



# Project Vote Smart's Political Courage Test

2012 Presidential Edition

Candidates are strongly encouraged to complete the Political Courage Test online at: <https://secure.votesmart.org/candidate>

Please indicate your positions on the following issues. You will be recognized for your Political Courage, which will be calculated based on the number of issues you are willing to address. If you would like to provide a more detailed response, please do so in the "Other or expanded principles" section (all responses must be under 100 words).

Should you choose not to respond, Project Vote Smart may research your public record to determine your likely positions on these issues.

The Political Courage Test must be signed and returned to our office by 11:59 pm MDT the day of the deadline.  
One Common Ground Philipsburg, MT 59858 - Fax: 1-406-859-8680 - [politicalcourage@votesmart.org](mailto:politicalcourage@votesmart.org)

## Abortion:

Do you generally support pro-choice or pro-life legislation?

Pro-choice \_\_\_\_\_ Pro-life \_\_\_\_\_

Other or expanded principles: \_\_\_\_\_

## Budget, Spending, and Taxes:

**Budget:** Indicate which proposals you support (if any) for balancing the federal budget.

In order to balance the budget,...

do you support reducing defense spending? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

do you support an income tax increase on any tax bracket? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

do you support reducing Medicaid spending? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

do you support reducing Medicare spending? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Is balancing the budget an administrative priority? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Other or expanded principles: \_\_\_\_\_

**Spending:** Using the key, indicate what federal spending levels (#1-6) you support for the following general categories.

**Select one level per category; you may use a number more than once.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) Agriculture
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) Arts
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) Defense
- \_\_\_\_\_ d) Education
- \_\_\_\_\_ e) Environment
- \_\_\_\_\_ f) Homeland Security

- \_\_\_\_\_ g) International aid
- \_\_\_\_\_ h) Medical research
- \_\_\_\_\_ i) Scientific research
- \_\_\_\_\_ j) Space exploration
- \_\_\_\_\_ k) United Nations
- \_\_\_\_\_ l) Welfare
- \_\_\_\_\_ m) Other or expanded categories: \_\_\_\_\_

KEY	
1	= Greatly Increase
2	= Slightly Increase
3	= Maintain Status
4	= Slightly Decrease
5	= Greatly Decrease
6	= Eliminate

**Taxes:** Using the key, indicate what federal tax levels (#1-6) you support for the following general categories.

**Select one level per category; you may use a number more than once.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) Capital gains taxes
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) Corporate taxes
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) Excise taxes (alcohol)
- \_\_\_\_\_ d) Excise taxes (cigarettes)
- \_\_\_\_\_ e) Excise taxes (transportation fuel)

- \_\_\_\_\_ f) Income taxes (low-income families)
- \_\_\_\_\_ g) Income taxes (middle-income families)
- \_\_\_\_\_ h) Income taxes (high-income families)
- \_\_\_\_\_ i) Inheritance taxes
- \_\_\_\_\_ j) Payroll taxes
- \_\_\_\_\_ k) Other or expanded categories: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Campaign Finance:**

Do you support the regulation of indirect campaign contributions from corporations and unions? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Other or expanded principles: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Capital Punishment:**

Do you support capital punishment for certain crimes? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Other or expanded principles: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Economy:**

Do you support federal spending as a means of promoting economic growth? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Do you support providing tax incentives to businesses for the purpose of job creation? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Do you support spending on infrastructure projects for the purpose of job creation? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Do you support the 2010 temporary extension of unemployment benefits? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Do you support the 2010 temporary extension of tax relief? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Other or expanded principles: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Education:**

Do you support requiring states to implement education reforms in order to be eligible for competitive federal grants? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Other or expanded principles: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Environment and Energy:**

Do you believe that human activity is contributing to climate change? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Do you support the federal regulation of greenhouse gas emissions? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Do you support reducing restrictions on offshore energy production? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Other or expanded principles: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Foreign Policy:**

Do you support United States' combat operations in Afghanistan? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Do you support a timetable for withdrawal from Afghanistan? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Do you support targeting suspected terrorists outside of official theaters of conflict? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Other or expanded principles: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Guns:**

Do you support restrictions on the purchase and possession of guns? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Other or expanded principles: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Health Care :**

Do you support repealing the 2010 Affordable Care Act? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
Should individuals be required to purchase health insurance, as mandated in the  
2010 Affordable Care Act? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
Other or expanded principles: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Immigration:**

Do you support requiring illegal immigrants to return to their country of origin before they  
are eligible for citizenship? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
Do you support allowing illegal immigrants, who were brought to the United States as minors,  
to pursue citizenship without returning to their country of origin? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
Do you support the enforcement of federal immigration law by state and local police? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
Other or expanded principles: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Same-Sex Marriage:**

Do you support same-sex marriage? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
Other or expanded principles: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Social Security:**

Do you support allowing individuals to divert a portion of their Social Security taxes  
into personal retirement accounts? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
Other or expanded principles: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Administrative Priorities:** *On an attached page or via e-mail, please explain in a total of 100 words or less, your top two or three priorities if elected. If they require additional funding for implementation, please explain how you would obtain this funding.*

**CANDIDATE MUST SIGN TEST TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DATABASE**

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_