you would support an employee who has a legitimate grievance:

Hell yes and make sure the AFL-CIO and NLB are doing their part to.

Section Four- Complete College Act

The Tennessee Legislature passed the "Complete College Tennessee Act," in an effort to increase the number of Tennesseans who hold post-secondary degrees. This act ties both the base funding formula and performance funding to retention and graduation rates. It acknowledges: "the demand for postsecondary is at an all-time high and public resources for the enterprise... are at an all-time low." It asserts that "[a]n operating assumption of the 2010-2015 planning cycle is that there will be few to no new state dollars with which to pursue quality enhancements," and further, that increases in degree productivity must be generated "with available resources... with no

decrease in instructional quality." For further analysis of this act, read Dr. Tim Gaudin's critique at <https://ucw-cwa.org/critiquing-tennessees-race-top>.

Do you support linking funding to graduation rates? What concerns do you have with the possible outcomes of this legislation?:

I support something that will bring the State money so this issue will not be an issue.
THORIUM, as an energy alternative, that we sell as well as use ourselves.

Funding linked to the graduation rate is not doable. A mind is a terrible thing to waste..
The mighty dollar can be abundant if we step up to THORIUM.. See my site: www.ninaground.us

What do you see as the role of public higher education in the state of Tennessee?:

I see it should be creating minds that have the critical thinking skills we need to reform.

What do you think should be the state's role in supporting affordable public higher education?:

It should be obligated to turn out the best minds, thinkers, and doers. This state should be educating every student about the reality of this world and this country or our future is bleak.

Section Five- Doing More With Less

State funding levels for our schools continue to decrease year after year, while students and their parents are asked to pay more and more just to keep funding for education constant. By July 2011, it will have been four years since higher education employees have seen a salary increase. Additionally, we are seeing community colleges like Pellissippi State move away from students being taught by instructors to more web-based instruction in core courses such as Math and English. Maintaining quality education at our institutions of higher learning demands the funding to do the job right.

What specific steps will you take to ensure that quality education is maintained at our public universities and colleges?:

Amen. Web based classes ... please this is good old Goldman Sachs trying to design society. It should not be tolerated.

Any more any one can call a place a university... What the h...?

No we can not allow education to go down like it has been and we need not adhere to the "Federal Government" for monies.

We must become self sufficient and have standards of our own to be met. If they can afford some of the dumb stuff they pay for then we can afford to put education back in a high place for all consideration.

We face job losses – potentially in the hundreds – when stimulus money runs out. As outlined above, quality higher education must be paid for with strong support of students, staff, and faculty at our colleges and universities. This state, its students, and its citizens simply cannot afford to have their future shortchanged.

Do you support saving these jobs?:*

Yes

No

Explain:

Again we have a solution. THORIUM
See the site: www.ninaground.us

If yes, what steps would you take to save these jobs?:

Plenty. One get off the Federal monies and take from he waste the deep pockets. There are cities and states that are debt free.. maybe we should see what they are doing or not doing to help the public get the picture. What do we actually need as opposed to what does every one want. How about we build a road that will last for more then two years and take that abundance for education or lets look at the waste in public transportation... A good audit would be due now to actually know where the money goes. Some embarrassment for the waste a must. Get appointed folks out. Limit their time to serve so the well connected can't use that position for their needs or wants.

Section Six- Outsourcing of Jobs/ Privatization

Many colleges and universities across Tennessee have privatized areas of their physical plant to private contractors who often "rehire" the displaced workers at lower pay rates, without health insurance or other benefits, and scheduled for fewer hours. In many areas there has been a decrease in the quality of work done by these contractors, including instances of U.T. Physical Plant workers having to fix work just completed by such private contractors. Additionally, many of the basic services and functions of the university, including general-education instruction, are likewise shifting away from full-time tenure-track faculty to contingent employees ("adjuncts").

Will you oppose efforts for further privatization and outsourcing of university jobs?:*

Yes

No

If yes, how would you oppose efforts?:

Absolutely. This is just another example of the well connected passing out contracts that pay big corporate profits at the cost of the laborers sweat.

It is all about profit and not about the real cost of the operation when you get down to doing the job correctly the first time.

This is the norm for this country and it is going to get better till we get it right here at home in Tennessee. Set eht example not follow the leader.

If no, why not?:

If you said no you are Fascist.

CAPTCHA: no challenge enabled

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