

POLITICAL PRIORITIES

Top 12 U.S Priorities (First Two in Priority Order)

The following are recommended as America's top twelve priorities:

- #1. National Security.
- #2. Economy.
3. Education.
4. Energy Diversification.
5. Entitlement Reform.
6. Ethics & Campaign Finance Reform.
7. Fiscal Responsibility.
8. Healthcare Revision.
9. Immigration Reform.
10. International Relations & Foreign Aid.
11. Law & Order.
12. Taxes (size of government).

Often, the only difference between ideals and practicality is the will to choose the former. ♦ When it comes to doing the right thing—'just do it.'

Explanation.

We need to be committed to solving our highest priorities before anything else. If our military does not keep out our enemies, we will have no economy. And if our economy is not working well, no other political decisions really matter, because they cannot be paid for. Therefore, the top two political priorities are securing "peace and prosperity."

Nations' top two social priorities should be eliminating death from preventable disease or starvation, because if government cannot preserve an individual's life, there's nothing else they *can* do for them. Negotiating ends to wars (present and potential) is yet another (though harder) means of preventing unnecessary deaths.

WINNING WAYS

What positions should political parties hold on these priority issues, to win the votes of the American people? We suggest the following:

1. National Security. Keep America safe from attacks from within or without, at all costs. Win the war on terror and contain expected future ongoing outbreaks. Effectively maintain the greatest military on earth within a prescribed budget. Use them for good in the world and to maintain peace, and convince other countries to fund more of any needed international peace-making missions. Use technology to reduce U.S. casualties and to provide even more effective results against our enemies (Ex.: less 'collateral damage').

When to Go to War: When the country is attacked (defense), vital national interests are threatened or at stake, to defend allies or, occasionally, for severe humanitarian abuses (Ex.: genocide), but then only if the majority of the public supports such intervention.

Military Strategy: Our goal should always be to win, and as quickly as possible, with the least amount of casualties, friendly fire incidents or 'collateral damage,' but never endangering our military with restrictive rules of engagement. Always seek consensus among allies before going to war, except in exigent circumstances (where to do so would be unfeasible), but an even higher priority is not missing timing opportunities waiting for coalitions to gel. It is best to solicit the public's involvement, rather than there being no sacrifices and it being only a televised war.

2. Economy. Re-commit to being the greatest economy in the world. Re-establish our global leadership. Keep taxes (and regulations) to a minimum required. Have the best environment for principled (vs. greedy/selfish) business. Don't let other countries incentivize corporations to leave the USA for greener pastures. Consider regulating any further outsourcing. Seek to re-establish our manufacturing industry, through innovation, productivity, technology and reasonable union and wage demands.

Businesses should consider using our over 4,500 new product ideas (found in our four main books), and let them stimulate thousands of other ideas, pursuing robotics ('free' labor, after they are paid for), supporting the global minimum standard (to open up under-developed countries as new markets, more inclined to buy from the country that helped them the most), and consider how compulsory community service activities could be used, in part, to help American businesses compete globally. **See also:** American Economic Plan (*Dumb as a Donkey, Fat as an Elephant*, Chapter 9)

3. Education. Commit to having a world-class educational system, and decent, merit-based pay for good, innovative and effective teachers. Consider tenure reduction or elimination measures for unacceptable results or behavior violations, with a probation period for poor-performing teachers to prove their worth, or face layoffs if unable to improve. Encourage better results in science and math, learning how incentive-based programs have succeeded elsewhere.

3. Energy Diversification. Continue to transition to increased green energy use and increased energy independence from Middle East oil (government encouraged, with teeth, but only incrementally). The U.S. can never become so independent of Middle East oil, however, that we lose our stabilizing influence in the region. Influence the market to demand this transition, and all mandated standards need to be reasonable, based on research and not so strenuous that they cause an undue financial burden on business.

4. Entitlement Reform. Reduce all fraud and abuse in entitlement programs. Raise the qualifying age for Social Security to 70 (for people not immediately planning on retirement). Reduce waste, over-practicing of healthcare (for Medicaid and Medicare) and reasonably limit medical malpractice and tort judgments. Disallow the financially able from accessing these entitlement services (even though they paid in and have property rights; i.e., "means-test"), as they should be accessed by those who truly need them. Regarding Welfare in specific, **See:** The Domestic Plan II (Chapter 5)

5. Ethics & Campaign Finance Reform. Don't limit free speech, but do limit buying elections. Money is not speech, but funds speech. Encourage increased use of free (i.e., social) media in campaigns. Identify politician "tricks" to make illegal (**See:** Chapter 2), and put teeth to their punishment. Consider having an independent monitor (private or not) of Congressional debates and campaigns to enforce such measures.

6. Fiscal Responsibility. Reduce the national debt, and make significant strides toward balancing the budget within a 15% (or more) credit overage in the next 15 years. Require all legislative proposals to be funded before being voted on.

7. Healthcare Revision. Everyone should, at a minimum, have catastrophic health insurance. Consider having a two- or three-tiered healthcare system, with the rich accessing the best care, but the poor having adequate care not below a humane minimum (perhaps engaging foreign doctors or more Nurse Practitioners). Research whether revisions to President Obama's plan are costlier than what we had before—indigent Emergency Room care (usually paid by counties) and Medicaid. Go with the best bang for the buck. Pre-existing conditions need to be covered (though at higher premiums), and insurance needs to be portable and not dependent on whether one has a job. Due to a monopoly-like less-competitive environment, hospitals, doctors, insurance companies and drug companies seeming to make too much profit subtly coming indirectly from consumers' pockets. Find innovative and legal ways to reduce this some. Allow health insurance policy purchasing from anywhere in the U.S. (i.e., across state lines).

8. Immigration Reform. Undertake only reasonable and realistic measures, such as closing our borders (i.e., fully controlled, with no pockets for illegal access), no amnesty, back of the line to prior immigration law violators, temporary worker status with an available citizenship track, and require taxes to be paid for social services accessed by illegals, etc.

9. International Relations & Foreign Aid. Renew America's international respect in both our military and foreign aid policies. Work with our NATO allies, and expand good relations with other nations. Seek to remedy any legitimate complaints of our enemies. Verify intelligence used for war justifications, and engage in military conflict only as a last resort. Seek the best bang for the buck in foreign aid, never let our aid fund tyrants or terrorists, and lead in implementing "The International Plan," Chapter 5

11. Law & Order. Use all technology, successful local law enforcement programs and innovative methods to keep crime to a minimum (including education, community policing, motivation and mentoring programs for those more susceptible to a life of crime). Don't just jail non-violent offenders (Ex.: consider 'alternative sentencing,' and in-home monitoring), but incarcerate all violent offenders. Use rehabilitation within prisons to allow criminals the chance for success upon release. Increase monitoring of and enforcement against violent gangs.

12. Taxes (Size of Government). Keep taxes as low as possible. Only spend them on what's needed and effective/helpful—not luxuries. Consider a moderate-sized government—not so small that every man is on his own, and not so big you're covered from cradle to grave. Only consider raising taxes on those most able to absorb it (with no lessening of their lifestyle) after first streamlining government, cross-training federal workers, eliminating all waste, fraud and abuse, and consider compulsory community service for all (except those already engaged in public service)—especially those receiving government benefits. For more details, **See:** The Domestic Plan II, Chapter 5. Don't raise one more dime in taxes until Washington's fiscal house is in order, and consider an "Accordion Budget," where specified non-essential activities are planned for expansion or contraction based on economic shifts.

Other Priorities.

Other important issues exist (**See:** Positions, Chapter 10), but a few deserve noting, include equal pay for equally-qualified women and ending un-provable employment discrimination (whether for age, race, sexual orientation, or other), perhaps using lie detectors and whistle blower reward programs.