**SELDEN SPENCER REPORT**



**CASCADE STRATEGIES – AUGUST 2020**

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BIOGRAPHY

Name: Selden Edmund Spencer

Birth: April 2, 1948

Residence: 823 Ashwood Dr

Huxley, IA 50124

Family: Wife: Jean; 3 children: Matthew, Sarah, Annie

Education: BA, Allegheny College 1968

MD, University of North Dakota, 1978

Religion: Presbyterian

Military: None

Professional Experience: Researcher, Department of Neurology, Washington University, 1985-1990

Former Researcher, Associate Professor, Department of Neurology, University of Iowa

Former Resident, Neurology, Barnes Hospital

Neurologist/Physician, McFarland Clinic, 1990-present

Political Experience: Candidate, Iowa State House, 2010

Candidate for Congress in Iowa’s 4th Congressional District, 2006

TIMELINE

April 2, 1948 Born in Freeport, IL

1970 BA, Allegheny College

1978 MD, University of North Dakota

1978-1979 Internship at San Joaquin General Hospital, Stockton, CA

1980-1983 Residency at Barnes Hospital, St. Louis, MO

1983-1985 Associate Professor at University of Iowa

1985-1990 Researcher/Associate Professor, Department of Neurology, Washington University

1990-present Neurologist/Physician, McFarland Clinic

2006 Candidate, United States House of Representatives, District 4

2010 Candidate, Iowa House of Representatives, District 10

2014-Present Commissioner, Soil and Water Commission, Story County

TAXES

* **In a 2006 candidate questionnaire, Selden Spencer said that he would “slightly increase” gasoline taxes**

* + In an Oct. 7, 2006, article, the *Des Moines Register* reported, “A national nonpartisan organization on Friday criticized a Republican congressman in Iowa for using its questionnaire to launch a ‘negative attack’ on his Democratic opponent in a news release.

“Project Vote Smart said in a statement that Rep. Tom Latham ‘used Project Vote Smart’s name and programs to give credibility to a negative attack against Selden Spencer, who is running for the same office.’”[[1]](#footnote-1)

* + According to the same article, “On the questionnaire, Spencer answered that he would ‘slightly increase’ gasoline taxes. Latham in his version said he would ‘maintain status’ on gasoline taxes.”[[2]](#footnote-2)
* **In his 2006 campaign for Congress, Selden Spencer said he supported increasing the gas tax, income taxes for income over $150,000, corporate taxes, capital gains taxes, alcohol taxes and cigarette taxes**
  + According to his Congressional Election 2006 National Political Awareness Test on the Vote Smart website, Selden Spencer indicated the following tax positions.[[3]](#footnote-3)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Position** |
| Income over $150,000 | Greatly Increase |
| Alcohol Taxes | Slightly Increase |
| Capital Gains Taxes | Slightly Increase |
| Cigarette Taxes | Slightly Increase |
| Corporate Taxes | Slightly Increase |
| Gasoline Taxes | Slightly Increase |

***Editor’s Note:*** *According to the Vote Smart website, “Vote Smart does not permit the use of its name or programs in any campaign activity, including advertising, debates, and speeches.”*

* **In his 2006 campaign for Congress, Selden Spencer indicated that he does not support the permanent repeal of the federal estate tax**
  + According to his Congressional Election 2006 National Political Awareness Test on the Vote Smart website, Selden Spencer indicated that he does not support the permanent repeal of the federal estate tax.[[4]](#footnote-4)

***Editor’s Note:*** *According to the Vote Smart website, “Vote Smart does not permit the use of its name or programs in any campaign activity, including advertising, debates, and speeches.”*

HEALTH CARE

* **In 2006, Selden Spencer said that said he supported a national health care plan similar to the health coverage offered to Congress, saying the federal government should offer a basic health care package available to everyone; If residents wanted more features added, such as elements that address catastrophic care, private companies could offer those services**
  + In a Nov. 4, 2006, article, the *Des Moines Register* reported, “Fourth District Rep. Tom Latham and his Democratic opponent Selden Spencer further distinguished themselves from each other Friday, with Spencer calling for a federal system of health care and Latham promoting plans that offer more help for businesses to save money on purchasing health insurance.”[[5]](#footnote-5)

* + According to the same article, “Spencer said he supports a national health care plan similar to the health coverage offered to Congress. In that sense, Spencer, a neurologist, said the federal government should offer a basic health care package available to everyone.

“If residents want more features added, such as elements that address catastrophic care, Spencer said private companies could offer those services.”[[6]](#footnote-6)

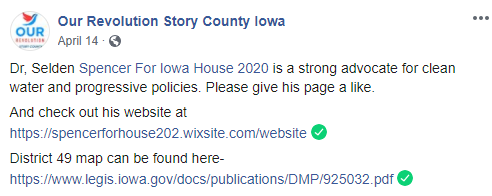
* **In his 2006 campaign for Congress, Selden Spencer said, “We must work toward the goal of universal health care to bring down these costs. A basic single-payer health care plan, such as Medicare, should be provided to all, supplemented with private insurance for those Americans who can afford it”**
  + According to Selden Spencer’s campaign website from Aug. 23, 2006, as accessed through Archive.org, “We have the most costly and inefficient health-care system in the developed world. Compared with the other developed countries, we pay more than twice as much per capita on health care, but we have higher infant mortality rates and lower life expectancy. These costs have put health insurance out of the reach of many working families, including about 10 percent of Iowans. Health insurance has made it increasingly burdensome for employers to provide even minimum coverage for their employees. We must work toward the goal of universal health care to bring down these costs. A basic single-payer health care plan, such as Medicare, should be provided to all, supplemented with private insurance for those Americans who can afford it.”[[7]](#footnote-7)

BERNIE SANDERS

* **Selden Spencer donated to Bernie Sanders’ 2016 and 2020 presidential campaigns** 
  + According to the Federal Election Commission, on March 21, 2016, Selden Spencer, a physician from Huxley, IA, made the following contributions to Bernie 2016.[[8]](#footnote-8)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Amount** |
| 03/18/2020 | $27.00 |
| 03/21/2016 | $27.00 |
| 02/27/2016 | $27.00 |
| 12/19/2015 | $120.00 |

* **In April 2020, Our Revolution Story County said that Selden Spencer is a strong advocate for progressive policies**
  + According to an April 14, 2020, Facebook post from Our Revolution Story County Iowa, “Dr, Selden Spencer For Iowa House 2020 is a strong advocate for clean water and progressive policies. Please give his page a like.”[[9]](#footnote-9)



* **Our Revolution is a nonprofit political organization founded by Bernie Sanders**
  + In a Jan. 7, 2020, article, the Associated Press reported, “Bernie Sanders says he doesn’t want a super PAC. Instead, he has Our Revolution, a nonprofit political organization he founded that functions much the same as one.

“Like a super PAC, which is shorthand for super political action committee, Our Revolution can raise unlimited sums from wealthy patrons that dwarf the limits faced by candidates and conventional PACs. Unlike a super PAC, however, the group doesn’t have to disclose its donors — a stream of revenue commonly referred to as “dark money.”

“Now, with less than one month to go before the Iowa caucuses, Our Revolution appears to be skirting campaign finance law, which forbids groups founded by federal candidates and officeholders from using large donations to finance federal election activity, including Sanders’ 2020 bid.”[[10]](#footnote-10)

* **Our Revolution says that Medicare for All is the solution for health care**
  + According to the Our Revolution website, “Healthcare is a right, not a privilege. Yet millions of Americans don’t have access to quality, affordable medical treatment, even as our nation spends twice as much per capita on healthcare than any other country.

“Medicare for All is the solution. Despite what Big Insurance will tell you, we can afford it. In fact, Medicare for All would save us money by cutting excessive administrative and pharmaceutical costs.

“That’s why we are organizing to make sure every single Democrat in Congress supports Medicare for All legislation introduced by Bernie in the Senate and U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) in the House.”[[11]](#footnote-11)

* **Our Revolution says it is organizing to win a Green New Deal**
  + According to the Our Revolution website, “Our climate is in crisis. We have less than 11 years to dramatically reduce our carbon emissions before damage to our climate becomes irreversible. Starting today, we must do everything we can to begin to transition our nation to 100% clean energy.

“‘That’s why we’re organizing to win a Green New Deal.

“‘We’re fighting to keep fossil fuels in the ground by stopping politicians from issuing new permits for pipelines. We’re calling for the creation of a clean energy economy powered by solar, wind and other renewable sources.’”[[12]](#footnote-12)

* **Our Revolution says it is organizing to win comprehensive immigration justice – which includes a moratorium on deportations, humane policies for asylum seekers, the closing of detention centers, and reunification for families**
  + According to the Our Revolution website, “Under President Trump, America’s immigration system has become cruel and inhumane. His administration has deported 800,000 people. And, at any given time, there are more than 50,000 people detained at ICE facilities—the highest number in our history.

“We are organizing to win comprehensive immigration justice – which includes a moratorium on deportations, humane policies for asylum seekers, the closing of detention centers, and reunification for families.

“By joining together, we can reject hate and divisiveness and ensure that our nation is a beacon of liberty for all.”[[13]](#footnote-13)

IMMIGRATION

* **In his 2006 campaign for Congress, Selden Spencer said that without a path to citizenship, guest workers will never integrate into our society and instead will only be a source of cheap labor**
  + According to the 2006 Selden Spencer for Congress website, as accessed through Archive.org from Oct. 4, 2006, “Guest worker programs are designed to continue the flow of cheap labor, creating a second class of worker that competes with American workers looking for a livable wage. Without a path to citizenship, guest workers will never integrate into our society and instead will only be a source of cheap labor. No matter the job, if employers offer decent wages, decent Americans are willing to do the work.

“The Immigration and Naturalization Service must no longer look away when employers hire undocumented workers to avoid providing a decent wage, benefits and safety to American workers. Our laws must be enforced, and employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers need to face substantial fines.”[[14]](#footnote-14)

SENIORS

* **In 2006, when asked his plan to keep Social Security solvent, Selden Spencer said two plans could help: raising the age at which one could draw Social Security, and raising the Social Security tax cap; Selden Spencer added, “I favor the second approach if needed, but a mixture may be necessary”**
  + In a Nov. 1, 2006, candidate questionnaire in the *Waukon Standard*, when asked what his plan would be to keep Social Security solvent for future generations, Selden Spencer replied, “If Congress takes their hands off of the Social Security Trust Fund and does not privatize Social Security, then the program is solvent for many decades. In the longer run, some adjustments may need to be made, and there are two plans I’m aware of that may help. The first is to raise the age at which you can draw social security. The second is to raise the salary cap beyond which social security taxes apply. I favor the second approach if needed, but a mixture may be necessary. But as long as we do not privatize the program, we have some time to make minor adjustments to the program.”[[15]](#footnote-15)

DEMOCRACY

* **In 2006, Selden Spencer said that the United States should have been pursuing alternatives to democracy in Iraq and Afghanistan** 
  + In an Oct. 9, 2006, article, the *Des Moines Register* reported, “The fight to unseat congressional incumbent Tom Latham hinges on concern over the war in Iraq, said Selden Spencer, an Ames neurologist who is running for public office for the first time.”[[16]](#footnote-16)

* + According to the same article, “Spencer has tried to distinguish himself during the campaign by talking about a two-week trip he took to Afghanistan this past summer. During the trip, he said, he trained doctors and formed his own opinions on foreign policy, opinions that include pursuing alternatives to democracy in Iraq and Afghanistan.”[[17]](#footnote-17)

* **Selden Spencer said that the Bush Administration had failed to understand other cultures in its efforts to spread democracy in the Middle East, adding, “It’s basically a culture of family, clans, tribes, patronage and hierarchy. We have to work within that, but maybe try to offer other alternatives that are appealing”** 
  + In a Sept. 8, 2006, article, the Des Moines Register reported, “Huxley Democrat Selden Spencer said the Bush administration has failed to understand other cultures in its efforts to spread democracy in the Middle East, a position he has formed during a two-week stay in Afghanistan.

“Spencer, a neurologist, is a candidate for the U.S. House from Iowa's 4th District. He is challenging six-term Republican Rep. Tom Latham of Alexander.

“‘We have a tendency to shun and cut off conversations,’ he said in a phone interview from Afghanistan, referring to U.S. relations in the Middle East. He said there’s been an attitude of ‘It’s got to be this way and that way, and I’m going take my ball home if you don’t play with me.’”[[18]](#footnote-18)

* + According to the same article, “Spencer also questioned administration efforts to create democracy in Afghanistan. ‘I don’t know how successful that will be,’ he said. ‘I think you are dealing with centuries of different patterns. It’s basically a culture of family, clans, tribes, patronage and hierarchy. We have to work within that, but maybe try to offer other alternatives that are appealing.’”[[19]](#footnote-19)

1. Jane Norman, “Latham criticized for ‘negative attack,’” *Des Moines Register*, Oct. 7, 2006 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Jane Norman, “Latham criticized for ‘negative attack,’” *Des Moines Register*, Oct. 7, 2006 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Congressional Election 2006 National Political Awareness Test: Selden Spencer, Vote Smart website, Accessed July 31, 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Congressional Election 2006 National Political Awareness Test: Selden Spencer, Vote Smart website, Accessed July 31, 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Lisa Rossi, “Candidates in 4th talk health care,” *Des Moines Register*, Nov. 4, 2006 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Lisa Rossi, “Candidates in 4th talk health care,” *Des Moines Register*, Nov. 4, 2006 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Fair Healthcare, Selden Spencer for Congress website, As accessed through Archive.org, Oct. 4, 2006 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Individual Contributions: Selden Spencer, Federal Election Commission, March 21, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://www.facebook.com/OurRevolutionStoryCountyIowa/posts/2260670924241115> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Brian Slodysko, “Shadow group provides Sanders super PAC support he scorns,” Associated Press, Jan. 7, 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Our Issues, Our Revolution website, Accessed Aug. 12, 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Our Issues, Our Revolution website, Accessed Aug. 12, 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Our Issues, Our Revolution website, Accessed Aug. 12, 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Fair Immigration, Selden Spencer for Congress website, As accessed through Archive.org, Oct. 4, 2006 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. “U.S. House of Representatives - Iowa District 4: Tom Latham vs. Selden Spencer,” *Waukon Standard*, Nov. 1, 2006 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Lisa Rossi, “Democrat challenges Latham over Iraq war,” *Des Moines Register*, Oct. 9, 2006 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Lisa Rossi, “Democrat challenges Latham over Iraq war,” *Des Moines Register*, Oct. 9, 2006 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Lisa Rossi, “Spencer draws on Afghan trip,” *Des Moines Register*, Sept. 8, 2006 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Lisa Rossi, “Spencer draws on Afghan trip,” *Des Moines Register*, Sept. 8, 2006 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)