

Buffalo Niagara Partnership Congressional Candidate Questionnaire 2008

Candidate Name Alice Kryzan

District 26th Congressional

E-mail Address Anne@Kryzanforcongress.com

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:

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Attn: Glenn Aronow, Director, Government Relations

**This document is necessary for consideration of support by the
Partnership and may be used for future voter education purposes.**

Campaign Information

Campaign Manager Joe Dennison

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Campaign Committee Name Kryzan for Congress

Communications Director Ann Wadsworth

Web Site Address www.kryzanforcongress.com

Party Affiliation Democrat

Party Endorsements Received Full support of all 7 counties

Candidate Information

Current employment: Retired

Name of employer (if applicable) _____

Employer address: _____

Have you ever been elected or appointed to public office? Yes No

If yes, years of service and office(s) _____

If no, have you ever run for an elected office? Yes No

Election year and office(s) _____

If you are (re) elected to Congress, list your top three priorities for your first/next term and why:

1. Extend the production tax credit and increase investment in alternative energy projects in WNY _____
2. Work with colleagues on implementing a Great Lakes regional environmental economic plan. Pursuing 'next steps' following passage of GLC. _____
3. Reform health care to increase coverage and reduce costs, particularly for small business who cannot afford rising health insurance costs. _____

If (re) elected, on which committees would you most like to serve?

1. Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. _____
2. Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health. _____

What is the top issue employers in your district are facing?

The highest costs of energy and healthcare make it difficult for businesses to remain competitive. _____

Partnership Priorities		
Do you support increasing the amount of federal money to be used to clean up brownfields? Comments: _____ _____	(YES)	NO
Do you support the creation of High Skill Immigration (HSI) Zones in Great Lakes metro areas? Comments: _____ _____	(YES)	NO
Do you support federal ratification of the Great Lakes Compact? Comments: _____ _____	(YES)	NO
Do you support federal funding for the Niagara Experience Center in Niagara Falls, NY? Comments: <u>I would need to learn more, particularly realistic costs, but I certainly support an interactive learning center and tourism magnet in N.F.</u>	(YES)	NO
Do you support restoring the Workforce Investment Act funding to the 2005 level (\$4.5 billion)? Comments: <u>We also need to regionalize our WIBs and continue to focus workforce training efforts on key industry sectors</u>	(YES)	NO
Do you support reform of the federal highway financing system to reduce dependence on the fuel tax? Comments: <u>As we make our cars more fuel efficient, people will buy less gas. We need to ensure that this doesn't compromise our transportation infrastructure.</u>	(YES)	NO
Do you support funding for the remaining phases of Continental 1(the extension of U.S. 219)? Comments: _____ _____	(YES)	NO
Do you support reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU, which is due to expire in early 2009? Comments: <u>Need to rethink Barometers of success, increase flexibility and increase investment in freight, shipping and public transportation.</u>	(YES)	NO
Do you support funding for the remaining phases of Buffalo's "Cars on Main Street" initiative? Comments: <u>Although it's not in my district</u> _____	YES	(NO)

Fiscal/Tax Policy		
<p>Do you support making existing personal and business tax cuts permanent? Comments: <u>We are already too far in debt and cannot afford to continue down this road.</u></p>	YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support simplifying the tax code and reducing the tax burden on business? Comments: _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
Health Care		
<p>Do you support allowing self-employed individuals to deduct health care premiums from payroll taxes? Comments: <u>Our social security is already in trouble and cannot afford this hit. There are other ways to help self-employed individuals deal with rising health costs.</u></p>	YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO
<p>Do you support requiring employers to provide health care coverage to their employees? Comments: <u>But as part of a government program to ease the burden of high health insurance costs off of the backs of employers.</u></p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
<p>Do you support allowing tax incentives for the purchase of health insurance? Comments: _____</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
<p>Do you support using a payroll tax or employer "fair share" fee to finance a health care insurance program/plan? Comments: <u>With an exemption for small business</u></p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
Legal Reform		
<p>Do you support tort reform legislation to protect small businesses from frivolous lawsuits? Comments: _____</p>	YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO

Labor Issues		
Do you support lowering or eliminating the small business exemption (50 employees) to the Family and Medical Leave Act? Comments: _____ _____	YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO
Do you support legislation requiring employers to pay for employee sick leave? Comments: _____ _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
Do you support legislation requiring unions to notify its membership of their right to refuse to pay for union political activities? Comments: _____ _____	YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO
Do you support legislation requiring employers to recognize unions by way of signed authorization cards? Comments: <u>Please see my entire position in the attached business platform.</u> _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
Do you support Allowing family-time (comp-time) that gives private sector employees the ability to choose time off instead of overtime pay? Comments: _____ _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO

List two reasons Buffalo Niagara employers should support your campaign:

1. We need an independent thinker in congress who is truly working for WNY.
2. Particularly in the current political climate, I will be well positioned to deliver for WNY

If (re) elected, what specifically will you do to help increase private sector investment and jobs in Buffalo Niagara?

(Please feel free to attach additional pages)

Please see attached "Building Up Business"

Alice Kryzan
Signature of Candidate

10/8/08
Date

I understand that the Buffalo Niagara Partnership considers the responses to this questionnaire to be formal policy positions and maintains the right to disclose responses for education purposes.



Building Up Businesses

Looking to the future by strengthening our competitive advantages

While the rest of the world has been making targeted investments in its economic future, Western New York has been chasing smokestacks in hopes of finding the silver bullet project to turn the economy around. Rather than strategically investing in targeted growth industries we have been running the same old "as-right" programs in hopes of making up for our high taxes and business costs. The time has come to rethink the merits of this strategy.

We will never compete with China and India's low labor costs, and we shouldn't engage in a "race to the bottom" in terms of costs. We need to focus our energy on creating policies and making investments that build on our competitive advantages. The business and economic development community is beginning to recognize this, as we have seen in recent collaborative efforts such as the Great Lakes Business Agenda and the Apollo Alliance.

I believe that WNY is uniquely situated to be a world leader in alternative energy production and the entire spectrum of the green economy. Investing in alternative energy production will create jobs, lower long-term energy costs, reduce our dependence on buying oil from our enemies, and help save the environment. I believe that with smart policies and investments we can create the infrastructure, workforce, financial incentives, and the demand that will grow the green economy here in WNY. I am running for Congress to fight to make this vision a reality.

1. Embracing and Growing the Green Economy

The time has come to recognize that the environment and the economy are no longer at odds. Every day it becomes more evident that good environmental sense is good economic sense. The green economy is coming, and it will bring good jobs, capital investment, and healthier communities in its wake. We need to act now to position ourselves to benefit from this growing economic sector.

Fortunately our region's geography and natural resources give us a competitive advantage in this new and exciting industry. We need policies and incentives to create demand for green products by encouraging businesses and people to "go green", and we need coordinated and proactive economic development efforts to attract the supply-side of the green economy as well. We need to invest in alternative energy, particularly wind and hydro-power, and we should focus on attracting turbine and solar panel manufacturers to our region as well. Our goal must be to grow the entire spectrum of the green economy, construction, manufacturing, energy production and distribution, and everything in between. In Congress, I will work to extend the production tax credit,

increase federal funding for brownfields redevelopment, fully fund the Green Jobs Act, and increase investment in alternative energy research and development. I will also work to bring economic development funding to Western New York for key infrastructure projects to ensure that we have shovel-ready sites for green businesses looking to move and expand their businesses here.

2. Protecting and Harnessing our Natural Resources

There is nothing more important to our region's long-term economic well being than the health of the Great Lakes. Fresh water will be the oil of the 21st Century, a resource of tremendous value that will help determine which communities succeed and which fail. As a recent report by the Brookings Institution describes, the Great Lakes Bi-National Region has the potential to be a driving force in the global economy, but to take advantage of this opportunity we need to protect and improve the lakes themselves.

I am pleased that Congress has ratified the Great Lakes Compact, a wonderful first step towards ensuring our future prosperity. We need to make sure that this commitment to protecting our freshwater resources is maintained, backed by the necessary federal funding and policies. I will support legislation to ensure Congress has the necessary power to preserve our nation's waters, and also work to assist local communities in maintaining and upgrading their wastewater treatment facilities and infrastructure.

3. Investing in Research and Innovation

Our colleges and universities will be the driving force for our region's economic renaissance. Whether it's reversing the 'Brain Drain', encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship, or creating the workforce for tomorrow, our region's schools have a crucial role to play. We need to provide the proper investment in these institutions, ensuring they have the resources and tools they need to lead us into the future.

Over the past generation we have witnessed a mass exodus of the best and brightest from our communities. We need to increase the number of young people that come here to take advantage of our wonderful schools by supporting ambitious ideas like UB's 2020 proposal, and encouraging expansion and improvement in all of our region's educational institutions.

We also need to do a better job of keeping students we've invested so much in right here by improving students connections to the area. We need to more fully incorporate students into our communities through activism and internships. I will work hard in Congress to secure funding for small business internship programs to link up our intellectual capital with our entrepreneurs, and help community leaders to encourage increased connectivity between students and our communities.

We also need to increase investment in the cutting-edge research and development that is taking place at our universities, and provide greater access to seed-capital to help commercialize research and bring it out of the classroom. One of my priorities in

Congress will be to work closely with the Western New York delegation to create an innovation fund specifically for this purpose.

4. Investing in our Failing Infrastructure

We need to increase federal funding for brownfield redevelopment to create the shovel-ready sites that will attract the businesses of our future and allow them to grow. We need to improve our region by investing in public transportation, which will lower emissions, help commuters avoid pain at the pump, and entice more people to move back to our urban centers.

Perhaps most importantly, we need a forward-looking transportation infrastructure plan, such as the one being promoted by the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, to pave the way for increased inter-regional economic interdependence in the Great Lakes Region. Western New York retains the same logistical advantage that brought the Erie Canal here a century ago, and we can reclaim our position as a center for trade and commerce by ensuring that we have the necessary infrastructure in place to facilitate quick and easy movement into and out of our region by car, train, plane, and boat.

Finally, we need to ensure that our infrastructure investments are based on regional growth planning. Like much of the country, Western New York has been sprawling outwards, building more and more infrastructure to support more and more development. Unfortunately, *unlike* the rest of the country, our population has simultaneously been decreasing. The result is that we now have a smaller tax-base paying to maintain twice the amount of roads, sewers, and other infrastructure than a generation ago. It's no wonder we have some of the highest local taxes in the country. We need to coordinate regional planning efforts based on appropriate principles for investment.

In Congress, I will bring together regional stakeholders to increase collaboration, and will work to secure funding for regional planning efforts. I will also work closely with representatives of other Great Lakes communities to develop, fund, and implement a long-term federal transportation infrastructure plan that will encourage faster and easier movement of people and goods in order to once again establish Western New York as a gateway for commerce and travel.

5. Improving Cross-Border Access

In the post 9/11 world, protecting our borders is critical to ensuring our security and prosperity. However, the federal government must do a better job of balancing security needs with economic needs, particularly in regions with closely intertwined cross-border economies. If our security requires making changes at our border crossings, then these changes need to be as smooth as possible so as not to disrupt local economies.

Western New York needs improved border access to allow for greater and swifter movement—passenger, commercial, and freight—between the United States and Canada. The federal government also needs to recognize the fallacy of a one-size-fits-all border

security policy. The northern and southern borders of our country present different challenges, and we need flexible policies that account for these differences.

In Congress, I will work with the Western New York delegation to ensure that a new Peace Bridge is built as soon as possible, and that it meets the needs of cross-border traffic today, tomorrow, and in the foreseeable future. I will also advocate for a more flexible border security policy that distinguishes between our northern and southern borders, and that balances national security with economic realities here at home.

6. Increasing the Competitiveness of our Businesses

In today's increasingly global economy, our first goal must be to strengthen our competitive advantages, but we must also do what we can to eliminate or at least weaken our competitive disadvantages.

Health Care

Health care is already a tremendous burden for our small and medium-sized businesses, and costs are continuing to rise. Reducing waste and streamlining costs is important, and we must always be vigilant on this front, but we also need to recognize that this alone won't work. We need to get serious about taking health care costs off the backs of our small businesses, allowing American companies to compete globally.

I want to build on our existing employer-based system by letting people opt in to a public health system if they wish, in order to ensure that everyone is covered. By shifting our focus to preventative medicine and ensuring that people receive treatment earlier, we can reduce our overall costs.

We have a unique opportunity to bring together businesses, government, labor interests and community leaders to address this issue. But if we're going to be effective, we need to have people who have experience working through complicated problems with businesses, communities and citizens to get results. As an environmental lawyer for over thirty years, I've made a career of doing just that.

Energy

Our region's natural resources and innovative spirit once earned Buffalo the nickname "City of Lights". The Niagara Power Project introduced the world to the power of alternative energy. We are situated in the middle of the world's largest sources of fresh water, and we can claim the best wind potential east of the Mississippi. Yet despite these advantages, our energy costs remain among the highest in the nation.

Power is a major cost for any business, and particularly for the manufacturers that still represent the backbone of our regional economy. We need to be a leader in alternative energy production, just as we were a hundred years ago. We need comprehensive policies and strategic investments to encourage growth in regional alternative energy production, and we need federal and state policies that make sure that the benefits that come from our energy production *stay here in Western New York*.

But alternative energy is about more than just ensuring reliable and affordable sources of energy; it's also about reviving our economy by attracting green businesses, research dollars and capital investments to the area.

I have made alternative energy policy my signature issue, and when I go to Congress I will work tirelessly with other regional leaders to put Western New York back on the map as a worldwide leader in clean energy production.

Labor

America's middle class is threatened, and nowhere is that more evident than here in Western New York. While we need to do everything possible to increase the competitiveness of our local businesses, we cannot do that at the expense of workers. I support workers rights to organize, and I am in favor of the Employee Free Choice Act.

Despite claims to the contrary, I believe that the EFCA is good for our region. Right now, our region is at a competitive disadvantage with other states that have "Right to Work" laws. Every new auto factory that has been built for the last several years has been built in a right to work state, and many international companies won't even consider relocating or expanding in any state without those laws. This legislation would eliminate that competitive disadvantage, letting our businesses compete on a level playing field with the rest of the country.

7. Conclusion

This region has seen too many good ideas flounder due to a lack of collaboration and consensus amongst regional stakeholders. I pledge to work closely with other regional leaders and stakeholders to coordinate efforts, develop shared principles for investment, and create a long-term development plan. Most importantly, I will make sure these plans are implemented—we've had enough of talk in this area, it's time for a leader ready to push people to action.