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ROBERTS

2024 BCC Constitutional Survey

Questionnaire: Please share your understanding of the US Constitution.

- 1) Does the Federal government have the "right" or the "authority" to take away your individual rights? YES or NO. Explain.

No

- 2) Where do our individual rights come from?

God

- 3) What is the role of government in the lives of "free citizens?"

Deriving from the Declaration of Independence, the role of government is to recognize that "all men are created equal..." and "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Furthermore, "to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Specifically to our Constitution, the purpose of government formed by "We the People" is "to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

- 4) What is the US Constitutional role of the County Commissioner?

The County Commissioner is not an agent of the federal government. The County Commissioner serves at the will of the people in his District to serve the good of the County.

- 5) What was the legal compact (contract) between the 13 "Independent Nation States" that created the Federal Government?

The Constitution of the United States

- 6) Does the Supremacy Clause in Article VI of the US Constitution give the Federal Government and the Supreme Court the ultimate power to determine the constitutionality of any law passed by Congress?

Yes

- 7) What are the basic differences between Keynesian economic theory and Austrian economic theory? How has this affected our country? What is your basic economic philosophy?

Keynesian economic theory states that government spending can stimulate greater spending in the economy. Austrian economics states that government spending only leads to inflation. I am closer to the Austrian theory between those two, but I also incorporate some of Adam Smith's theory, who stated that economic value is determined by the labor it takes to create it, that competition drives efficiency and profitability in businesses, and free markets. However, at times the drive for profitability can lead to patently immoral outcomes - like Planned Parenthood executives selling fetal remains for profit. So therefore some regulation is necessary.

- 8) Do the States have the authority to limit the federal government to its constitutional boundaries? Why or Why not?

Yes - if the Federal government either through intentional act or negligence, fails to fulfill its obligations under the Constitution and other law, the states have the authority to act on behalf of its citizens.

- 9) Would you support a congressional law that defines the General Welfare Clause based on the "Original Intent of our Founders?" YES or NO.

No - because I don't trust current lawmakers to align with the original intent of our Founders.

- 10) Why does the Bill of Rights include the 9th and 10th Amendments? Explain each and why they are both part of the US Constitution.

The 9th Amendment exists to further protect the basic individual liberty of citizens and further caution the federal government from infringing on those liberties. Its existence emphasize and highlight the concern the Founders had for individual liberty. The 10th Amendment furthers clarifies that the powers of the federal government are "enumerated" and not "expansive", with there being powers the are left to the states. These Amendments must be read in context of the greater Consitution.

- 11) What does the "well-regulated militia" phrase mean in the Second Amendment?

Originally referring to the collection of local men (aka "Minutemen") ready to come to defense of their communities from tyrannical governments like the British, a "well-regulated militia" has been expanded throughout American history to include today's Guardmen, who can be activated upon the Governor's orders. In today's military structure, the Guard has taken on the "Minuteman" identity, though it is not the sole fulfillment of the term "well-regulated militia" in the original sense.

12) What does "shall not be infringed" mean?

What the text says - "Shall" is the strongest legal term possible in the English legal vocabulary to issue a mandate or rule on a particular act or activity. "Not" means a prohibition or banning; "be" passive verb, meaning the focused activity is being performed from the exterior by another person or entity. The context of the phrase within the Amendment to the Constitution suggests that it is intended to ban or prohibit government action on this matter. "Infringed" mean encroached, minimized, or reduced on 'the fringes' of the subject to this clause - which in the context of the Second Amendment is everything that comes before it. "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

13) In your opinion, what are 2 current examples of the most egregious Federal overreach to Constitutional powers that effect you as a county Commissioner and what is your proposed remedy to each?

(1) Administrative State - highlighted by the FBI and the CIA conducting intelligence surveillance on American citizens. Need I explain this? ;

(2) The Chevron doctrine where in federal administrative agencies are given deference to interpret their own rules. The EPA is an example of abusing this in order to enforce its own standards unilaterally.

14) What formal training have you had to study the US Constitution?

Political science class in undergraduate study, 3 years of law school, 10 years of practice as an attorney - including 6 years as a Judge Advocate in the US Air Force, which included reviewing constitutional issues.

15) Many believe the US Constitution is a living, breathing document. What is your view and why?

It lives only as the People abide by it. It changes only as it is amended.

16) Do you support Article 1, section 8 of Florida's Constitution, including the exception that makes it unique to most of the 50 states? Explain.

I support the right to bear arms. I would prefer if it were not restricted in subsections.

17) Describe what guides your moral compass.

The teachings of Jesus Christ as informed by the tradition and experience of his Apostles and Church. I have a deep personal relationship with Christ in my daily life, and it guides me in my decision-making in all matters.

18) Name three primary principles from the US Constitution that will guide you as our County Commissioner? Explain.

(1) "We the People of the United States" - government by the people;



- (2) "to secure the Blessing of Liberty to ourselves and to our Posterity - we have a responsibility to maintain this government for our children;
- (3) "Congress shall make no law...prohibiting the free exercise of religion." Religion plays a role in our public lives.

19) What is your understanding of "State Sovereignty?"

Any power not enumerated in the Constitution is the domain of the States.

20) In your opinion what is the most important clause in the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights?

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness." This is the WHY of our country. The revolutionary thought that planted our nation into human history. Without the recognition of God and the Natural Law - our WHY ceases to exist.

21) Would you support the repeal of the 17th Amendment? Why or Why not?

I am not opposed to it, but this is not a high priority for me. Whether Senators are chosen by the State Legislatures or directly by public vote, we have a responsibility to properly vet and support true conservatives to be in the position to become Senators. That is my priority.

22) Have you read these primary source documents from our nation's founding?

1100 Charter of Liberties , Magna Carta , The Petition of Right of 1628 ,
 The Grand Remonstrance , Bill of Rights of 1689 , US Declaration and Constitution ,
 The Original Federalists Papers The Original Anti-Federalist Papers

23) Do you agree to have your answers published for public review?

YES

Frank G. Roberts Your signature validated by a Notary Public attests to you personally answering these questions and that they accurately portray your personal views to the best of your ability. Date signed 4/25/24

Erin K. Meyer Seal and Signature of Notary



