

# Nine questions for Congressional hopeful Chris Gibson

By Olesia Plokhii

*Running against Democrat Scott Murphy in New York's 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, retired U.S. Army Colonel Chris Gibson shares an hour over the wire with the Millbrook Independent.*

*Your illustrious career in the Army ended just this year after you commanded a combat team to Haiti for humanitarian relief. What prompted you to run for Congress?*

I decided last summer that I wanted to do this. The inspiration was the state of the country, the underperforming economy, and the desire to defend this way of life, resolve problems, and bring leadership.

*What are your ideas for getting the U.S. out of this recession?*

Creating jobs. You need to grow the private sector economy so you have fewer people requiring social services. We need to cut the size of the federal government and reduce federal spending. We must eliminate impediments—taxes, health care costs, and unnecessary regulations—of growth for small business owners.

*You do not support the cap-and-trade bill that your opponent agrees with. How else are we going to cut down on fossil fuel emissions?*

The concept for cap and trade, to reduce demand on consumption of energy by increasing the cost, is problematic. That policy will damage productivity and increase unemployment and social services. I think one easy way to cut down on fossil fuel emissions, although not a panacea, would be to construct another lane on roads and highways so we don't have cars idling. I also believe in continuing to work towards alternative energy sources.

*Why do you want to repeal the health care act?*

Because it's expensive. I see premiums, taxes, and new regulations continuing to grow. The act also grows the size of the federal government. I want to repeal and replace it with a program based on competition and transparency. There need to be more insurance options in NY state. I also believe in doctor malpractice tort reform that will reduce premiums and stimulate our economy.

*What strategy should the U.S. pursue in Iraq and Afghanistan?*

We should be focusing our efforts on Al Qaeda. Right now, we are in a position to start bringing troops home from Iraq after having achieved our objectives there. I think that one of the most volatile areas in Afghanistan, Kirkuk, shared by Arabs, Turks, and Kurds, and sitting on a lot of oil, could look towards Erbil, where Shiites and Sunnis coexist. As for Afghanistan in general, I think we should continue training the Afghan security forces to enhance their legitimacy.

*What do you think of the recent firing of General McChrystal?*

I've met him and he's a great soldier and a courageous patriot who's had a great career, but what he said was unacceptable and there needed to be a change in leadership. I think Petraeus will do an outstanding job.

*Do you agree with the renewed dialogue surrounding 'don't ask don't tell'?*

No, because I think 'don't ask don't tell' works. Homosexuals honorably serving in the military now are keeping private life private. I'm not for lifting the ban because I'm not convinced we've reconciled equality and privacy in such a way where readiness during combat would not be adversely affected.

*How has your campaign been received by this district?*

The campaign's message of fiscal responsibility and protecting freedoms is resonating well.

*What are your plans for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July?*

I'll be in a parade in Kinderhook, where I grew up, and then later I'll head to the lake to celebrate with friends and family.