

Below are the responses the Direct Line team received. We will update if any additional responses are received.

MARY MILLER:

1. Will you share briefly about your personal faith journey? Are you currently a member of a church?

I am unabashedly Christian. I grew up in a Christian home and my faith has been a central part of who I am for all my life. I could not imagine living life without faith. We as human beings all face difficult times and difficult circumstances. Without faith and the promise of eternal life, there is no hope to get us through the difficult circumstances. The hope that comes through faith has helped me through the personal trials and difficult experiences I have had throughout my life.

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon once said, "A thousand lives are not equal to the eternal life which abides in Jehovah's smile."

Nothing on earth compares to the eternity God has in store for those who have lived a life of faith.

Finally, one of the most important things to me as a Christian is to see my seven children grow in their faith. I am very thankful to God that all seven of my children are believers. One of the great joys I have in life is knowing that my children are walking with the Lord.

We worship every Sunday at the Oakland Christian Church in Oakland, IL.

2. What do you believe is the role of personal faith in the life of a member of Congress specifically when it comes to governing?

Faith plays a big role in public service. Our nation was founded as a Christian nation and most of our leaders throughout history have in one way or another expressed belief in God.

What we need, though, are leaders who are willing to do more than give lip service to their faith. We need leaders who have humbled themselves before God and strive to live their Christian faith in their daily lives.

I may not always perfectly live out my faith, but I genuinely strive to put faith into practice and do more than just give lip service to my Christian faith values.

3. On the issue of religious freedom and liberty, how important is it for people of faith and churches in our country to live out their personal faith beliefs?

Our religious liberties are constantly under attack. Little by little our religious liberties are being chipped away. The US Constitution gives us the freedom to worship and to assemble. I will oppose the radical left and fight to protect our religious freedoms. The best thing Christians can do to stand up to the assaults on their religious freedom is to put their faith into practice and to pray for our nation.

4. On the issue of abortion, are you Pro-Life or Pro-Choice, and do you have an opinion on the current state of abortion law in Illinois since Governor JB Pritzker began to serve as Governor in early 2019?

I am 100 percent pro-life. Not only am I pro-life but all seven of my children are staunchly pro-life.

I strongly oppose the late-term abortion bill Gov. Pritzker signed into law. In addition, I will fight to defund Planned Parenthood and I strongly support the Hyde Amendment which prohibits federal funds from being used to fund abortion.

Finally, I have been endorsed by Illinois Family Action.

5. How do you balance the issues of immigration and national security and how does your personal faith impact your position?

As Christians, we are to be kind to the strangers at our gate, but this does not mean we have to be foolish. We need compassion tempered with common sense.

We do not have the resources to blindly accept everyone who wants to come to this country. No one objects to legal immigration. Immigration when done legally is just fine. What I object to is people who do not follow the law and try to enter our country illegally.

My son-in-law is an immigrant. He is a doctor and he tried to get here legally and was not able to the first time around. Eventually, he did get here through legal immigration. Sanctioning illegal immigration is not fair to people like my son-in-law who followed the law and did things the right way.

6. As you run for Congress, which women and/or men, past or present, would you hold up as a great United States President, a great Supreme Court Justice, and a great member of Congress? Feel free to share why you admire these women/men.

Ronald Reagan was hands down the greatest president of my lifetime. He brought hope and optimism at a time when our country was down. He brought our country back with his tax cuts and ushered in a period of prosperity that was unprecedented. He faced down the Soviet Union and he made our country respected again.

When I think about a great Supreme Court Justice, Antonin Scalia is the name that comes to mind. He was a brilliant Justice and he was an ardent strict Constructionist. His wisdom and insight are sorely missed.

Congressman Jim Jordan is someone I have met and someone I greatly admire. He is in Congress for the right reasons. He and I had the opportunity to pray together – something I hope we get to do again when I come to Washington as a member of Congress.

Dr. Chuck Ellington

1. Will you share briefly about your personal faith journey? Are you currently a member of a church?

My family and I attend Christ Gospel Church in Decatur. I was raised in a small Pentecostal Church in Tuscola, IL. I felt the Holy Spirit and God's hand on my life at a very young age, probably around four or five years old. I completely dedicated my life to the Lord and was baptized in water at the age of ten. I was filled with the Holy Spirit when I was twelve years old. Since that time I have grown spiritually and in my knowledge and understanding of scripture. Most importantly I have grown in a deeper love for the Lord and for my fellow man. I endeavor to live that out every day.

2. What do you believe is the role of personal faith in the life of a member of Congress specifically when it comes to governing?

Everyone has faith in something. It's part of our humanity. And that faith informs what we do. My faith is in the Lord Jesus Christ. The central message of the Gospel is to love your neighbor and to bring God's Kingdom down to Earth by reflecting his goodness into the world. That is what I will strive to do if elected to Congress.

3. On the issue of religious freedom and liberty, how important is it for people of faith and churches in our country to live out their personal faith beliefs?

Religious liberty is our first right. It is embodied in the first amendment because it is fundamental to who we are as a people. It is imperative we live out our personal faith beliefs because that's what gives life to those beliefs and makes them into a reality that can positively transform society.

4. On the issue of abortion, are you Pro-Life or Pro-Choice, and do you have an opinion on the current state of abortion law in Illinois since Governor JB Pritzker began to serve as Governor in early 2019?

I am Pro-Life and believe life begins at conception. Abortion is one of the greatest tragedies of modern times. The Reproductive Health Act, passed by the Democrats in the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Pritzker, requires private insurance and Medicaid to pay for abortions. This made the Democratic Party, the Governor, and the State of Illinois a participant in this tragedy. I am praying for our leaders to repeal this tragic law.

5. How do you balance the issues of immigration and national security and how does your personal faith impact your position?

For a nation to actually be a nation it must have borders, and those borders must be secure. I fully support our President's plan to secure our southern border. However, the magnitude of human suffering in Latin America, particularly the northern triangle, cannot be ignored, especially by people of faith. We can't bring everybody to America, but we can bring America to them. By implementing American ideas like free trade, entrepreneurship, and the rule of law, we can transform Latin America, develop strong trading partnerships, and improve the long term security of the region.

6. As you run for Congress, which women and/or men, past or present, would you hold up as a great United States President, a great Supreme Court Justice, and a great member of Congress? Feel free to share why you admire these women/men.

I would hold up George Washington as a past president that I most admire. He led from the front and not from behind. He didn't debase himself to the lowest common denominator, but instead set a standard of excellence for himself and helped lift a nation up to that standard. He was a man of strong faith and strong convictions, but was gracious to his political opponents. He was twice offered to be king of America and said no. When else in human history has that ever happened? He was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." We owe our very Republic and our very way of life to this man.