



### **1. Why do you want to be President?**

My concerns for the future of this country are deeply held. The Republican Party has not fulfilled its promise to shrink the size of government and restore our Constitutional Republic. Instead, deficits have exploded, entitlements are out of control, and our personal liberties are threatened. We have strayed from the free society the Founders secured for us in our Constitution. The other candidates only wish to address symptoms of the overall problem. I believe that the solution to our societal woes can be found in allowing people to be as free and prosperous as possible. In other words, we need a president who will hold the federal government to abiding by the rule of law - the Constitution.

### **2. What is your mission statement for America and the three most important goals you intend to achieve as President?**

My mission statement is that I want America to become the freest nation on earth.

My first goal as president would be to strengthen our national security. This means changing our foreign policy of nation-building and withdrawing from the entangling alliances the founders warned us against, securing our borders with Mexico and Canada, and focusing our efforts on capturing Osama bin Laden and his fellow 9/11 co-conspirators. My administration would follow the guidance of the founders to enjoy free trade, travel, and interaction with all nations.

My second goal as president is to address the abuses of civil liberties that Americans have been subjected to for decades. I will urge Congress to repeal legislation that gives the federal government power to intrude into our private lives and monitor our actions.

My third goal as president would be to return the United States to a sound monetary policy. The dollar is currently plummeting in competition against other currencies internationally, and we must turn back the policies that have put our economy in danger. I believe that the federal government should only produce currency that is authorized by the Constitution, which means that we should only produce gold and silver-backed currency. Our current policy of printing money with no other backing than the promise of the government to pay has devalued the dollar, fueled the boom-and-bust cycles, and caused Americans to pay an "inflation tax." We need to cut spending domestically and internationally, balance the budget, and pay down the debt. I will inform Congress that I will veto any unbalanced budget.

### **3. Describe your education and preparation to serve as President.**

#### **A) Who and what have informed your intellectual preparation to be President?**

I have long been a follower of the Austrian school of economics, and have done a tremendous amount of studying in the areas of monetary policy and foreign policy. I have been influenced by people such as Ludwig Von Mises, Murray Rothbard, and Milton Friedman.



**B) What has practically prepared and informed you to be President?**

In addition to my studies on economics and foreign policy, I am currently serving my tenth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. During this time, I have served on the House Committee on Financial Services, of which I am currently the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology. I also serve on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Joint Economic Committee.

**4. Please describe your philosophy of what it means to be a conservative President: What is conservative governance in your view and how would your philosophy manifest itself in your principles, policies, plans, and priorities as President?**

Conservative governance in my view is allowing people to be as free as possible. It means abiding by the limits that the federal government has set for itself in the Constitution. A conservative presidency will abide by the limits of the Constitution and veto any legislation that oversteps the bounds of the federal government. A conservative president will fight for a balanced budget, sound money, and a foreign policy that protects our borders instead of those of other nations

**5. What are the most important governing principles that you would rely upon as the framework for your presidency?**

My presidency would be guided by Article II of the Constitution, which sets the powers and limitations of the president.

**A) Describe how those principles would guide your decision-making process in conducting the affairs of the nation as President.**

The president must lead by example. The American people cannot expect their Congress or local and state governments to govern properly if the president is overstepping his bounds. As a congressman, I have sought to only vote for legislation expressly authorized by the Constitution. This approach would also guide my presidency. The president must uphold our Republican system, which means that he must lead the federal government in respecting the Tenth Amendment, leaving all powers not given to the federal government in the hands of the individual states.

**B) Relate each of your governing principles to the U.S. Constitution and the vision of the Founding Fathers.**

The Constitution and the vision of the founders have always guided my actions, and will continue to do so as president.

**6. Discuss your philosophy of and vision for the federal government in the 21st Century—its structure, personnel, operations and functions.**

The federal government must return to its constitutional limitations. It must not exercise any powers not authorized by the Constitution, and it should protect the liberties of all Americans. Americans should be able to trust that the federal government will be efficient and responsible. As president, I will lead the charge to give the American people a federal government they can be proud of.

**7. Describe your view of the meaning of American sovereignty. How would your administration approach issues related to preserving and protecting American sovereignty in the 21st century? Please provide specific examples related to such things as the World Trade Organization, the United Nations, UNESCO, international treaties, etc.**

American sovereignty means protecting our borders and our national interest from all threats. My administration would seek to secure our borders with Mexico and Canada, and remove the United States from the entangling alliances which it has entered against the advice of the founders. I have introduced legislation to remove the United States from the United Nations every year since returning to Congress in 1997, and I will continue to push for ending our relationship with the UN as president. I have also urged the ending of our membership in the WTO. Such supra-national organizations impose their will on us without any respect to our laws or traditions. The United States must be free to act in its own best interest, not in the interests of a board of bureaucrats that are not responsible to the American people.

I also favor ending our interventionist foreign policy. By encouraging true free trade and commerce with and travel to all nations, we can greatly protect our national sovereignty.

**8. Describe the principles on which your Administration would conduct foreign affairs and diplomacy, relating specifically to your philosophy of the National Security Council, the State Department, as well as military affairs and the Pentagon.**

I wish to follow the advice of Thomas Jefferson, which was to pursue “Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations- entangling alliances with none.” As mentioned above, I favor ending our policies of intervention and nation-building overseas, and returning to a constitutional foreign policy. All wars must be declared by Congress. We can have a strong national defense if we secure our borders and bring our troops home. Currently, we have our military spread all over the world guarding other countries.

I would seek to talk to all nations, even those that disagree with our policies. Diplomacy has been virtually forgotten. I favor ending all foreign aid, which is not only unconstitutional, but too often furthers dictatorial regimes that oppress their people. The American people have a history of generosity, and I favor allowing them to keep more of their money and send it to whatever nation they choose.

**9. What principles would your administration adhere to in the realm of energy, the environment and America's economic future? How would your administration relate those principles to the philosophy and issues described in your responses to questions #7 and #8 above?**

For decades, D.C. has shaped its actions—both foreign and domestic—around the assumption of a constant, pressing need for oil. The federal government has kept prices at the pump artificially low by saddling taxpayers with the costs of corporate subsidies and oil-driven foreign entanglements. Many in the DC establishment think our only choice is between increased federal spending on alternative energy and new regulations controlling our lives or continuing to subsidize large energy companies and allowing our need for oil to dictate large parts of our foreign policy. However, excluding freedom leaves no room for real innovation, new ideas, or competitive approaches.

Once we end federal energy subsidies and stop invading countries to secure our oil supply, the price of fossil fuels will begin to reflect the reality of a limited resource that is mainly obtained from the unstable Middle East. Erase the federally-mandated advantage, and the market in alternatives will flourish.

The strict enforcement of property rights corrects environmental wrongs while upping the costs of polluting. I strongly believe in the concept of “the polluter pays,” meaning that if your land, water, or air is being polluted, the proper response is to sue the polluter; the damages awarded cost the company money and end up reflected in increased production and sale prices. The current system of preemptive regulations and pay-to-pollute schemes does nothing but favor those nimble and wealthy enough to perform the regulatory tap dance. Only a free market, with real penalties for causing harm, can bring about change.

After the federal government decided long ago that it knew how to manage our health care better than us and replaced personal responsibility and accountability with a system that puts corporate interests first, our free market health care system that was once the envy of the world became a federally-managed disaster. Health care should not be left up to HMOs, big drug companies, and government bureaucrats.

I support:

- Making all medical expenses tax deductible.
- Eliminating federal regulations that discourage small businesses from providing coverage.
- Giving doctors the freedom to collectively negotiate with insurance companies and drive down the cost of medical care.
- Making every American eligible for a Health Savings Account (HSA), and removing the requirement that individuals must obtain a high-deductible insurance policy before opening an HSA.
- Reform licensure requirements so that pharmacists and nurses can perform some basic functions to increase access to care and lower costs.

*The American Conservative Union provides these responses for public information only.  
ACU neither endorses these candidates nor their responses.*



By removing federal regulations, encouraging competition, and presenting real choices, we can make our health care system the envy of the world once again.

**10. Describe your general strategy for accomplishing your objectives and goals for governing America.**

[Did not respond]