



Project Vote Smart The Political Courage Test

2016 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 Phillipsburg, 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: _____

State: _____ **District:** _____ **Date:** _____

Abortion:

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

Pro-choice ____ Pro-life ____

Other or expanded principles: _____

Budget:

In order to balance the budget, do you support reducing defense spending?

Yes ____ No ____

In order to balance the budget, do you support an income tax increase

on any tax bracket?

Yes ____ No ____

Other or expanded principles: _____

Campaign Finance:

Do you support the regulation of indirect campaign contributions from corporations and unions?

Yes ____ No ____

Other or expanded principles: _____

Crime:

Do you support capital punishment for certain crimes?

Yes ____ No ____

Do you support alternatives to incarceration for certain non-violent offenders such as

mandatory counseling or substance abuse treatment?

Yes ____ No ____

Do you support mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders?

Yes ____ No ____

Other or expanded principles: _____

Economy:

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

Do you support lowering taxes 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 _____

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: _____

Energy:

Do you support building the Keystone XL pipeline? Yes _____ No _____

Do you support funding for the development of renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, thermal)? Yes _____ No _____

Do you support increased regulations on the hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") industry? Yes _____ No _____

Other or expanded principles: _____

Environment:

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 _____

Other or expanded principles: _____

Guns:

Do you generally support gun-control legislation? Yes _____ No _____

Other or expanded principles: _____

Health Care:

Do you support repealing the 2010 Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare")? 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 _____

Other or expanded principles: _____

Marriage:

Do you support same-sex marriage? Yes _____ No _____

Other or expanded principles: _____

National Security:

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

Should the U.S. use military force in order to prevent governments hostile to the United States from possessing a nuclear weapon? 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: _____

Spending and Taxes:

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.

Key

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

- ____ 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: _____

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.**

Key

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

- ____ a) Capital gains taxes
- ____ b) Corporate taxes
- ____ c) Small business taxes
- ____ d) Excise taxes (alcohol)
- ____ e) Excise taxes (cigarettes)
- ____ f) Excise taxes (transportation fuel)

- ____ g) Income taxes (low-income families)
- ____ h) Income taxes (middle-income families)
- ____ i) Income taxes (high-income families)
- ____ j) Inheritance taxes
- ____ k) Payroll taxes
- ____ l) Other or expanded categories: _____

Executive Orders: *On this page or via e-mail, please explain in a total of 100 words or less, how you would use executive orders if elected.*_____

Administrative Priorities: *On this 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.*_____

