

Running for Nevada's 1st Congressional District: Steven St John

by Harley Churchill | Jul 17, 2026



Steven St John is running as an independent candidate for Nevada's 1st Congressional District. St John is facing NV-1's incumbent, Dina Titus (D), and Republican nominee, Carrie Buck. According to [Kalshi](#), Titus has an 89% chance of winning, and Carrie Buck has an 8% chance. As one of the unaffiliated candidates in the race, there is always a chance for St John to win, even if it is slim. Legacy media figures often ignore these candidates, leading to less information for the voters. To provide NV-1 voters with more information about their potential representatives, I attempted to reach the candidates and requested a response to a questionnaire. Steven St John has responded to the questionnaire. I will be posting his answers here. Any questions not answered by the candidate or their representative will be indicated as [Blank]. If you are in NV-1, I hope this article provides you with more information about your choice in November.

QUESTIONNAIRE: **QUESTION** is bolded and underlined. RESPONSE is normal text.

What in your background makes you qualified to represent this district in Congress?

For nearly a decade, I have served as a hospital chaplain in Las Vegas, walking alongside patients and families during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. That experience has given me

a firsthand understanding of the challenges people in Southern Nevada face—not only with healthcare, but also with the rising cost of living, housing, jobs, and caring for loved ones. As a chaplain, I have worked alongside physicians, nurses, social workers, therapists, case managers, and other healthcare professionals while helping families navigate medical crises, difficult decisions, and life after hospitalization. I have learned that public policy is not just debated in Washington—it is ultimately experienced by real people in hospital rooms, homes, and communities. Beyond my work as a chaplain, I have experienced many of the same challenges faced by the people I hope to represent. Those experiences have strengthened my belief that government works best when it listens first, builds trust, and works across political differences to solve problems. I am running for Congress because I want to bring the voices of Southern Nevada's patients, families, seniors, veterans, workers, and small businesses to Washington and work on practical, bipartisan solutions that improve people's lives.

Why are you running for this seat, and why now?

I wasn't planning to run for Congress. After nearly a decade serving as a hospital chaplain in Las Vegas, something changed. The conversations I was having with patients and their families changed. People were no longer talking only about illness. They were talking about whether they could afford healthcare, pay the rent, buy groceries, or what would happen if they lost their insurance. As a hospital chaplain, I continue to serve patients and families during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. I have seen how public policy ultimately reaches the patient's bedside and affects families throughout Southern Nevada. Those experiences convinced me that I could not remain on the sidelines.

I am running now because Congress will continue making decisions that affect healthcare, affordability, and the economic security of families in our community. I believe my experience gives me a unique perspective on the real-world impact of those decisions, and I want to bring the voices of the people I have served to Washington while working with others to find practical, bipartisan solutions.

What elected or community leadership experience do you have, if any?

While I have not previously held elected office, I have spent nearly a decade serving the Southern Nevada community as a hospital chaplain. In that role, I have worked alongside physicians, nurses, social workers, therapists, case managers, hospice teams, and first responders while supporting patients and their families during medical crises, serious illness, and end-of-life care. My work has required me to listen, build trust, communicate with people from every background, and help families navigate some of the most difficult decisions of their lives. I have also participated in community outreach and have been actively meeting with residents throughout Nevada's 1st Congressional District to hear their concerns and discuss the issues affecting their lives. I believe leadership begins with listening, serving others, and bringing people together to solve problems. Those are the principles that have guided my work as a chaplain and that I would bring to Congress.

What are the top three issues facing this district, and how would you address them as a member of Congress?

1. Healthcare Access and Affordability

Healthcare should be accessible and affordable for every family. As a hospital chaplain, I have seen firsthand how delayed care, rising medical costs, and uncertainty about insurance affect patients and their families. In Congress, I would work to strengthen access to preventive and primary care, protect vulnerable patients, reduce unnecessary barriers that prevent eligible people from receiving coverage, and support hospitals and healthcare providers that serve our communities.

2. Cost of Living

Families throughout Southern Nevada are struggling with the rising cost of groceries, housing, utilities, and healthcare. Congress should pursue policies that help lower everyday costs, strengthen the middle class, encourage good-paying jobs, support small businesses, and promote responsible fiscal policies that help reduce inflationary pressures while protecting essential services.

3. Housing and Economic Opportunity

Affordable housing remains out of reach for many working families, seniors, veterans, and young adults. I support expanding the housing supply through partnerships with state and local governments, encouraging responsible development, streamlining appropriate federal programs, and supporting workforce training and apprenticeship opportunities that help people build stable careers and achieve financial independence.

What's one policy you'd introduce or co-sponsor in your first year?

One of the first policies I would seek to introduce or co-sponsor would be legislation to reduce barriers that prevent eligible individuals from obtaining or keeping healthcare coverage. This includes improving enrollment and renewal processes, reducing unnecessary administrative obstacles, strengthening outreach so eligible families do not lose coverage because of paperwork or confusion, and supporting continuity of care for patients with serious medical conditions.

As a hospital chaplain, I have seen how delays in care and interruptions in treatment can affect patients and their families. I believe Congress should work to ensure that people who are eligible for healthcare coverage can access it and keep it, while supporting hospitals and healthcare providers that care for vulnerable populations.

How would you balance national party priorities with the specific needs of this district?

I am running as an Independent because I believe my first responsibility is to the people of Nevada's 1st Congressional District—not to a political party. Every issue should be evaluated on its merits and on how it affects the families, seniors, veterans, workers, and businesses I represent.

If a proposal benefits the people of Southern Nevada, I will support it regardless of which party introduces it. If it would harm the people I represent, I will oppose it regardless of which party supports it. I believe effective representation requires listening first, working with members of both parties, and focusing on practical solutions rather than partisan politics.

My years as a hospital chaplain have taught me that people facing difficult circumstances are not concerned with political labels—they want leaders who will listen, work together, and solve problems. That is the approach I would bring to Congress.

What's your position on federal spending and the national debt?

The national debt is a serious long-term challenge that Congress must address responsibly. We cannot continue adding to the debt indefinitely, but we also cannot balance the budget by shifting costs onto families, seniors, veterans, or by neglecting investments that strengthen our economy. I believe Congress should carefully review federal spending, eliminate waste, fraud, and duplication wherever possible, and evaluate programs based on results rather than politics. At the same time, we should invest in areas that improve the nation's long-term economic health, including healthcare, workforce development, infrastructure, and energy reliability. Fiscal responsibility means making difficult choices, setting priorities, and ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. My approach would be to work with members of both parties to develop practical, sustainable solutions that protect future generations while meeting the needs of the people we serve today.

What would you do to support job growth or key industries in this district?

Nevada's 1st Congressional District depends on a diverse economy that includes tourism, hospitality, healthcare, small businesses, construction, education, logistics, and an emerging technology sector. Congress should support policies that help these industries grow while creating opportunities for workers and entrepreneurs.

I would support workforce training and apprenticeship programs that prepare people for high-demand careers, particularly in healthcare, skilled trades, advanced manufacturing, and technology. I also believe we should reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens on small businesses, encourage responsible investment, and improve infrastructure that supports economic growth. Southern Nevada also faces unique long-term challenges related to water, energy reliability, extreme heat, and housing affordability. Addressing these issues is essential to attracting new businesses, supporting existing employers, and creating stable, good-paying jobs. My goal is to strengthen the local economy while ensuring that economic growth benefits working families, not just large corporations.

Where do you stand on current tax policy, and what changes (if any) would you pursue?

I believe our tax system should encourage economic growth, support working families, and be fiscally responsible. Tax policy should be fair, transparent, and designed to strengthen the middle class while giving businesses the confidence to invest and create jobs. I support reviewing the tax code to identify provisions that are no longer effective, eliminate unnecessary complexity, and ensure taxpayer dollars are used responsibly. I also believe Congress should evaluate tax policies based on whether they encourage investment, strengthen American competitiveness, and help working families meet the rising costs of housing, healthcare, childcare, and everyday living.

As an Independent, I would evaluate tax proposals on their merits rather than along party lines. My guiding question would be: Does this policy help the people and businesses of Southern Nevada while maintaining fiscal responsibility? If it does, I will support it. If it does not, I will work to improve it or oppose it.

Can you name an issue where you'd be willing to break from your party?

As an Independent, I don't believe my role is to follow a party line. My responsibility is to represent the people of Nevada's 1st Congressional District. If a proposal benefits the families, seniors, veterans, workers, and businesses I represent, I will support it regardless of which party introduces it. If it would harm the people of this district, I will oppose it, regardless of which party supports it. Healthcare is a good example. If legislation from either party would improve access to care, reduce unnecessary barriers for eligible patients, or strengthen the healthcare system for Southern Nevada, I would support it. If I believed a proposal would make it harder for the people I represent to obtain needed healthcare, I would work to improve it or oppose it.

I was elected to represent a district—not a political party. My vote will always be guided by what I believe is in the best interest of the people of Southern Nevada.

How would you work across the aisle to get legislation passed?

My approach would be to start by listening before negotiating. As a hospital chaplain, I have spent nearly a decade helping people from different backgrounds, beliefs, and circumstances communicate during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. I have learned that lasting solutions begin by understanding what people have in common rather than focusing only on where they disagree. In Congress, I would look for areas of common ground, meet with members from both parties early in the legislative process, and be willing to incorporate good ideas regardless of who proposed them. I believe legislation is more likely to succeed when stakeholders—including local communities, healthcare professionals, businesses, and public officials—are involved in shaping solutions before a bill reaches the House floor.

As an Independent, I am not tied to a party agenda. My responsibility would be to represent the people of Nevada's 1st Congressional District and build coalitions around practical solutions. My goal would be to earn trust, work respectfully with members of both parties, and focus on solving problems rather than scoring political victories.

What's your approach to gun policy and the Second Amendment?

I support the Second Amendment and the constitutional right of law-abiding citizens to own firearms. At the same time, I believe we have a responsibility to promote public safety and reduce violence in our communities. These goals are not mutually exclusive. I believe Congress should focus on policies that are effective, constitutional, and supported by evidence. That includes enforcing existing laws, improving the reporting and sharing of information where legally appropriate, strengthening mental health resources, and ensuring that dangerous individuals who are legally prohibited from possessing firearms cannot obtain them through illegal means. As an Independent,

I would evaluate each proposal on its merits rather than along party lines. My guiding principle would be protecting both constitutional rights and the safety of the people I represent.

What's your view on congressional term limits?

I support congressional term limits because I believe public office should be about service, not a lifetime career. New perspectives and new ideas can strengthen our democracy while preserving the experience needed to govern effectively. At the same time, term limits alone will not solve the challenges facing Congress. We also need elected officials who are willing to listen, work across party lines, and focus on solving problems rather than protecting political careers. Ultimately, voters should have confidence that their representatives are accountable, accessible, and focused on serving the people of their district. I believe term limits can be one part of restoring public trust in Congress.

Are there any constitutional amendments you'd be interested in proposing or supporting? If so, which and why?

Yes. I would support a constitutional amendment establishing reasonable congressional term limits. I believe public office is a position of public trust, not a lifetime career. Term limits can encourage new perspectives, strengthen accountability, and help restore public confidence in Congress. I would also be open to considering other constitutional amendments when there is broad bipartisan support and a clear national consensus. Because amendments permanently change our Constitution, I believe they should be reserved for issues of lasting importance rather than short-term political disagreements.

What's your position on border security and immigration policy?

The United States has both the right and the responsibility to maintain a secure border while treating people with dignity and respecting the rule of law. I believe border security and immigration reform should not be viewed as competing priorities—they should be addressed together. We need an orderly, secure, and efficient immigration system. That includes investing in border security technology and personnel, improving the immigration court system so cases are resolved more quickly, and enforcing our immigration laws fairly and consistently. At the same time, Congress should work toward practical, bipartisan reforms that address legal immigration, workforce needs, and long-standing challenges within the immigration system. As an Independent, I would support policies that strengthen national security, uphold the Constitution, and reflect America's values as a nation of laws and a nation of opportunity. I believe this is an issue where lasting solutions will require both parties to work together rather than continue the cycle of political stalemate.

Where do you stand on U.S. involvement in current foreign conflicts?

The United States should remain committed to protecting our national security, honoring our treaty obligations, and supporting our allies. At the same time, I believe Congress has a responsibility to carefully evaluate military involvement, define clear objectives, exercise its constitutional oversight role, and consider both the human and financial costs of prolonged conflicts. I support strong diplomacy whenever possible because preventing conflict is almost always preferable to fighting one.

When military action is necessary to defend the United States, protect our citizens, or fulfill legitimate treaty commitments, it should be guided by clear goals, accountability, and regular oversight by Congress. As a hospital chaplain, I have seen the lasting impact that conflict and trauma can have on service members, veterans, and their families. That experience reinforces my belief that decisions involving the use of military force should be made with great care and only after thoughtful consideration of the consequences. My approach would be to support policies that protect America's security, strengthen our alliances, pursue diplomatic solutions whenever possible, and ensure that Congress fulfills its constitutional responsibility in matters of war and national security.

What's your position on congressional stock trading?

Members of Congress should not be permitted to buy or sell individual stocks while serving in office. Public officials often receive briefings, participate in hearings, and vote on legislation that can affect industries and financial markets. Even when no wrongdoing occurs, personal stock trading creates the appearance of a conflict of interest and undermines public trust. I would support legislation requiring members of Congress, their spouses, and dependent children to place individual stock holdings in a qualified blind trust, move them into diversified funds, or otherwise refrain from trading individual securities while the member is in office. Any rules should include meaningful disclosure requirements and enforceable penalties. Serving in Congress should be about representing the public—not using access to government information or influence for personal financial advantage.

How do you plan to stay accessible to constituents between elections?

Representation should not begin a few months before an election and end the day after Election Day. If elected, I will make it a priority to remain accessible throughout my term by holding regular town halls, meeting with community organizations, maintaining an active district office, and continuing to listen to constituents through my website and online forums. I believe technology should make it easier—not harder—for people to communicate with their representative. I plan to continue using online tools that allow constituents to share their concerns, ask questions, and identify the issues that matter most to them. Those conversations will help guide my work in Congress. As a hospital chaplain, listening has been one of the most important parts of my work. I intend to bring that same commitment to Congress by remaining visible, approachable, and accountable to the people of Nevada's 1st Congressional District throughout my term—not just during election season.

What would you consider a successful first term?

I would consider my first term successful if I earned the trust of the people of Nevada's 1st Congressional District by being accessible, listening to their concerns, and representing them with integrity. Success would also mean working across party lines to advance practical legislation that improves healthcare access, addresses the rising cost of living, expands economic opportunity, and strengthens Southern Nevada's future. I also believe success should be measured by whether I remain connected to the people I represent. That means holding regular town halls, maintaining

open communication with constituents, and ensuring that the voices of patients, families, seniors, veterans, workers, and small businesses are heard in Washington. If, at the end of my first term, the people of this district believe I listened, worked hard, treated others with respect, and always put their interests ahead of politics, I would consider that a successful first term.

Is there anything voters should know about you that hasn't been asked here?

What sets me apart is not my political experience, but my experience serving people. As a hospital chaplain, I have spent nearly a decade listening to patients and families from every background, faith, and walk of life. That experience has taught me that effective representation begins with listening, respecting different viewpoints, and working to solve problems that affect real people.

END OF QUESTIONNAIRE

If you want more information on St John or his campaign, [his campaign website](https://chaplainstevenstjohnforcongress.com): <https://chaplainstevenstjohnforcongress.com> is a great resource. He took the time to answer this questionnaire, which indicates he is interested in questions about his campaign to provide NV-1 with a choice. Even if you don't agree with everything St John says, his willingness to answer questions should be taken advantage of by as many from NV-1 as possible.