

Candidate Questionnaire Part 2

Where do you stand on the following issues:

1. **Open primaries:** In some states, independents and unaffiliated voters cannot vote in primary elections. In open primary states, such as Idaho and South Carolina, the Republican Party is attempting to close the primaries.

a. Does your state have open or closed primaries? _____

b. Where do you stand in relation to open primaries? _____

c. What do you think about efforts by the parties to close primaries?

2. Does your state have partisan or nonpartisan **voter registration**? ____ Do you think that registration should be partisan or nonpartisan? _____

3. **Nonpartisan Elections:** Reforms like nonpartisan elections and “Top Two” allow all voters to choose from among all the candidates. Everyone participates in the first round of voting and voters can pick the candidate of their choice regardless of party affiliation. The top two vote getters go on to the general election.

a. Do you support nonpartisan elections? Yes ____ No ____

b. Do you think state and city offices should be nonpartisan or partisan? Please explain.

c. Nonpartisan Election Administrations: Election administrations from the Federal Elections Commission (FEC) to state election commissions and boards of elections are often bipartisan in structure made up of members of the two major parties. These bodies oversee the election process. In some states the election administration is in the hands of an election official allied with a political party. IndependentVoting.org has urged President Obama to appoint an independent to the FEC. The FEC is presently made up of 3 Democrats and 3 Republicans. Would you agree to send a letter to President Obama urging him to appoint an independent to the FEC?

Yes ____ No ____

d. What type of election administration does your state have? What are your proposals for reform?

4. **Campaign Finance Reform** (CFR) is often viewed as central to cleaning up politics. However, in actuality, recently enacted laws give an edge to party and incumbent candidates over insurgents and independents. The problem, as we view CFR, is not that there is too much money in politics, but that there are not enough mechanisms for the people to exercise the power to reform. Put another way, the parties too often stand in opposition to the interests of the people.

a. Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? _____

b. How do you view CFR?

c. Does your state have a public funding program, and if so, will you seek to qualify? _____

5. **Initiative and Referendum:** Does your state allow for citizen initiatives?

Yes ___ No ___

a. If no, do you think it should? _____

b. If yes, have you been involved in initiatives to open up the democratic process? Please describe.

6. **Redistricting Reform:** Most states allow the state legislature to draw their own districts. A reform movement is gaining strength that would set up independent redistricting commissions.

a. Do you support a legislative or independent redistricting commission?

b. If independent, how should the commission be composed and what should its relationship be to the legislative process?

7. Do you support **Same Day Voter Registration**? Please explain.

8. Does the district you seek to represent cover racially, ethnically and politically diverse neighborhoods? Yes ____ No ____

a. How do you plan to reach out to these communities?

b. Do you see yourself as a representative of all people regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or political affiliation? Please explain.

9. Independents often discover, once they become involved politically or run for office, that they face many roadblocks put up by the parties. Is this true in your area and if so, what does this look like?

10. There has been a popular outcry to “take our government back.” We, at Independentvoting.org, believe that in order to take our government back, we have to decrease the power of the parties and increase the power of the people. How do you see this issue?
