**2020 U.S. KENTUCKY SENATORIAL RACE**

**Amy McGrath**

1. **What sets you apart from the other candidates?**

I was the first woman in the Marine Corps to fly a combat mission in an F/A-18 and I flew 89 combat missions over two tours in Afghanistan in 2002 and one tour in Iraq in 2003. I am not afraid of a challenge, and I am dedicated to serving my country. If elected, I will work tirelessly to serve the state of Kentucky, working to ensure economic justice and opportunity for all, no matter where you live, where you come from, or what you look like.

1. **What will you do to ensure that all Kentuckians have quality and affordable health care?**

I remain committed to fixing, in a bipartisan way, the problems with the Affordable Care Act, which brought down Kentucky’s uninsured rate in a dramatic way. Every Kentuckian needs access to high-quality, affordable health care and that includes the option of buying a government/public insurance plan like the one I purchase for my family as a military retiree.

The average Kentuckian spends over $2,000 annually on prescription medications—the second-highest in the nation. We must address the rising cost of prescription medications. There are bipartisan bills to fix this issue sitting on Mitch McConnell’s desk that he is actively blocking from even being considered. That is inexcusable.

1. **How are you going to bring Kentucky into the future?**

I’m running because, like most Kentuckians, I’ve had enough of the D.C. establishment and the dysfunction where nothing gets done. If we keep the same people in power, nothing will change. Mitch McConnell is everything that is wrong with Washington. Kentucky needs a new generation of leaders, specifically someone who has worked in the 21st-century global economy. I am running for Kentucky’s future, for my kids’ future.

Working Kentucky families demand and deserve respect, and I will work to ensure their voices and concerns are heard in D.C. Let’s just take one example, many Kentuckians have to decide whether they can pay the rent or pay for their prescription medication each month. I’ll be a senator who will not be bought off by Big Pharma and will actually fight to get these prices down. We need to put country over party and take on the special interests running Washington.

1. **How do you plan on addressing income inequality in Kentucky?**

Kentucky deserves a leader who will work toward fair and comprehensive tax reform. The only thing Mitch McConnell did when he led his party and it had the full power of both chambers and the presidency was to pass a massive tax scam that showered tax cuts and benefits on corporations and the wealthiest 1%. I am not bought off by special interests and will work toward a more equitable tax structure that will benefit everyone, not just the wealthy few. There is dignity in work, but we have to start **making work pay**. That means stop undermining unions, increase the minimum wage, and work to bring good, quality jobs to Kentucky (jobs where you cannot only make ends meet but have a decent quality of life) by investing in education, health care, and infrastructure.

1. **What are your goals if elected?**

If elected, I will work on creating policies that will help Kentucky have the strong economic future that it deserves. I will prioritize ensuring access to affordable, quality health care for everyone, updating our infrastructure, and shoring up our education and training programs that are so critical to having the workforce needed for the quality jobs of the future.

Health care is the number one issue I hear about from Kentuckians, and therefore it is my number one issue. (See question number two.)

Additionally I will prioritize federal investments in repairing our infrastructure (roads, bridges etc.), which is so badly needed around our commonwealth. The **Brent Spence Bridge**, America’s “#1 infrastructure emergency,” was a problem when I was a kid! It is a major thoroughfare for our national economy, and it deserves federal funding. Mitch McConnell has had decades to fix this and, unlike tax cuts for the wealthy, it just isn’t a priority for him. It will be for me. The average driver in Northern Kentucky loses more than $2,000 per year on roads that are deteriorated or congested.

Besides the need for investments into Kentucky’s 20th-century infrastructure, we also need to invest in **21st-century infrastructure** such as broadband. The COVID-19 pandemic has put more pressure on our meager broadband infrastructure. This is the new norm, and we must adapt to stay competitive economically. Modern communications infrastructure is the roads, bridges and dams of this century. If we don’t have it, we will fall further behind, and we will not attract the quality jobs of the future. Unlike the Senate majority leader, who has ruled out passing any infrastructure bill, I believe this needs to be a top priority for helping the people of Kentucky.

I will be a leader who is not afraid to speak out and speak up when our government tries to pass harmful legislation in education, health care, and other areas that are vital to the well-being of our state.