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Your Details

Basic information about yourself

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Please list any/all social media account URLs.

<https://www.facebook.com/VoteBaumgartner>
www.twitter.com/VoteBaumgartner
<https://www.instagram.com/michael.j.baumgartner/>
www.youtube.com/VoteBaumgartner

Getting to Know You

This next section will give you the opportunity to provide details about who you are as a person, candidate, and member of the community.

Tell us about yourself.

I'm a father, husband, Republican activist, former State Senator and current Spokane County Treasurer, running for Congress to protect the American Dream for my children and all our families.

I was born in Pullman and grew up on the Palouse. I'm the son of two lifelong educators: my mother taught kindergarten for 40 years, and my father was Emeritus Professor of Forestry at Washington State University.

After graduating from WSU (BA, Economics - Go Cougs!), I volunteered in Africa for a year, then earned a Masters in Public Administration (International Development) back at Harvard.

I spent several years working in Dubai and the Middle East, but as the war in Iraq intensified I joined the US State Department and worked at the Embassy in Baghdad on civilian aspects of the Surge, seeing first-

hand the tremendous sacrifices of our military. In 2009 I moved to southern Afghanistan, working on a US Government funded counternarcotics program.

Returning home, I was elected to the Washington State Senate and served 8 years. For the past five years I've been Treasurer of Spokane County, where I manage a fund of \$1.9 billion – investing it safely in farm credit, US Treasury, and other bonds – which have brought back over \$120 million to local taxpayers. I don't set tax rates, but I work hard to ensure that senior citizens and veterans understand the exemptions and discounts they're entitled to under state law.

My wife Eleanor and I have five children from 3 to 12 years old. We're Catholic, pro-life and committed members of our Parish. We cherish living in a community that is home to many different denominations working together for a better future.

I'm a proud Republican. I speak my mind, I'm active in promoting our party's values, whether MC-ing the WSRP dinner, serving as auctioneer for the Spokane County Lincoln Day or hosting the state party's Eastern Washington reception.

Over 14 years as an elected official I've greatly appreciated the deep relationships I've built with community groups and leaders that help inform my decision-making, and I'm constantly reminded of the need for gratitude and humility.

List any relevant experience, leadership, or service.

Legislative experience:

In 2010 I defeated an incumbent Democrat to win election to the State Senate, in what was then the most expensive race in state history.

Serving in the Legislature, I played a lead role in the bipartisan effort creating a new WSU medical school in Spokane and in securing funding to finally finish the North-South Freeway.

I led the successful push to actually reduce college tuition. My "Drain the Swamp" legislation eliminated five government agencies to reduce bureaucratic waste.

I've passed balanced budgets, and served as Chair of Labor and Commerce and Vice-Chair of Ways and Means. I'm proud to have received numerous honors, including the "Champion of Freedom Award" from the Washington Policy Center, the "Legislator of the Year" award from the Inland Empire Society of American Foresters, a "Cornerstone" award from Association of Washington Business and "Guardian of Business" from the NFIB.

Life experience:

I have a background in economics and international development, and I've worked extensively overseas and as a diplomat, which is particularly relevant as America faces a crisis on the Southern Border that can only be fully solved by engaging with the countries of Latin America, including Mexico, Venezuela, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

The lawbreakers coming across the border begin their journey in these countries and should be kept from beginning their trek long before they get to Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Inept civilian leadership has pushed our military to send troops where they do not belong and into retreat where they are needed. We need a return to peace through strength as we face hostile actors, from drug cartels in Latin America to the Chinese in the IndoPacific who do not share our values of liberty and equality.

Leadership:

Political courage matters. I speak my mind with clear language. I suggested the Washington State Supreme Court judges ruling on the McCleary mandate "pound sand" in 2014 when they overstepped their boundaries and unconstitutionally ordered the Legislature to produce a budget. In 2018, I proposed a resolution in the Senate making April 1 "Governor Jay Inslee Integrity Day" after Inslee's about-turn on public records legislation.

I have not hesitated to speak out against politically correct and "woke" bureaucrats when they needed reminding that the public pays their salaries.

Describe your duty to the office you are running for and how you will achieve success.

Government serves the people, and my duty in Congress will be as a servant to the people – listening to the Fifth District constituents, engaging them in policy discussions, and representing their interests. In addition, I'll use my office to ensure that veterans, seniors, and thousands of other citizens receive the benefits they have earned and the services they need from the federal bureaucracy.

The Founding Fathers' Constitutional vision for America has become distorted and out of balance. The federal government has become huge, when it should be small. The Congress has ceded too much of its authority to the executive branch and the judiciary. I will work hard to return government control to the local level - away from Washington DC - and seek to put the People's House of Congress back in its rightful Constitutional balance. Congress should make laws, not unaccountable bureaucrats in executive agencies or radical left-wing judges.

My values are Eastern Washington values. This is where I was born and bred and where I'm raising my family. It will be my duty to ensure the federal government upholds those values – that we encourage free enterprise, take a firm stand against crime and lawbreakers, build a strong military, adopt a balanced budget, and respect families. This is how we will be able to restore the American Dream for future generations.

I hope to achieve success in Congress if I'm able to represent the Fifth District by working with other Members of Congress on the shared values we have, to have safe neighborhoods and good jobs – as I did in the Legislature. I made the most of a divided House and Senate to win legislative victories that lowered some taxes and brought much needed projects to Eastern Washington.

With your prayers and support, I believe I can also bring home important accomplishments from the Congress.

In terms of campaign success, I'm honored to have the support of many high profile Republicans. We're at more than \$300,000 raised after announcing the campaign four weeks ago. Fundraising isn't everything, but we are grateful to donors who trust in our message, and of course having funds on hand will help us reach voters. We are putting up signs, knocking on doors, and listening to a lot of incredible people with expert knowledge on wheat, irrigation, forestry, farming, hydropower, manufacturing, homelessness, and manufacturing – people who are the lifeblood of our district. We are working very hard to hear the district and reflect the values we believe in.

What does success look like for this position and what key performance indicators should voters use to evaluate you?

The most important issue for Congress is securing the Southern Border. It impacts our fight against homelessness, drug abuse, crime – and our agriculture and foreign policy. Success will mean getting the wall built, having E-Verify be part of a layered, improved immigration check system, ending abuses of the asylum system.

More generally, a large part of success in Congress will mean stopping the Democrats, or special interests, from pushing us in the wrong direction. That means stopping our Second Amendment rights being infringed upon. It means keeping Fairchild Air Base as a vital part of our national defense. It means keeping explosive budget growth in check, and stopping wasteful spending. On the positive side, how do we make Eastern Washington great? That would mean Eastern Washington farmers having increased market access, it would involve additional timber harvest and gold mining in areas around Republic and Colville, and real improvements to wildfire management. It will mean thriving local businesses, economic prosperity, and well-planned infrastructure. It will mean safe neighborhoods free from illegally imported fentanyl and lawlessness. Eastern Washington is the best place in the world to live and raise a family, and we can make it even better.

What community activities are you engaged in? Have you held leadership roles in any of these organizations?

I'm a stalwart Republican – I've emceed the WSRP dinner these past two years. I'm a Republican team player and force multiplier. Many of my former staff members have gone on to play important roles in conservative groups in our state.

I'm a co-founder and a board member of Full Court Press – the latest initiative of Project 42 focused on the important mission of recruiting strong, conservative candidates for judge positions in our state. At home our family stays very active with our five children – whether I'm coaching my son's T-ball team or supporting my wife in her volunteering with the cub scouts and Sunday School.

Your Political Beliefs

This section contains a series of questions about your alignment concerning broad governmental philosophies as well as some specific issues.

Where do our rights as citizens of the United States come from? Under what conditions can government infringe or suspend them?

Our rights come from God. The Declaration of Independence states that all men "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Thomas Jefferson famously said, "The God, who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time." The role of government is to ensure that those rights are not infringed upon. Government should be kept as small as possible. The larger government is, the more our rights are infringed upon. There are very specific circumstances under which government can infringe upon our rights. These are where exercising the right causes harm to other individuals. For example when an individual commits a serious crime, his or her right to liberty is forfeited.

Do you consider yourself a constitutional originalist or do you prescribe to it as a living document? Please explain.

I'm an originalist. The Constitution has to be interpreted with an understanding of those that wrote the Constitution – and likewise the Amendments - at the time they were written and passed into law. The text should be given the original public meaning it would have had at that time.

What is the purpose of government? If elected, how will you perform your duties based on that "purpose?"

The purpose of government is to ensure that our God-given rights are not infringed upon. The role of government is to do the minimal: to provide law and order, to form a military, to build roads and invest in basic infrastructure - in effect, to do what is necessary for society to function. Government should be kept to a minimal size, or it will infringe upon our rights; the power of government derives only from the consent of the governed.

The Tenth Amendment of the Constitution, passed in 1791, declares, "The powers not delegated to the

United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

We live in a Constitutional Republic – and the states, and the people, must be the seat of power – not the federal government back East.

Based on that understanding, I will seek to limit government overreach, to promote local control, and to return to the states those powers and authorities that rightly belong to them. Government should function within its means. Our state government is required to pass a balanced budget and our federal government should be able to do likewise. \$34 trillion federal debt is not fair to future generations.

When does life begin and at what point does the government have a duty to protect it?

Life begins at conception. I am pro-life, as taught by my Catholic faith. I am opposed to abortion and euthanasia. I have a consistent pro-life voting record in the Washington State Senate. Life should be protected from conception to natural death.

Do you have any criminal convictions, ever filed for bankruptcy, have any active or unresolved tax liens, any conflicts of interest that may jeopardize your candidacy?

No.

Describe how you will make yourself available to your constituents and vote as their representative, adhering to the values and answers you've provided in this questionnaire.

Government serves the people. I would hold a monthly Town Hall. I enjoy engaging with constituents and I'm open to being challenged. In my 14 years as an elected official, I have held frequent Town Halls, perhaps more than any legislators in our area. I intend to open a district office in Spokane Valley and branch offices in Colville and Walla Walla. I will seek to always be available to my constituents. This is the 21st Century, and I'll be available via text, email, Zoom meetings, and phone calls.

As your Congressman, I will vote to defend our American values and to protect our Republic and our Constitutional foundations.

Please provide any feedback, comments, or questions that you have for the SCRCC.

Thank you for all that you do. Our American Republic is not guaranteed and must be kept one generation to the next. I'm grateful to all county officials and PCOs for what they do to keep our American Republic alive for future generations.

I am running to win and to block Democrats from turning all of Washington blue. We've seen local Democrats like Lisa Brown savoring the chance to flip this seat, with westside and national progressive groups circling around this seat that has not been open for 20 years.

Republicans must keep CD 5 in Republican hands.

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