



PROJECT VOTE SMART

The Political Courage Test

2015 Louisiana 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).

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

I, _____, am willing to tell citizens where I stand on the issues I may face if elected. I have demonstrated my Political Courage by indicating my position on the following issues.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

District: _____ **State:** _____

Abortion & Reproductive Issues:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| a) Do you generally support pro-choice or pro-life legislation? | Pro-Choice ___ Pro-Life ___ |
| b) Should abortions be illegal after the first trimester of pregnancy? | Yes ___ No ___ |
| c) Should abortion be legal when the pregnancy resulted from incest or rape? | Yes ___ No ___ |
| d) Should abortion be legal when the life of the woman is endangered? | Yes ___ No ___ |
| e) Do you support requiring parental notification before an abortion is performed on a minor? | Yes ___ No ___ |
| f) Do you support requiring parental consent before an abortion is performed on a minor? | Yes ___ No ___ |
| g) Do you support the prohibition of public funds for abortion procedures? | Yes ___ No ___ |
| h) Do you support the prohibition of public funds for organizations that perform abortions? | Yes ___ No ___ |
| i) Other or expanded principles: _____ | |

Budget, Spending, & Tax Issues:

- 1) Budget Stabilization: Indicate which of the proposals you support (if any) for balancing Louisiana's budget.
- | | |
|---|----------------|
| a) Tapping into Louisiana's "rainy day" fund | Yes ___ No ___ |
| b) Decreasing funding for public universities | Yes ___ No ___ |
| c) Reducing state employee salaries AND/OR pensions | Yes ___ No ___ |
| d) Instituting mandatory furloughs AND/OR layoffs for state employees | Yes ___ No ___ |
| e) Reducing benefits for Medicaid recipients | Yes ___ No ___ |
| f) Other or expanded principles: _____ | |

2015 LOUISIANA STATE-LEVEL POLITICAL COURAGE TEST

2) State Spending: Using the key, indicate what state funding levels (#1-6) you support for the following general categories. **Select one level per category; you may use a number more than once.**

<p>KEY</p> <p>1 = <i>Greatly Increase</i></p> <p>2 = <i>Slightly Increase</i></p> <p>3 = <i>Maintain Status</i></p> <p>4 = <i>Slightly Decrease</i></p> <p>5 = <i>Greatly Decrease</i></p> <p>6 = <i>Eliminate</i></p>

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| _____ a) Education (higher) | _____ e) Law enforcement/corrections |
| _____ b) Education (K-12) | _____ f) Transportation/infrastructure |
| _____ c) Environment | _____ g) Welfare |
| _____ d) Health care | _____ h) Other or expanded categories: |

3) State Taxes: Using the key, indicate what state tax levels (#1-6) you support for the following general categories. **Select one level per category; you may use a number more than once.**

<p>KEY</p> <p>1 = <i>Greatly Increase</i></p> <p>2 = <i>Slightly Increase</i></p> <p>3 = <i>Maintain Status</i></p> <p>4 = <i>Slightly Decrease</i></p> <p>5 = <i>Greatly Decrease</i></p> <p>6 = <i>Eliminate</i></p>

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| _____ a) Alcohol taxes | _____ g) Sales taxes |
| _____ b) Cigarette taxes | _____ h) Income taxes (low-income families) |
| _____ c) Corporate taxes | _____ i) Income taxes (mid-income families) |
| _____ d) Small business taxes | _____ j) Income taxes (high-income families) |
| _____ e) Gas/Oil taxes | _____ k) Other or expanded categories: |
| _____ f) Property taxes | |

Campaign Finance & Government Reform Issues:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| a) Do you support limits on the following types of contributions for state candidates? | |
| 1) Individual | Yes___ No___ |
| 2) Political Action Committee | Yes___ No___ |
| 3) Corporate | Yes___ No___ |
| 4) Political Party | Yes___ No___ |
| b) Should candidates for state office be encouraged to meet voluntary spending limits? | Yes___ No___ |
| c) Do you support requiring full and timely disclosure of campaign finance information? | Yes___ No___ |
| d) Do you support the use of an independent AND/OR bipartisan commission for redistricting? | Yes___ No___ |
| e) Do you support requiring a government-issued photo identification in order to vote at the polls? | Yes___ No___ |
| f) Other or expanded principles: _____ | |

Crime & Public Safety Issues:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| a) Do you support capital punishment for certain crimes? | Yes___ No___ |
| b) Do you support alternatives to incarceration for certain non-violent offenders, such as mandatory counseling or substance abuse treatment? | Yes___ No___ |
| c) Do you support legalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana? | Yes___ No___ |
| d) Should a minor accused of a violent crime be prosecuted as an adult? | Yes___ No___ |
| e) Do you support the enforcement of federal immigration laws by state and local police? | Yes___ No___ |
| f) Other or expanded principles: _____ | |

2015 LOUISIANA STATE-LEVEL POLITICAL COURAGE TEST

Economic Issues:

- a) Do you support government spending as a means of promoting economic growth? Yes___ No___
- b) Do you support lowering taxes as a means of promoting economic growth? Yes___ No___
- c) Do you support reducing government regulations on the private sector? Yes___ No___
- d) Do you support increased state funding for job-training programs that re-train displaced workers? Yes___ No___
- e) Do you support expanding access to unemployment benefits? Yes___ No___
- f) Do you support providing financial incentives to the private sector for the purpose of job creation? Yes___ No___
- g) Do you support providing direct financial assistance to homeowners facing foreclosure? Yes___ No___
- h) Do you support an increase of the minimum wage? Yes___ No___
- i) Other or expanded principles: _____

Education Issues:

- a) Do you support the national Common Core State Standards initiative? Yes___ No___
- b) Do you support a merit pay system for teachers? Yes___ No___
- c) Is the tenure process for public school teachers producing effective teachers? Yes___ No___
- d) Should parents be allowed to use vouchers to send their children to any school? Yes___ No___
- e) Do you support state funding for charter schools? Yes___ No___
- f) Do you support the state government providing college students with financial aid? Yes___ No___
- g) Should illegal immigrants who graduate from Louisiana high schools be eligible for in-state tuition at public universities? Yes___ No___
- h) Other or expanded principles: _____

Environment & Energy Issues:

- a) Do you support state funding for the development of renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, thermal)? Yes___ No___
- b) Do you support state funding for the development of traditional domestic energy sources (e.g. coal, natural gas, oil)? Yes___ No___
- c) Do you support state funding for improvements to Louisiana's energy infrastructure? Yes___ No___
- d) Do you support state funding for open space preservation? Yes___ No___
- e) Do you support government regulations of greenhouse gas emissions? Yes___ No___
- f) Do you support increased regulations of the hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") industry? Yes___ No___
- g) Other or expanded principles: _____

Gun Issues:

- a) Do you generally support gun-control legislation? Yes___ No___
- b) Should background checks be required on gun sales between private citizens at gun shows? Yes___ No___
- c) Should citizens be allowed to carry concealed guns? Yes___ No___
- d) Should a license be required for gun possession? Yes___ No___
- e) Other or expanded principles: _____

Health Issues:

- a) Do you support a universally-accessible, publicly-administered health insurance option? Yes___ No___
- b) Do you support expanding access to health care through commercial health insurance reform? Yes___ No___
- c) Do you support interstate health insurance compacts? Yes___ No___
- d) Do you support Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare")? Yes___ No___

2015 LOUISIANA STATE-LEVEL POLITICAL COURAGE TEST

Health Issues (cont.)

- e) Do you support requiring individuals to purchase health care insurance? Yes___ No___
- f) Do you support monetary limits on damages that can be collected in malpractice lawsuits? Yes___ No___
- g) Do you support allowing doctors to prescribe marijuana to their patients for medicinal purposes? Yes___ No___
- h) Other or expanded principles: _____

Social Issues:

- a) Do you support same-sex marriage? Yes___ No___
- b) Should same-sex couples be allowed to form civil unions? Yes___ No___
- c) Do you support the inclusion of sexual orientation in Louisiana's anti-discrimination laws? Yes___ No___
- d) Do you support the inclusion of gender identity in Louisiana's anti-discrimination laws? Yes___ No___
- e) Other or expanded principles: _____

Legislative Priorities: *In the following area, 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.*