

POLITICAL SOLUTIONS

Truth lies between two extremes, and man, like a pendulum, swings either too much this way or that. He abides not long in one stay, but tosses from side to side; never, except by divine grace, finding rest in the middle point of wisdom at all. **–Charles Spurgeon**

America faces many challenges, some of which government is tasked with and many of which business and individuals can best solved. Where government is concerned, as they are merely our representatives (and with their track-record for procrastination and not solving problems), it is ultimately **the American citizen** (including its experts) who have both built our nation and will again bring back its former glory. It is for that reason that our Blog and interactive Twitter account are offered, **to tap the collective wisdom of American ingenuity to suggest practical, effective and efficient solutions** the right type of politicians might implement.



**USA
Needs
YOUR
Input!**

Please feel free to **offer concise and workable solutions**, and to debate the merits and demerits of all suggestions in this open, online ‘Town Hall’ forum. A brief word as to your qualifications on a given matter will help others in assessing the credibility of your solution(s). Thank you for caring about your country to get involved!

This section is offered as proof that our best solutions often lie between political extremes. For common sense, common ground solutions to various issues, see our book,

Dumb as a Donkey, Fat as an Elephant:
Common Ground by Common Sense for the Common Good

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POLITICAL ISSUES

Any substantive issue you have insight on is welcome, and some of the most well-known include:

Abortion. **Acorn.** **ADA.** **Affirmative action.** **Affordable college.** **Age discrimination.** **AIDs.** **Amnesty.** Animal abuse. Armed robbery. Assault weapons. At-risk kids. Balanced budget. Bailouts. Binge drinking. Black market. Bribes. **Bureaucracy.** **Campaign finance reform.** **Carjacking.** **Censorship.** Census. Check Kiting. Cheese. Child labor laws. Climate change. Cloning. Court over-crowding. Crime. **Date rape.** **Deadbeat fathers.** **Death taxes.** **Defense.** **Deficit reduction.** **Dog fighting.** **Don't ask, don't tell.** Drive-by shooting. Drug wars. DUI. Earmarks. Education. Eminent domain. Energy independence. **Environment.** Equal pay. **Euthanasia.** **Family Leave Act.** **FBI issues.** **Flag burning.** **Flat tax.** **Fraud.** Free speech. Free trade. Frivolous lawsuits. Gangs. Gay marriage. Genocide. Gridlock. Gun control. **Hate speech.** Healthcare. **Heroin addicts.** **Hit and runs.** **Homeland Security.** **Homelessness.** **Human rights.** Human trafficking. Identity theft. Illegal drugs. Immigration. Inflation. Insurance fraud. Internet viruses. **IRS.** Jay walkers. **Judicial activism.** **Line item veto.** **Loan sharks.** **Lobbyists.** **Mafia.** Medicaid. Medical research. Medicare. Military spending. Militia movement. Minimum wage. Murder. **NASA.** **National sovereignty.** **No child left behind.** **Obesity.** **Original intent.** **Outsourcing.** Partisanship. Patriot Act. Pet projects. Pishing. Piracy. Plagiarism. Political Action Committees. **Pollution.** **Ponzi schemes.** **Pork barrel projects.** **Pork.** **Porn.** **Potholes.** **Poverty.** **POW's.** **Preemptive strikes.** Prison over-crowding. Prostitution. Protectionism. Public arts. Racial profiling. Rape. Recession. **Right to privacy.** **Robberies.** **Salvia.** **Second hand smoke.** **Sex slaves.** **Sexting.** **School choice.** **School violence.** Sex education. Smishing. Smoking bans. Smuggling. Social promotion. Social Security. Speed bumps. **Spousal abuse.** **Star wars.** **Stem cell research.** **Steroids.** **Strict constructionism.** **Suicide.** Sustainability. 3 strikes laws. Tax cheats. Tax loopholes. Taxes. Term limits. Terrorism. Tort reform. **Torture.** **Truancy.** **U.N.** **Unions.** **Urban development.** **Veteran Affairs.** **Vigilantes.** **Voter fraud.** Vouchers. Wars. War strategy. Wealth re-distribution. Weaponizing space. White collar crime. Women's rights, **World's policeman, etc.** **Which issue will you help to solve (as part of the solution vs. problem)?**

The following are issue and position samples to stimulate your consideration of new or other effective solution. They derive from extremist or biased solutions hard core party loyalists typically advocate (a few of which could conceivably be valid) include:

A

ABORTION

Extreme Left: Abort at will for any reason (increase the numbers), and use abortion for your only birth control plan. Let conservatives be forced to pay for them.

Extreme Right: Outlaw all abortions, and fine or jail those who break the law and survive back alley abortions.

AFFORDABLE COLLEGE

Extreme Left: Make college free, and accept all applicants—even if they're academically unqualified.

Extreme Right: Let only the rich elitists access a college education, so they can maintain their domination of the good (executive) jobs. Raise tuition as high as possible to make profit, and everyone pay your own way with no government loans.

B

BALANCED BUDGET

Extreme Left: Expand the budget (and raise the debt limit) so it can be balanced, or never balance the budget, or make it so large we can balance it only by tax increases.

Extreme Right: Force unsustainable budget cuts by law, or reduce taxes so government doesn't have enough funds to spend and has to learn self-discipline. Balance the budget, and if social programs have to be slashed, so be it.

BULLYING

Extreme Left: Don't even let kids argue or use offensive words, or such behavior is Politically Incorrect, but we need to understand what environment the bully is coming from and what causes him to lash out.

Extreme Right: Boys will be boys, or lock them up and throw away the key (i.e., defend the victims), or we like their aggressive pursuit of their goals.

C

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM (& SPECIAL INTERESTS/PACs)

Extreme Left: Limit contributions to a low amount, have all campaigns publicly funded, or limit funding if my opponent has richer donors.

Extreme Right: Never limit funding, as that limits freedom of speech or expression. Let as much money into funding campaigns as the market will bear—no restrictions; or, limit funding if my opponent has richer donors.

CHARITIES/NON-PROFITS

Extreme Left: Only support charities if government can't do the function, or create many more charities, and let government fund them.

Extreme Right: Never let government fund any charity, and government should never pressure giving to them, by PSA's, tax incentives or publicly revealing giving percentages.

CHINA

Extreme Left: Keep borrowing money from China, and appease any of their concerns; or, default on all our loans, outlaw outsourcing,.

Extreme Right: Default or go to war with China over currency manipulation (or do nothing, as outsourcing has benefitted big business); or, keep shipping any, even all jobs to China if the wages are less than for equally-qualified Americans (except for executive jobs, of course).

CLIMATE CHANGE

Extreme Left: Bankrupt businesses if it will keep our environment clean. Let our world be pristine Garden of Eden with zero pollution—jobs and businesses be dam_ed. Let businesses go bankrupt paying for cleaning up their environmental damage.

Extreme Right: Pollute at will, anywhere in any amount—business and employment are our contribution to society. Let business do whatever makes them money, no matter how it impacts the economy.

CRIME/LAW & ORDER

Extreme Left: Hire less cops and rely on volunteer citizen patrols and off duty mall cops and other ‘rent-a-cops.’ Heighten prisoner’s rights, give them luxuries and just warn violators not to break the law next time.

Extreme Right: Increase the number of cops (and high tech gadgets) so we are like a police state. Hang ‘em high, and institute Marshall law to end all crime, if necessary.

D

DEATH PENALTY

Extreme Left: Abolish the death penalty nation-wide.

Extreme Right: Keep the death penalty fully legal, and conduct many more than today (without ensuring no innocents are killed).

E

ECOLOGY/GREEN LIFESTYLE

Extreme Left: Run businesses out of business to create an ecological Paradise. Americans should be forced to drive clown-sized cars and be limited to four sheets of toilet paper per sitting.

Extreme Right: Pollute our environment a lot more. Government should have nothing to do with encouraging people to recycle and use less natural resources. That’s a private decision.

ECONOMY

Extreme Left: Government should heavily influence or actually take control of businesses (i.e., Communism), or spend government money to stimulate the economy, and hire more unemployed as federal workers.

Extreme Right: Government should do nothing to help the economy—just wait till it changes (i.e., the cyclical theory), or lower taxes to the maximum, and eliminate as much regulation as possible.

EDUCATION

Extreme Left: Hinder the smarter kids, to keep things more equal. Never fire any bad teachers or administrators. Increase funding for public education. Disallow any private or home schools, and increase the administrative bureaucracy.

Extreme Right: Let the less intelligent students fail. We tried; now we can wash our hands. Fire all bad teachers and administrators on the spot, with no warning or probationary period. Run public education out of business with private schools and vouchers, and let the rich whose kids are in private school get vouchers in repayment for their taxes going to public funding. Let private schools take over the educational system with no tax dollars spent.

EQUAL PAY & EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Extreme Left: Pay women more than men as reparations for centuries of discrimination, even if they're less qualified.

Extreme Right: Disallow equal pay, because mothers take time off from full commitment to their career when they birth children.

F

FAIR TRADE

Extreme Left: Outside entities should ensure U.S. multi-national corporations' agreements in foreign countries are fair to their work force. American business needs to be more sensitive to not exploiting the people of the earth.

Extreme Right: Business should be free to make profits any way they can.

FLAT TAX

Extreme Left: Punish the rich with confiscatory taxes—not a flat tax; or, tax the rich to the max, because they're evil, and they gained their wealth by abusing others.

Extreme Right: Make the rich pay the same percentage tax on everything everyone else pays taxes on.

FOREIGN AID

Extreme Left: Give a lot of aids without conditions. Increase foreign aid, so other countries can enjoy our standard of living from such donations.

Extreme Right: Give no aid—every man (or country, in this case) for himself.

G

GLOBAL DEMOCRATIZATION

Extreme Left: It is arrogant for America to try to spread its ideals elsewhere, and Communism is not morally inferior to Capitalism. Let dictators do what they will to their people—it's none of our business.

Extreme Right: Force Democracy on everyone (at the end of a gun, if necessary).

GUN CONTROL (& ASSAULT WEAPONS)

No guns, no freedom (bumper sticker)

Extreme Left: Take away anything that could be used as a weapon from citizens (Ex.: pocket knife, scissors), and allow no militias.

Extreme Right: Let everyone own a bazooka and fully-loaded tanks in their garages.

H

HEALTHCARE

Extreme Left: Let the rich pay for all the health care for the poor, through increased taxes (even though they didn't birth them or necessarily cause their financial condition).

Extreme Right: Let people die prematurely as punishment for being poor (or not achieving a lot), even if the medical establishment could have cured them.

I

IMMIGRATION REFORM (& AMNESTY)

Extreme Left: Let anyone and everyone into our country (Ex.: criminals, terrorists, poor and unemployed). Make all undocumented U.S. citizens using the 'squatter's rights' rationale.

Extreme Right: Build a wall and shoot all breachers. Deport all illegal aliens immediately. Deport all 12 million illegals who have been here for decades.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Extreme Left: Build the most glamorous infrastructure off the tax payers, especially while competing with China.

Extreme Right: Let things crumble and fall apart, then just repair (vs. replace) them.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

Extreme Left: Let the Palestinians have whatever they want (including all the land)—they're the victims.

Extreme Right: Let the Israeli's have whatever they want (including all the land)—they're the rightful owners of the land.

L

LOBBYISTS & POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES (PACs)

Extreme Left: Restrict or eliminate lobbyists as a criminal enterprise, or disallow legislators having any group have access to them, and make all campaigns be fully publicly funded.

Extreme Right: Allow lobbyists full-reign, as a legal business; or let legislators raise as much money from any contributors as possible. The honor system is sufficient to keep such money from influencing votes.

M

MEDIA BIAS

Extreme Left: Have government control media broadcast content, or at least restrict talk radio and Fox News.

Extreme Right: Leave the media alone, as a private business, or require equal TV time to right wingers to compensate for the mainstream media's left-wing bias.

MINIMUM WAGE

Extreme Left: Increase the minimum wage to luxury levels. Let the least skilled be able to earn a good living.

Extreme Right: Eliminate the minimum wage(Ex.: Newt Gingrich’s suggestion), and let business pay as dirt cheap as possible.

N

NASA

Extreme Left: End NASA as wasteful or unnecessary. Let us simply conjecture our scientific inquiries’ answers about the solar system.

Extreme Right: Expand NASA to Mars, ‘infinity, and beyond,’ with no cost constraints for any scientific feat they desire.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

Extreme Left: Doves. Appease enemies. The military is evil, as they kill people, so cut their funding anytime you can. Never go to war—just use diplomacy and love your enemies.

Extreme Right: Hawks. Strike whenever you want. Spend as much money as possible for needed military and associated equipment. Bomb enemies and engage in wars soon after conflicts arise.

O

OUTSOURCING

Extreme Left: Protectionism. Increase tariffs and disallow any further business outside the U.S. Outsource executive jobs, by law. No outsourcing. Let companies go broke paying above-market union contracts or let the government own the businesses.

Extreme Right: Let businesses ruin the U.S. economy by doing all their business elsewhere.

P

PROTECTIONISM

Extreme Left: Full protectionism (at least so long as the U.S. economy is bad off). Disallow businesses doing business with other countries, so we can’t have trade imbalances.

Extreme Right: Zero protectionism. Let business do business anywhere, with no rules or restraints. Business can do no wrong, and money determines the morality of every decision.

Q

QUANTITATIVE EASING

Extreme Left: Engage in it when needed (Ex.: the Obama administration).

Extreme Right: Never engage in it, as it is fraudulent and inflationary (and dollar-devaluing).

R

RACE RELATIONS/EQUAL RIGHTS

Extreme Left: Race relations should be so good that we long to spend time with each other and live near each other at every opportunity. This generation of blacks deserve reparations and jobs they are unqualified for, because their race was historically discriminated against.

Extreme Right: The days of the slave and slave-owner/master were the good 'ol days; or, Blacks can be anything they want to be and poor blacks never need any government help against discrimination or making ends meet.

S

SCHOOL CHOICE/VOUCHERS

Extreme Left: There should be no vouchers, as they would end the public school system as we now know it.

Extreme Right: Everyone should be given a generous school voucher by government.

T

TAXES & REGULATIONS (& THE SIZE OF GOVERNMENT)

Extreme Left: Increase taxes, especially on the rich. Let government become 'Big Brother.'

Extreme Right: Decrease taxes to next to nothing, especially on the rich. Have no government (i.e., anarchy), or just the police, courts and the military.

U

UNITED NATIONS (U.N.)

Extreme Left: The United Nations is a good organization that can do no wrong. The U.S. should never engage in any military action without U.N. approval.

Extreme Right: The United Nations is now a bad organization, and should be disbanded. The U.S. should never engage the U.N.'s cooperation at all.

V

VETERAN AFFAIRS

Extreme Left: Decrease money going to injured military personnel (pacifist view), or over-spend (liberal view).

Extreme Right: Increase money going to injured military personnel, or cut expenditures wherever you can. Treat our vets with all the care they need, in honor of the services they have provided us (or treat them well, within a reasonable budget).

W

WORKER'S/UNION RIGHTS

Extreme Left: (See also: Labor Law). Workers are always right. In the federal labor dispute, only executives should give up their excessive salaries.

Extreme Right: (See also: Labor Law). Management is always right. In the federal labor dispute, only union workers should lose in giving up collective bargaining powers.

WORLD'S POLICEMAN (& SOLE SUPERPOWER)

Extreme Left: Outsource America's military power, and let the U.S. cease being the world's sole superpower. America should never be the leader on foreign affairs, and at best they should only be equal partners with the other nations of the world, because that's 'fair.'

Extreme Right: Increase U.S. operations and let us primarily (or alone) pay for them. America should be the global policing leader, and only consult other nations if we're sure they will go along with what we want.

CAUTION

Beware of oppositional voices claiming that offering common sense policies places something it as America's authority, not the Constitution, as the Supreme Court has found some latitude for specifics both parties have advocated for when interpreting its clear guidelines. We merely suggest that negotiated ends be rooted in common experience—not just partisan ideology which has plagued our country the past 20 to 30 years. The revered document itself is rooted in common sense and a solid understanding of human nature, and we support politicians having firm principles behind their policy decisions—not just what they can negotiate on behalf of their party and its (or their own) promotion.

COMMON GROUND FROM COMMON SENSE (of 'We the People')

What Washington needs most is solutions to America's challenges, and the common sense of we the people to discern good from bad alternatives, absent their consistent party biases. Following are fifty such suggestions, to which we (i.e., at least most) can agree and unite:

1. ABORTION

Common sense says if you ban all abortions, some women will take to the unsafe coat hanger in back alleys. Common sense says government should NOT encourage, but should discourage abortions, and seek to minimize their number per year.

2. AFFORDABLE COLLEGE

Common sense says if college costs are too high, they become the exclusive domain of the rich, which hurts our information and technology-based economy (as well as many citizen's earning potential).

3. AMNESTY

Common sense says that if you simply forgive and reward people breaking into our country illegally, you encourage more of the same and are rewarding bad behavior.

4. AT-RISK KIDS

Common sense says that innocent children raised in rough neighborhoods, with few role models, maybe only one parent and few resources will have less of an educational advantage as kids raised in wealthy families (and education is a value we value for all of our citizens).

5. BALANCED BUDGET

Common sense says that if you spend or use credit beyond what is reasonable to be paid back, you have spent too much (which is bad).

6. BRIBES

Common sense says paying bribes to government officials corrupts their objective/independent administration of justice, and this includes undue influence from PACs and lobbyists.

7. BUREAUCRACY

Common sense says that if tax payers are forced to pay for unproductive government workers, they are not rightly getting the correct bang for their hard-earned buck.

8. CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Common sense says that too much money is in our system, which causes perhaps even more qualified candidates who are not millionaires to stand little chance of serving in public office (and allows politicians to be unduly influenced with causes that are well-heeled).

9. CHILD LABOR LAWS

Common sense says that children only get one childhood, and using them for cheap labor (vs. pursuing an education) is wrong (especially at the slave labor rates their lack of real-life skills would command).

10. CLIMATE CHANGE

Common sense says that man's technology exhaust does not pour fresh flower scent into the air, but some pollution is a necessary by-product of the machines we benefit from.

11. CRIME/LAW & ORDER

Common sense says crime (properly defined) sometimes pays (i.e., money) for the criminal, but is detrimental to society and should be minimized to the greatest extent.

12. DEADBEAT PARENTS

Common sense says that spouses who equally contributed to a child being born are first and foremost responsible to pay for them, not we tax payers.

13. EARMARKS & PORK

Common sense says that biased gifts to states primarily helps them or their politicians, and biases, bribes and favoritism are wrong.

14. ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Common sense says if America were 100% energy independent, we would lose our influence in the volatile and often terrorist-ridden Middle East, and eventually our oil supply will run out.

15. EQUAL PAY

Common sense says that a woman is an equal with a male, and her choosing to birth children benefits society and is a long-standing human tradition employers should not punish them for making.

16. ESTATE TAX

Common sense says that government needs to be funded, and breaking precedent of taxing inheritances would only help keep the rich richer at the expense of our government getting poorer by those lost revenues.

17. FLAT TAX

Common sense says that a 10% tax on a lot is not the same patriotic sacrifice as 10% of little-to-nothing.

18. FREE TRADE

Common sense says it makes better business/economic sense to engage as many countries to buy our goods and services, as to limit our potential market through nationalism or protectionism. At the same time, common sense says that any country engaged in such transactions who thinks they are being ripped off by any deals, should choose not to agree to such terms (or be 'exploited').

19. GANGS

Common sense says that gangs may serve a social or familial purpose for some young people, but when they engage crime, illegal drugs or especially violence, they should be stopped.

20. GRIDLOCK

Common sense says that government is not paid to do nothing, nor is it commissioned to produce bad police or legislation.

21. HEALTHCARE

Common sense says that the poor need medical treatment from time to time, and someone has to pay for it. And if they don't have that excess money, they won't be the ones likely to buy health insurance. At the same time, there are no free lunches, so to avoid freebies, compulsory civic service should be required for token repayment to a generous and merciful healthcare bill-paying society.

22. HOMELESSNESS

Common sense says that the homeless should be helped, if they want help, but not for free (with no payback from them once they become financially stable).

23. ILLEGAL DRUGS

Common sense says hard drugs are harmful to the brain, sometimes addictive, and government should do all it can to keep people (especially cartels) from accessing them.

24. IMMIGRATION

Common sense says our country cannot absorb all the people who want to come here, and we should allow in only those our economy needs, or those who fit historic categories of fleeing severe oppression, religious freedom, etc. (but only if they can become financially self-sustaining thereafter).

25. JUDICIAL ACTIVISM

Common sense says that our Constitution makes judges enforcers of laws they did not make; not makers they were not hired to make.

26. LOBBYISTS

Common sense says that lobbyists voices and causes should never exceed the influence of the American public, especially in access to and funding of our elected officials ('politicians').

27. MEDICAL RESEARCH

Common sense says medical research is a benefit to our society, but any government (tax payer) funding of such should only occur if business can't make sufficient profit, the result is needed, and Uncle Sam can reasonably be paid back with the impending profits.

28. MILITARY SPENDING

Common sense says our military should be the world's finest, just as it's the most effective for the money expended.

29. MINIMUM WAGE

Common sense says that if business were free to pay the least-skilled among us whatever business wants to pay, it would be less than our minimum wage, and less than should be paid for an honest day's work.

30. NATIONAL DEBT

Common sense says if we keep letting (primarily) China fund our debt, we will one day become their slaves (apart from a serious conflict or financial default).

31. NATIONAL DEFENSE

Common sense says if you don't defend your own country from attack or infiltration, eventually you will not have a country to care about whatever other policies it holds.

32. NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

Common sense says that no country, group or individual should ever, ultimately, be able to tell us how to run our own business, even the United Nations.

33. OUTSOURCING

Common sense says that big business has about exhausted the benefits to our society in shipping American jobs overseas, for even if we get products for cheaper, we also must deal with the fallout of unemployed Americans who drain our social services.

34. PARTISANISM

Common sense says that every politician from a particular political party likes his party more than the one he or she chose not to participate in. But, at the same time, the American people cannot be forced to pay for unproductive politicians.

35. POVERTY

Common sense says not everyone will be rich, or even middle class, but no one should severely suffer, and especially die or starve from their lack of funds.

36. RACIAL PROFILING

Common sense says the police should never assume any race is more likely than any other to be the particular suspect of a particular crime, absent any evidence that that race has been objectively identified as having been that of the suspected criminal.

37. SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Common sense says private schools should never end our use or need for public schools we have already paid for, and the rich should never have exclusive access to education by being the main parties able to pay for voucher overages in tuition (etc.) costs (plus, most of our public teachers do a great job, and all administrators should do their job efficiently, with no personnel or otherwise waste of tax payer dollars).

38. SOCIAL PROMOTION

Common sense says you do not benefit a child by sending him or her into even harder, more advanced classes when they cannot master their current workload, even if that might harm them somewhat in their social interactions.

39. SOCIAL SECURITY

Common sense says that many older Americans were promised their contributions would partly sustain them in their non-working years, and Uncle Sam cannot let them down. At the same time, any senior who has been blessed enough to not need those funds to sustain them should not take advantage of a financially strapped federal budget (even though it is rightfully their private property).

40. TAX LOOPHOLES

Common sense says any individual or company who devises a way around the intention of our tax laws is using his mental abilities for an evil purpose that hurts us all (tax payers subsidizing him or her, and government benefit recipients accessing less services thereby).

41. TERM LIMITS

Common sense says a person has a right to pursue any legal career, and if politicians serve the public well, why should they be forced not to contribute more service in the future? At the same time, those who don't provide that good public service should resign or be forced out of office by their constituents.

42. TERRORISM

Common sense says is anyone is closed mindedly committed to killing you, and cannot be reasoned with against such decision, you must, as a nation, destroy them.

43. TORTURE

Common sense says that if America treats prisoners of war (or the 'war on terror') in inhumane ways, we forfeit our credible claim to be a wholesome country, even if our enemies never reciprocate, or valuable information could have been extracted. Our information-gathering capabilities may have other options for extracting such secrets, and even if they don't, our Homeland Security and military (including CIA and DOD) can also do their (professional) job to keep us safe.

44. UNITED NATIONS

Common sense says the United Nations, in theory, can serve a useful purpose in the world. History and reality, on the other hands, shows that they are not always successful in that ambition.

45. UNIONS

Common sense says working people uniting for more leverage in wage and workplace environment negotiations is not innately a dumb decision. At the same time, when they demand more than business should agree to, or engage violence to achieve their end, they forfeit their moral standing.

46. VETERANS AFFAIRS

Common sense says we owe all our veterans a debt of gratitude and needed medical support, but at the same time we cannot provide afford to supply luxuries or services our budget cannot (reasonably) sustain.

47. WAR

Common sense says war is bad—it kills and maims, and should be avoided at all costs. History and reality, however, teach us that sometimes its occurrence is unavoidable, and necessary to stop evil and preserve more lives that otherwise might be taken by our enemies. Diplomacy and economic sanctions are always a better first step (unless immediate action is circumstantially required, in rarer instances).

48. WAR STRATEGY

Common sense says if you commit the money and manpower to engage an enemy in war, you should always be in it to win it; not to play nice with people seeking to kill you, and not limiting our military from doing their job of protecting us successfully.

49. WEALTH RE-DISTRIBUTION

Common sense says that if the wealthy (and/or others) voluntarily gave enough to charity to stably ensure no poor person severely suffered, starved or died from lacking resources, government would not have to make tax payers foot that bill.

50. WORLD'S POLICEMAN

Common sense says that there are areas of the world where evil arises and must be quelled. Whether America always needs to be the ones to fund and perform that task can be debated, but undeniably America should usually lead, but not have to pay an undue price for so leading, not in bodies or bucks.



Proper Positions Primer



1. Abortion
2. Gay marriage
3. National security & defense/terrorism/torture
4. Economy/outourcing
5. Education/vouchers
6. Environment/green/oil/pollution/energy independence
7. Poverty/entitlement reform plan
8. Term limits/campaign finance reform
9. National debt/government reform plan
10. Healthcare
11. Immigration
12. Global plan/international affairs/foreign aid
13. Law and order
14. Taxes/size of government/wealth redistribution
15. Gun control
16. Affirmative action
17. Equal pay
18. Big business/workers/minimum wage
19. U.N./national sovereignty/world's policeman
20. Free vs. fair trade

For those who like to think for themselves, NOT be instructed on proper positions and can analyze *truthful* statements and harmonize them into the best policies (on their own), we offer the following. Please note, however, that IF you are slave-bound to biases for your particular political party and unable to be objective, you will NOT be able to understand that all these propositional statements are true, though they come from both sides of the political fence. It may prove helpful to put a 'D' or 'R' by statements most resembling one party or the other's platform, to show yourself that neither party has a monopoly on truth or good ideas.

1. Abortion.

Abort Like a Sport

vs.

Back Alley Coat Hangers

Rationale:

- a) We will not all agree on what should be done, no matter how much time, energy and money we spend trying to convince others to our position. 100% consensus is impossible!
- b) Abortion is not like any other medical procedure, where a body part is excised that was living human being in progress, with the potential to become a full term, living soul outside that body. An embryo is alive, but not yet a self-sustaining living person.
- c) Abortion kills the life of a growing embryo, and anyone who doubts this needs only watch YouTube videos of an abortion in the works.
- d) Legally requiring all women to undergo the discomfort/pain and cost of nine months of pregnancy in order not to abort is a severe price to pay for what could have been a moment's lapse in judgment.
- e) No matter what laws we pass, women who want an abortion will undergo unsafe/coat hanger/back alley abortions if prohibited from having a medically safe one.
- f) It would be unfair for one state to be able to ban all abortions while others do not, in which case some American women would have to undergo the time, effort and money to travel some distances in order to get in another state what she cannot secure in her own state.
- g) The choice to abort is ultimately between the woman, her significant other and family, possibly her minister but definitely her god. Ultimate moral responsibility for such procedure is, unfortunately (in my mind) for her, hers.
- h) Many people see some moral distinction between an at-will abortion (for after-the-fact, poor planning

contraception) and for one who was the victim of rape or incest.

- i) There may be a slight bit less moral culpability deciding to take such life early on, rather than waiting till late in the pregnancy. It should not take many months for women to be able to decide to kill, or not.
- j) No law is ever going to require a woman to bear the child of her rapist. Yes, it's every bit as much a life as an unborn child that is not the product of rape.
- k) Killing innocents is a horrific sin! If they were alive outside their mother, it would be murder. The only silver lining in that the innocent infant will go to heaven.
- l) Nationally outlawing all abortions will never happen, so its opponents must deal with the real and set doable goals, not dreaming up idealistic fantasyland.
- m) As an African-American friend of mine at church said, aborters are going to abort whether it's legal or not (they have been for years), and some 'religious' people become practicing hypocrites when their daughter comes up pregnant, especially if by a braided-hair, pant-sagging black man.
- n) Do every legal thing within your power to prevent others' aborting, but it's ultimately something you (and the innocent unborn child) cannot 100% stop.
- o) Discretely airing an abortion on prime time TV would be an effective means of shaping public opinion, as the truth can no longer be denied, but that will (likely) never be allowed to happen.
- p) Few-to-none support aborters being charged with murder, or police breaking and entering homes if abortion was outlawed.
- q) In many cases doctors cannot determine whether an abortion-seeker was raped or the victim of incest, if she lies about a mere at-will abortion (nor should they be required to make that determination).
- r) Few-to-none believe killing an abortion doctor is moral, though many believe the state doing so to a true murderer would be, because there is some difference between a life inside a womb and one surviving outside it.
- s) Therefore, abortions should be discouraged, but legal and abortion-opposing tax payers should never have to pay for them (as conscientious objectors).

2. Gay Marriage.

Gay is OK

vs.

Hate in Every State

Rationale:

- a) Christians are to love homosexuals—not their behavior—and not hate anyone.
- b) God loves gays more than He hates their sin. Do His people imitate His priorities and morals, or are gays political scapegoats to counter Democrats' religious values of helping the poor?
- c) Christians can struggle with homosexuality, and a silver lining is that all homosexuals can be saved. It is NOT the unpardonable sin.
- d) Gays are going to have long-term relationships, no matter what else happens, politically or legislatively.
- e) The Sodom and Gomorrah days of the Bible were more prevalent and in-your-face than many cases today.
- f) Biblically, homosexuality is a sin, and an abomination to God. At the same time, Leviticus 18 lists *many* abominations—not just homosexuality (espec. vv. 22, 26).
- g) It is not innately 'hatred' to oppose gay marriage. It can stem from hatred of the individual, but need not. Also, hating the deed is separate from hating the deed doer(s).
- h) Gay marriage should be a state's rights (vs. national) issue, as no state should be forced to accept something that is repulsive to the majority of its citizens.
- i) Civil unions seem to be a better policy in gay marriage-rejecting states, though many zealous gays will never accept anything less than a national law supporting gay marriage.

3. National Defense.

Appease Crocodiles

vs.

Bomb First, and Ask Questions Later

Rationale:

- a) War should be a last resort, but never off the table, when needed.

- b) Diplomacy is important, but if or when it breaks down, defending ourselves is *more* important than losing our country. We don't need either/or but prioritized balance.
- c) If you do not defend your country, you will not have a country.
- d) America should always defend itself against any outside (or inside) attack, and should always WIN any military conflict they engage in. At the same time, war is always a last resort, and diplomatic negotiations and economic sanctions should always be fully exhausted first (including allied coalitions and U.N. consultation, where in our national interest).
- e) Military action is needed when enemies are bent on our destruction, and are not open to changing their minds.
- f) War is often needed when intolerable acts are committed by another that negatively affect many (Ex.: genocide), or strategically important assets (determined on a case-by-case basis).
- g) Something being 'not in our national interest' can be uncaring, just as something being 'in our national interest' can be sticking our nose in others' business.
- h) Always remember that war hurts another human being—it ends their life, and is final (i.e., no one returns from it), saddens their friends and family members, depletes their family of economic potential and robs their society of the contributions that person could have made, including taxes.

4. Economy.

Funny Money & Bailouts

vs.

Rebate the Rich & All Others Will Do Peachy Keen as a Result

Rationale:

- a) It is in the interest of us all to have a prosperous America, and anything that would deter that goal is a hindrance to us all.
- b) The more money government takes from citizens, the less rich they are, and the less money they have to invest in businesses and to make both businesses and themselves richer.
- c) Government should do things the people want, but especially things we need that no private business can do for a good enough profit.
- d) Lower taxes can help economic recovery, but only when government has excess of the people's money, rather than borrowing it at interest to give to citizens, hoping their increased taxes will someday be larger than such loans with interest (often from China).
- e) Lower regulations help businesses, but no regulations that cause harm to consumers should be withdrawn.
- f) There is not a lot the government can do to turn around an economy, as it is simply the sum of all business transactions, which are primarily undertaken by private parties.
- g) One of the greatest things government can do to help an economy is to enter into treaties with any and all nations for open trade (and through laws to curb any business abuses that would deter other nations from entering into such agreements).
- h) A government with excess, unhealthy debt is a strain on economic growth, and government must be made to do more with less and cut out all fat, abuse, fraud and waste.
- i) Sometimes government incurs debt well beyond what it should, in which times, ONLY after complete streamlining, those with significant excess are the ones who can most easily absorb any temporary tax increases.
- j) Making money freely available, and at low interest rates, is especially needed in bad economic times, and vice versa in boom times.
- k) Businesses should not be bailed out. Any limited, temporary loans of industries essential to the economy should only be undertaken if payback with interest is conservatively expected.
- l) Government should not determine which businesses succeed or fail, or ever enter into irrational business agreements (like guaranteeing subprime loans) or favoring any business for political gain.
- m) There may be more things government should not do than what it can do. For more on this issue, See: American Economic Plan.

5. Education.

The System is Broken—Long Live the System

vs.

Privatize our Public School System Out of Existence

Rationale:

- a) America needs to re-commit to being the number one economy through world-class education.
- b) Many of our public schools need to be revamped in their quality, efficiency and effectiveness (as compared to private schools).
- c) There should be a minimum but high quality level of education for all students, though the rich may receive an even better education privately.
- d) Vouchers would unfairly favor the rich, who are more able to afford private school costs.
- e) It is unwise to put the public school system out of business (if for no other reason the sunk costs of all school buildings), which could happen if vouchers large enough to cover private tuition were given to all.
- f) Poor-performing students should be identified, given special tutoring (and motivation or home life assessment, if needed), all while maintaining adequate social interaction for no long-term social stigma.
- g) MOST teachers are hard-working, great public servants NOT paid great.
- h) Some can't teach well, and need to find another profession.
- i) Contracts must allow rewarding teachers for performance and end unrestricted tenure.

6. Ecology & Energy Independence.

Re-Create the Garden of Eden at Our Economy's Expense

vs.

Pollute At Will and Let the Next Generation Handle It

Rationale:

- a) The globe does not have unlimited quantities of oil, and oil is not renewable.
- b) At the same time, we have made great strides in making our oil go further.
- c) With China, Russia and other countries' economies coming of age, the demand for oil will ONLY increase, which means the same for gas prices.
- d) In the short-term, drill baby drill could help our economy, but at what cost when? Etc.
- e) It is irresponsible to say let us run out of oil then deal with that problem then.
- f) Serious pollution is a worse problem than less severe cases.
- g) Consumers do NOT manufacture our own vehicles, and few of us engage in joy riding. SERIOUS instances of pollution cannot significantly be changed by we the people as individuals.
- h) Until alternative power sources, like electricity, are on an economic par with oil, many consumers will not choose it.
- i) There is not sufficient infrastructure to completely cease running our vehicles on oil.
- j) Directional drilling and fracking had aided our getting more oil out of already tapped wells.
- k) We will always need oil, even if we cease using it to power our vehicles (Ex.: plastics, etc.).
- l) Oil subsidies artificially inflate the cost of alternative fuels to the user.
- m) Oil companies do not financially need government subsidies.
- n) At the same time, American consumers are accustomed/used to certain price levels, and shocking their budgets with significantly higher rates by dropping subsidies would hurt many and might cause chaos.
- o) Oil companies should consider significantly giving back to the society that provides them unneeded subsidies.

7. Poverty & Entitlements.

Over-Help the Poor Through Gimmies

vs.

Under-Help the Poor Through Only Private Charities

Rationale:

- a) No American citizen should severely struggle, and none should ever die of preventable disease or starvation.
- b) All fraud, waste and abuse of all government entitlement programs should be rooted out post haste (that is, immediately), and thoroughly. You would not steal from your neighbor; don't do it through the collective entity of neighbors we call government!
- c) No government handout should ever be permanent, except for those with permanent debilitating physical or mental conditions.
- d) No government handouts should ever be given to any outside those two conditions without some expectation of token repayment in the form of compulsory civic service. There are no free lunches, and engendering dependence is not a valued virtue.
- e) All government programs to help the poor should truly help them achieve a better life than they would have without such help, or the poor should not accept any change to such programs.
- f) If business continues to layoff and outsource and go robotic, it is expected that people living off the government dole will increase.
- g) The more freebies and handouts our government offers people without having to work for them, the more people will illegally cross our border to try to get in on the party (and the country will eventually go bankrupt—something that hurts us ALL).
- h) No politician should ever be allowed to spend all tax payer's money to favor or virtually buy votes from citizens, especially those who pay little to nothing into that system. That is an abuse that should be illegal.
- i) At the same time, any who argue government should never help the poor with tax payer money should simply be ignored.

8. Campaign Finance (& Ethics Reform).

Let the Bums Stay as Long and as Subsidized as They Choose—
So Long as They're in MY Party

Rationale:

- a) Too much money is wasted electing politicians whose results could never justify such amounts.
- b) There are cheaper ways to get one's name out there to convince them to vote for you.
- c) Both parties are equally guilty in over-spending money that could be used for much greater things.
- d) Media outlets (and lobbyists' clients' businesses or causes) are the primary beneficiaries of this over-spending.
- e) Campaign ads should be required to be free of fraud, deception, lies and distortion, like truth in advertising laws. If the people do not know the truth of what they are being offered, they cannot make proper, informed decisions.
- f) Politics should not be a job you can get filthy rich performing, but public service.
- g) Many activities are for all intents and purposes legal bribes of politicians and candidates, and should be banned.
- h) Politicians should be held to at least the same moral standard as those who vote them in to be our supposed "leaders."
- i) Many "tricks" politicians use to manipulate the populous should be banned and outlawed. A potential listing of some of these can be found on our website, AmericanAnswers.org under Political Tricks.
- j) If every other dollar raised for campaigns went toward credible charities, perhaps the exorbitant totals would at least serve a more worthy purpose.

9. National Debt.

Bankrupt the Country—Rich Republicans Can Foot the Bill

vs.

Only Have Government Fund Cops and the Military

Rationale:

- a) A government with excess, unhealthy debt is a strain on economic growth, and government must be made to do more with less and cut out all fat, abuse, fraud and waste.

- b) Sometimes government incurs debt well beyond what it should, in which times, ONLY after complete streamlining, those with significant excess are the ones who can most easily absorb any temporary tax increases.
- c) Economists should determine what percent of the budget is a healthy number for an American credit limit (perhaps 30%) over which politicians are not allowed to abusively spend our money, and risk American credit or taking more than is needed, especially from rich citizens.

10. Healthcare.

Give the Poor a Healthcare Gold Quality Policy, for FREE

vs.

If the Poor Get Sick, Pray for Them and Give Them a Band-Aid

Rationale:

- a) Our healthcare system may be the best in the world, but it's high time we had three tiers of quality, to make it more affordable for those who don't need (or want) the very best.
- b) We need a two to three tiered healthcare system, where the poor get a minimum of care, and everyone else is allowed to buy as wonderful of care and coverage as their own finances (and desires) allow.
- c) Everyone should, at a minimum, have catastrophic health insurance.
- d) The average American income is around \$56,000 a year, and NO ONE should be denied health care because they can't earn enough! If you can financially make it to the end, quit complaining.
- e) We should 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).
- f) As was said above, any government help of the poor to pay for such care and coverage should never be without compulsory civic service as token payback, for there are no free lunches, and we are not to engender entitlement or dependence mentalities. In short, other American people do not owe you anything, and if they give you things you do not deserve, you should be grateful and show thankfulness.

11. Immigration.

Let All the World Live Here If They So Desire, for We're for Uniting Families

vs.

Let No One in Here Unless They Have Secured a Great-Paying, Tax-Contributing Job

Rationale:

- a) America was founded by immigrants, and has a rich history of accepting legal immigrants.
- b) America has historically been a beacon and safe refuge for the poor, oppressed and religiously persecuted.
- c) America is a melting pot, and we accept all cultures.
- d) No race or cultural ethnic group is superior to any other.
- e) America (as does every nation) has a right to determine who we let in.
- f) No one has a God-given right to come live in our country simply because they want to.
- g) Our economy does not need extra strain for jobs, when they are not abundant.
- h) Our social services have only so large of budgets, and we must tend to our own first, before aiding other countries, whose governments and businesses are more responsible for their welfare.
- i) It is not wise public policy to reward bad behavior.
- j) No one should become an American citizen before those who came here respecting our laws.
- k) You cannot stop illegal immigration with a porous border.
- l) Many illegal immigrants serve our country well, provide needed work, and most do not become criminals.
- m) We are a people who value families, and a gathered family is usually better than a splintered one.
- n) Reuniting ones family which was split by illegally breaking into our country is not a family mending need Americans should feel any burden to fix.

12. International Aid.

The U.S. Should Fund and Subsidize All Poorer Countries

vs.

Every Man for Himself, Especially America

Rationale:

- a) America should neither over-or under-help struggling nations, and always in conjunction with all other economically able countries. We may lead, but should never be the only ones helping. Determining what is over- or under- is where the rubber hits the road.
- b) America owes no other country any money, or subsidies, or aid of any sort. We do so freely and generously, because that is what we are.
- c) Any entitlement mentality by others is an offense, and any abuse of our donated aid should be curbed, or funds withheld.
- d) At the same time, foreign aid can help struggling countries economically survive, in which case our national interests in trade with such countries is enhanced by getting them on their feet as much as is possible.
- e) Tax dollars should ensure Americans are safe and doing OK before anyone else is benefitted from it, especially more so that the least among American citizens.
- f) Foreign aid has traditionally been used to influence policy world-wide, and when that influence benefits and is in the national interest of America, we should consider such aid. Supporting evil regimes, except when not doing so would bring about worse regimes, is never good foreign policy.

13. Law & Order.

Criminal Rights, For the Criminal is Right

vs.

Hang 'Em High, Harry

Rationale:

- a) The U.S. Constitution provides each criminal certain rights, including equal protection, due process, a presumption of innocence and a right to a fair trial and having one's day in court (among other things).
- b) America is a country run by laws, and our laws ought to be enforced and not spurned. Criminals are humans, too.
- c) Not all criminals' actions are on morally the same par as others.
- d) If you don't effectively deter future occurrences, they are apt to be repeated.

14. Taxes & Size of Government.

Tax to the Max Big Government

vs.

Tax Thin to the Min (-imum) Small Government

Rationale:

- a) Taxes are levied to fund the government.
- b) Government is to do for us that which we cannot do for ourselves, or at a profit margin sufficient to sustain a business.
- c) Too large of government cannot be financially sustained.
- d) Too small a government, and some services it provides, which the majority believe to be credible, must be cut off.
- e) There are always other (luxury) things government could do, but its purpose is not to put the rich out of business, force them into the middle class, or punish success to make sure everyone has a great life of assets and finances.

15. Gun Control.

No One Should Own a Gun Except the Police and Military

vs.

Everyone Should Own a Gun, Including a Private Militia Cache of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Rationale:

- a) Our country suffers from an inordinate amount of violence.
- b) Every life is precious and to be valued, and the loss of one is a bad thing—it does not take the loss of hundreds for us to have a social problem.
- c) Children, above all, should be protected from harm by society’s adults.
- d) The U.S. Constitution allows every citizen the right to bear arms—that is, to own and use weapons.
- e) It would, legally, take amending or renouncing the Second Amendment to outlaw private use of guns.
- f) All gun owners should use guns responsibly.
- g) Guns kill, but only if gun users use guns.
- h) Self-defense is morally superior to initiated gun violence.
- i) Not all gang members are violent. Not all criminals use guns.
- j) Violent gang members and criminals are more of a danger to society than mere animal hunters.
- k) The Constitution’s legislative history foresaw the need for citizens to be able to defend against an oppressive government, in the form of militias. In short, militias are NOT unconstitutional.

16. Affirmative Action.

Make Businesses Hire Unqualified Persons if They’re African-American(s)
vs.

Let White Dominance of Great-Paying Jobs Continue in the Name of ‘Economic Freedom’

Rationale:

- a) There are still pockets of racism, even if more latent or subtle now days.
- b) Some people prefer to hang with their own kind.
- c) African-Americans have historically been put behind the eight ball in starting the economic rat race well behind others, and that gap is not made up overnight or with the stroke of a Presidential pen.
- d) One’s race has zero impact on the quality of work they are able to perform.
- e) Government’s arbitrary setting of and enforcing percentages of any given race being employed would not be a good thing.
- f) A less-qualified person should never receive a job over a more qualified person.
- g) Companies have, and some still do historically discriminated, and it should be illegal for any of them to lie and be able to continue to do so just because it’s hard to prove.
- h) Allowing any good ‘ol boy preference decisions to continue is an immoral condoning.
- i) Companies should voluntarily (and with the public’s pressure) choose only the best-qualified candidates for their limited positions.

17. Equal Pay.

Pay Every Woman the Same as a Man, No Matter Her Skills or Productivity
vs.

Pay Men More Because Women Have Babies and It’s Always Been Done This Way in America

Rationale:

- a) No gender is innately morally (or productivity-wise) superior to the other.
- b) Fundamental fairness suggests it is evil to treat one equally-qualified sex as superior to the other.
- c) Less-qualified people should be paid less than more qualified people, no matter their respective gender.
- d) Women ought not be punished for letting nature run its course regarding child-bearing.
- e) Tradition and historic precedence are no moral basis upon which to say something ought to continue, if not moral from the beginning (like male dominance of females).
- f) Government should set limited boundaries on business’ freedom, whenever business chooses morally unacceptable ways to achieve its means.

18. Unions & Management.

Workers Rule, and Over-Paid Unions are Good for America
vs.

Executives Rule and We Can Always Find Workers Elsewhere

Rationale:

- a) States should not be forced to become union or at-will states, but all businesses should rightly care for their employees under either governing state system.
- b) Employees will be loyal when companies are loyal to employees, and employers will be loyal when employees are loyal to companies. This does not mean no layoffs or no job hopping, but we all do better when the tension between management and labor is kept to a minimum and all work for the good of the business (and society).
- c) Violent strikes, organized efforts to harm business and its profits, asking for unsustainable wages and subverting one's employer are behaviors no Americans should engage in.
- d) At the same time, having no loyalty to employees, caring nothing of their (and their family's) welfare, working them like slaves threatening job loss to get your way and generally disobeying the golden rule for the rule that gold rules is neither a way any American (executive) should act.

19. National Sovereignty.

The United Nations is All Good

vs.

The United Nations is All Bad

Rationale:

- a) Every country should be free to make decisions in their own best interest.
- b) At the same time, if any leaderships are corrupt, and have lost the ability to understand how their decisions negatively affect other countries, the global body of nations has a responsibility to keep them in line for all of our safety.
- c) The U.N. was founded on noble ideals, could be reformed to be used as a positive influence in the world, but if changes are not wrought, the United States should consider cutting back funding or supporting a new and better organization.

20. Free vs. Fair Trade.

We are For Fair Trade, So American Businesses Need to Be Made to Engage in
Less Profitable International Business Transactions

vs.

U.S. Businesses Should Be Free to Dominate and Manipulate Other Nations
with Their Freely-Gained Economic Leverage

Rationale:

- a) We want American companies to be number one.
- b) We want American companies to remain in America (vs. all leave).
- c) We want the best and best competing companies to be best compensated.
- d) We don't want companies achieving those ends immorally, unfairly or by 'cheating' or abusing their employees.
- e) We want good international relations vs. building up (potentially deadly) enemies from anger over our choices.
- f) We want to compete globally vs. being shut out of any potential markets.
- g) We don't like or want the 'ugly American' colonization reputation of our selfishly dominating others.
- h) We know that some countries are at a historic disadvantage in trying to compete with established countries' economies.

Conclusion: ALL these propositions are true, so we must learn how to harmonize them without rejecting anything of value that is true.

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