

The Political Spectrum

Please write the letters 'C', 'M' and 'L' on your whiteboard, standing for Conservative, Moderate and Liberal. Circle the letter that corresponds with the opinion shown in the following slides.

“I have also stood against dangerous attempts to curtail a woman's right to choose. Republicans have offered up a number of odious new restrictions, like a ban on abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, or a bill to make sure employers are permitted to fire women for having abortions. I understand the devastating impact that these ill-advised policies have on women. I will continue to oppose radical attempts to restrict access to invaluable contraception, infringe upon personal health decisions, and roll back rights that women won long ago.”

- US House Representative [Eliot Engle](#) (D)

“We will never know the potential of the lives robbed by Planned Parenthood's vicious practices. What we do know is that your taxpayer dollars should not be going to fund them.”

- US House Representative [Joe Wilson, Sr.](#) (R)

“I support a diverse approach to energy policy that takes advantage of the innovation and ingenuity of American businesses to create new, reliable and cost-effective energy sources. Our state is already a leader in the clean energy sector. A study by Clean Energy Trust found there are nearly 100,000 clean energy jobs across Illinois, including jobs in solar, biofuels, efficient heating and cooling, LED lighting, smart meters, advanced batteries and many other technologies. Illinois has also become the heart of wind industry in North America, with 14 wind energy companies' headquarters or regional offices located throughout the greater Chicagoland area.”

- US House Representative Tammy Duckworth
(D)

“As a career prosecutor, Kathleen has seen firsthand the devastating effects of gun violence in America. Parents robbed of their children. Young men and women robbed of their futures. Communities terrorized. Families forced to live in constant fear for their safety.

Too much time has passed, too many lives have been lost, too many mass shootings have come and gone while Congress repeatedly fails to take action. Kathleen is committed to passing common-sense legislative solutions that will prevent gun violence and save lives without infringing on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans.”

- US House Representative
Kathleen Rice (D)

“Our nation's founders enshrined the right to bear firearms in the Constitution, which means the government has no right to enact arbitrary restrictions. Undermining the 2nd Amendment by crafting gun control laws aimed to reduce violence rarely results in safer communities. Instead, it is responsible gun owners who pay the price as criminals rarely comply with the laws enacted to keep firearms out of their hands. There is no law Congress can pass to stop gun violence, however we must examine better policing strategies and mental health services in order to provide a more direct path to solving the problem of gun violence.”

- US House Representative
Steve Knight (R)

“Radical Islamists and home-grown terrorists aim to destroy the American way of life and core values we hold dear -- like faith, family, and freedom. These terrorists feed on fear. We must not stand down and we cannot send mixed messages with our efforts. We must use every tool and weapon in our arsenal with the goal to win. We cannot live in fear in our own homes, schools, and churches. That is why I am committed to keeping this country safe and doing all we can to ensure America will always be the land of the free because of the brave.”

- US House Representative Sam Johnson (R)

“I am a strong supporter of our traditional conservative values. I believe that government should be protecting our right to religious freedom, not assaulting it. The people of South Carolina have voted overwhelmingly to protect the traditional definition of marriage, and I stand with their decision.”

- US Senator Tim Scott (R)

“The recent Supreme Court decision overturning same-sex marriage bans at the state level was a major victory in the fight for marriage equality, but that fight is not over. One of Kathleen's priorities in Congress is to fully repeal the Defense of Marriage Act in order to guarantee federal recognition, protections and benefits under the law for every legally-married same-sex couple in America.”

US House Representative
Kathleen Rice (D)

“Marijuana policy at the state level has shifted abruptly in recent years as states have moved to legalize the drug for both medicinal and recreation use. Unfortunately, federal marijuana policy remains rooted in the past, as all types of marijuana continue to remain illegal under federal law. It is time for Congress to face the facts surrounding marijuana, its use and regulation, and develop a legislative framework that accounts for the inevitable transition of marijuana policy -- one that is already well under way. Federal marijuana policy use should be modernized to reduce confusion, uncertainty, and conflicting government priorities. Maintaining the status quo creates an inconsistent legal environment that wastes law enforcement resources and misses out on potential tax revenues.”

- US House Representative Earl Blumenauer (D)

“Our current immigration system is broken and in need of reform. I have two key principles on immigration. Number 1: Any discussion on immigration reform must start with border security. Until our borders are actually secure, I am not interested in talking about other reforms. Number 2: I remain firmly opposed to amnesty and would not support any immigration proposal that gives amnesty to those here illegally.”

- US House Representative Bradley Byrne (R)

“Passing comprehensive immigration reform should have been accomplished years ago, but remains stalled with the Republican majority in Congress. In addition to blocking progress on the DREAM Act, Republicans have introduced a string of anti-immigrant bills. As a four-time sponsor of the DREAM Act, I believe exemplary young people willing to work hard deserve a chance to succeed in college.”

- US House Representative Lloyd Doggett (D)

“I stand firm in my belief that we must not allow Social Security and Medicare to be privatized or compromised. Our current economic challenges must not be used as an excuse to dismantle these critical programs, which allow our seniors to live their lives with dignity. The Social Security trust fund is solvent and we must keep our promise to seniors by ensuring that it remains that way. There are sensible reforms that can be made to strengthen and stabilize these programs while protecting and preserving Medicare and Social Security for current and future recipients. For example, eliminating Medicare fraud and permitting Medicare to negotiate drug prices are two ways to save money without taking benefits away from seniors. Further, raising the payroll tax cap on wages is an alternative that protects beneficiaries while bolstering the trust fund.”

- US House Representative [Suzanne Bonamici](#) (D)

“America's education system is important for promoting our economic security and ensuring our democracy. I support improving education by increasing state flexibility in administering federal standards, strengthening the role of parents, promoting accountability and providing sufficient resources to schools and teachers. I believe preparing young people with the skills and knowledge to compete in a global economy requires an increased focus on science, technology, engineering and math. I am committed to ensuring our children have access to quality education and the opportunity to succeed in the 21st Century.”

- US House Representative Rob Wittman (R)