



## Candidate Questionnaire

### PART I

Please review the following principles and indicate whether you support them. Your support for the principle is your pledge to advocate and author or co-sponsor legislation consistent with that principle and to oppose legislation that violates it.

#### Free Markets

When citizens decide when, where, how and with whom they will conduct their business that is called free enterprise. Competition in the free enterprise system improves the quality of services and products while reducing costs; motivates individuals to innovate and give friendly, attentive service to their customers. Whoever excels at providing the best becomes the most successful.

In short, Capitalism is the key to prosperity; it is the engine that provides opportunity for all.

There is no freedom without private property – which includes the fruits of man’s labor, his income. Liberty can be measured by the amount of disposable income that can be used after all physical necessities are covered.

Government’s job is to provide protection so that the individual’s life, family and property are safe from aggression or encroachments. But when government becomes too big and its regulations too intrusive - producing nothing and operating solely at taxpayers’ expense - such interference becomes a form of legalized theft and the citizen taxpayers reduced to little more than serfs.

I support this principle

I do not support this principle

Comment: The benefits of free market enterprise are well summarized above, but it is vital that our representatives understand that the free market system is being weakened substantially by the intentional fiscal recklessness of many Washington politicians. Unless stopped, the massive national debt and deficit spending addiction will eventually cause our economic system to fail. Our representatives have a moral obligation to end the generational theft taking place through deficit spending and to protect the free market system.

Contemporary political rhetoric has cheapened the "American Dream" to mean little more than financial security. But the American dream is fundamentally about the right to self-determination. It does not exist without free markets. The founders understood that property and life are inseparable. An individual's industry is an investment of that individual's life that must be treated with respect by our government.

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## Limited Government

The powers of the federal government as given by the constitution are few and defined, among them the power to tax:

“The Congress shall have power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.”—United States Constitution, Article I, Section 8

The Founders clearly stated their intentions for a limited government, yet some amendments have been abused by congress to allow for the unrestrained growth of federal control and spending. No congress has been successful at reducing the size of government. Now is the time we must hold congress accountable to the Constitution by delegitimizing any spending that strays from original intent.

The federal government spent 84% more in 2009 than it did in 1988, while the population has only risen by 30%. In order to achieve a reduction in the size and scope of the federal Government, any future bill, existing law, policy or amendment that does not adhere to the principle and ideology of individual and states’ rights must be terminated. Each state must be viewed as sovereign by the federal government and must not be compelled to sacrifice for the needs of another state— so that taxation is “uniform throughout the United States”.

By eliminating the federal government’s role in the re-distribution of citizen income through taxation we can start to achieve uniformity while decreasing the scope of the federal government. Government interference in personal endeavors must end.

I support this principle

I do not support this principle

Comment: The creative misreading of the Constitution to justify mischief by the federal government represents a betrayal of the oath of office by large numbers of politicians. The Constitution is clear in its enumeration of specific powers delegated to the federal government. I will not support new extra-constitutional legislation. I will work to extract the federal government from unconstitutional spaces into which it has expanded. I will lead and participate in efforts to clarify the law where it has fallen victim to pretense that it means something other than what was originally intended.

## Personal Responsibility

America is a social compact that acknowledges Natural Law; that the basic rights of all mankind derive from God. Government is to be limited to the bare minimum intrusion into the lives of the governed consistent with community safety and liberty. Upon our nation's founding, these principles of self-government were unique and revolutionary. Today, they have withstood the test of time.

America's foundational premise is that each person must be left free to exercise his rights to the fullest extent possible without infringing upon the rights of others. In America, the framework exists for each person to succeed based upon his or her merits and efforts. Equality of opportunity is inherent to our system. Equality of outcome is not.

I support this principle

I do not support this principle

The fundamental concept that rights come through the "Laws of Nature, and Nature's God," and not from figures of authority, is at the core of my philosophy regarding the relationship between the government and the civil society.

## Constitutional Constructionism

Rightly fearing any government's tendency toward power, tyranny and oppression, the founders constructed a central government severely limited in its scope. It was to have specific and limited powers, be subordinate to the States and the People, and was to be subject to specific internal checks and balances. Time has proven the Founder's worst fears prescient. Our present federal government recognizes no boundaries to its scope, embraces no limits on its authority, demonstrates no restraint in its spending nor in its confiscation of citizen wealth through taxation.

Elected officials in State and National offices must recognize and acknowledge the historic and shameful shredding of our Constitution, and understand their duty and obligation to reverse this damage to our social compact. The primacy of States' Rights, individual liberty, property rights, and the rule of law must be recognized and enforced. The federal government must be reduced in size, scope, reach, and hubris; and must be returned to its original and limited place in the lives of Americans.

The Federal Government is OUR mutual compact as a people and a civilization to protect us in time of war, secure our borders, ensure an orderly society, and conduct relations with other nations. All other functions of Government are to be conducted at the local and state level.

I support this principle

I do not support this principle

Comment: The only oath taken by a US representative is an oath to support the Constitution. Unfortunately, too few representatives take that oath seriously, and too many of them pretend to stand by it by pretending that the Constitution is a living document. Thomas Jefferson's description of the Constitution as "chains" to bind our elected officials down from mischief does not conjure images of flexibility.

The founding fathers provided an amendment process to be used by the stewards of our Constitution. They never spoke of a "reinterpretation" process. As a representative I will evaluate new legislation under the light of the original context of the constitution. The rule of law must be treated with the utmost seriousness in a constitutional republic.

## A Virtuous America

We the People should endeavor to be a virtuous people. Virtue implies the possession or manifestation of moral excellence. This moral excellence governs our values concerning the sanctity of life from conception to end. Honesty, trustworthiness, integrity, charity, sacrifice, industriousness, courage and reverence for God and country are all founding and God given qualities that comprise our virtue. As a People we endeavor to elect and appoint those officials that exemplify these virtues.

I support this principle

I do not support this principle

Comment: It is vital to recognize that ignoring the need for virtue in society is incompatible with the concept of limited government. Conservatism cannot be divided into social and fiscal components without being corrupted into something that is no longer conservatism. Human history teaches us that the state expands as virtue declines in society.

## Strong National Defense

Defending the nation, providing for the common defense, is one of the few powers enumerated to the federal government by the Constitution. America must act proactively to defend itself, its citizens and its interest. We must seek peace through strength, serving as a deterrent to those who would seek to harm our way of life. Our military forces should only be used wisely and once deployed, their might unleashed to perform their task properly.

The safety of America's people and her interests abroad are paramount to maintaining all other freedoms. A strong National defense, a prosperous economy and individual liberty are inextricably intertwined. One cannot exist without the others.

Our borders must be secured sufficient to prohibit terrorists and criminal gangs from entering our nation. The onslaught of illegal immigrants who overwhelm our infrastructure must be halted. Energy, the engine of our economy, must not be subjugated to political whim, nor control by our enemies.

I support this principle

I do not support this principle

Comment: War should be entered only when the vital interests of the United States or her close allies are at stake. The Federal government has a duty to provide a rational and coherent foreign policy that does not fluctuate dramatically with changes in administrations. This is necessary for the military to develop robust doctrines and contingencies in support of national interests. Our military should never be placed under authority of a foreign power. Parameters for success in any conflict should be understood by the American people, and military leaders should be given discretion for satisfying those parameters.

Border security is not an immigration issue. The borders of the United States should never be used as leverage to extract political compromise for tangential issues like immigration.

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