



## **Nominations Committee-CD3 Interview Questions (Written)**

### **Answers by Quentin R. Wittrock**

#### **1. Please tell us a bit about your family.**

My wife, Cindy, and I have been married for 41 years. She was a CPA and worked for a large, international accounting firm from 1984 until her retirement in 2022. We have two daughters (ages 34 and 31), and two sons-in-law. All are successful business people. We also have two young grandchildren. My father died at 92, but my mother is alive and well in Iowa. Cindy's parents live in Albert Lea, Minnesota. All of us are lifelong Republicans.

#### **2. What is your current address and how long have you lived at that address?**

8508 Mississippi Blvd NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433. We bought that home in 1990, after owning our first house in Fridley for three years.

#### **3. Please tell us about your career/job experience.**

After working in small-town newspapers during high school, college, and two years after college, my first job with a law firm was at Gray Plant Mooty (now known as LathropGPM), based out of its downtown Minneapolis office. I started working there in 1987, and became a partner in 1992. My practice was complex business litigation. I represented clients in courts and cases in nearly every state and several foreign countries. I retired in 2019 at the age of 59.

#### **4. Please tell us about your college/post college education.**

In 1981, I graduated from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, earning a B.A. with high distinction. My majors were mass communications and political science. (Note: I have been a member of the college's board of trustees for the past 18 years.) My law training was at the University of Iowa, from which I graduated in 1986 with honors. I was managing editor of the Iowa Law Review and was selected by the late Honorable Donald P. Lay (then Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit), to serve as his 1986-87 law clerk.

**5. What are your hobbies and/or activities you enjoy in your free time?**

Politics. I formed a non-profit in 2021 named Principle Based Politics, through which I have been blogging ever since and now am podcasting, as well. My wife and I are very active at our (Lutheran) church of 40 years, and I currently am vice president of the congregation. For many years, we have hosted a bible study in our home. I must confess also to being an avid sports fan.

**6. Please list any and all websites you use/have for your campaign and business.**

wittrockforcongress.com (to be launched in April)

principlebasedpolitics.org (Note: Because my organization is a non-profit, it cannot advocate for any politician, so this website will become dormant when I formally announce my campaign.)

**7. What motivates you to run for this seat?**

The desire/calling to serve by improving U.S. politics, which are dysfunctional and harmful to the citizens of our great nation. I aim to reduce polarization, shift attention to important matters, and set an example by removing selfishness from politics. (I know: “Good luck with that.”)

I do not believe non-Progressive, center and right-of-center people in our district have a “representative” in the U.S. House of Representatives today. I truly want *all* citizens of Minnesota’s Third Congressional District to have “A NEW Representative. A New KIND OF Representative. A TRUE Representative.”

**8. What experience (s) in your background makes you the best qualified person for this seat?**

Legal skills (communications and advocacy), and vast experience with public service and representing others for their benefit. I know how to build a case around a position, and then convincingly communicate that position in writing, via debates, and through discussions with others.

**9. What are the top three issues you plan to focus on if you are elected to this seat?**

Focus *once in office*:

1. Limiting the size, expense, and interference inherent in our federal government (by reducing spending, regulation, and growth of the national debt).
2. Reforming the U.S. Congress (through term limits and banning stock trading by members).
3. Action on “big issues,” including legal immigration and Social Security/Medicare.

(Note: Your question was about my focus *if I am elected*. I may focus on other issues *during the campaign*.)

**10. Is there anything in your background that may or may not come up on a background check, that could harm the Party or be a potential problem for your campaign? If there is something that comes up, how do you plan to address it?**

Nothing. I will answer any questions per my principles of honesty and transparency.

**11. What is your campaign plan to raise funds, hire a campaign manager and staff, develop a campaign strategy and competitiveness, and handle marketing and grassroots efforts.**

I am actively talking with many wealthy potential campaign contributors behind-the-scenes, and plan to announce my candidacy with contribution commitments well into six figures. I have retained Dax Bennett and his firm for most campaign functions, with Tom Datwyler and his firm handling compliance and financial transactions. I will hire professionals for most needs, supplemented by a large cadre of supporters. (Currently, I am contemplating who to invite to be my Finance Committee Chair and others to be members of that body. I also plan to seek guidance from a Campaign Advisory Committee.) I will endeavor to make significant use of earned media during the general election campaign.

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I eagerly await our in-person interview. I am available March 14, 19, 20, 26, 27, 30, and 31, plus the morning of March 16 or the afternoons of March 24 and 25.

Quentin Wittrock

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