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Yvette

2024 Florida State Legislators

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, because I believe firmly in the principles and protections enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. The Constitution, especially through the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments, safeguards individual liberties and rights against undue governmental interference. The principle of limited government is central to conservative thought, emphasizing that the federal government's powers are enumerated and limited by the Constitution. The Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments guarantee due process of law, ensuring that individuals cannot be deprived of life, liberty, or property without fair procedures. While the government has the authority to regulate certain rights for the public's safety, health, and welfare, such regulations must always respect the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution and cannot amount to an arbitrary taking away of rights. Moreover, any limitation on rights is subject to strict scrutiny in courts, reflecting the Constitution's protection of individual liberties against overreach. As a candidate for the Florida House, my commitment is to uphold these constitutional principles and to resist any efforts that unjustly infringe upon the rights of individuals.

2) Where do our individual rights come from?

My belief aligns with the foundational principle that our rights are not granted by the government, but are inherent and unalienable, stemming from natural law and endowed by our Creator. This principle is echoed in the Declaration of Independence, which asserts that all men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. The role of government, as established by the Constitution, is to protect these inherent rights rather than to grant them. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights enumerate specific rights and protections to prevent government overreach and to ensure that the government's powers are exercised in a manner that respects the inherent liberties of the people. This perspective underscores a commitment to limited government, individual freedom, and the recognition that our fundamental rights precede and transcend government authority.

3) What is the role of government in the lives of “free citizens?”

The role of government in the lives of free citizens is to protect their fundamental rights, ensure justice, and provide for the common defense, while maintaining a minimal footprint in their daily lives. The government should act as a guardian of liberty, not as an intruder. As a constitutional conservative running for the Florida House, I adhere to the belief that the primary role of government as articulated in the Constitution, is to secure the inherent rights and freedoms of its citizens. The government should operate within the confines of the Constitution, with a focus on limited intervention in the daily lives of its citizens, ensuring that its actions do not infringe upon individual liberties and freedoms.

4) What is the US Constitutional role of the State Legislator?

The US Constitution doesn't directly outline the roles of state legislators since it primarily focuses on the structure and powers of the federal government. However, it establishes a federal system of government in which powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people (as per the Tenth Amendment). This creates a framework within which state legislators operate, giving them significant responsibilities including Making State Laws, Budgeting and Taxation, Oversight of State Agencies, Constituent Services, Amending the State Constitution, Interacting with Federal Government. While the US constitution sets the framework for federalism and the division of powers between the federal government and the states, the specific roles and responsibilities of state legislators are largely determined by state constitutions and laws, reflecting the principles of states' rights and autonomy within the federal system.

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

The legal compact that created the federal government of the United States is the Constitution of the United States. It replaced the Articles of Confederation, establishing a stronger federal government with divided powers among legislative, executive, and judicial branches. The Constitution required ratification by nine of the thirteen states, effectively uniting them under a single federal system while preserving state powers. This document marked the transition from a loose confederation of sovereign states to unified nation under a central government.

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?

*The **Supremacy** Clause, found in Article VI of the US Constitution, establishes that the Constitution, federal laws made pursuant to it, and treaties made under its authority, constitute the supreme law of the land. It asserts that state courts and judges are bound to adhere to these supreme laws, even if state laws or constitutions conflict with them. However, the clause itself does not explicitly grant the federal government or the Supreme Court the power to determine the constitutionality of laws passed by Congress. This power, known as judicial review, was established by the Supreme Court itself in the landmark case Marbury v. Madison (1803). Judicial review allows the Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution and to invalidate any laws (federal or state) that the Court deems to be in conflict with the Constitution.*

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

The basic differences between Keynesian economic theory and Austrian economic theory are as follow:

- **Role of Government**

Keynesian Theory advocates for active government intervention in the economy, especially during recessions. It supports fiscal policies like government spending and tax adjustments to manage economic cycles. Austrian Theory emphasizes minimal government intervention, arguing that free markets lead to efficient outcomes. It criticizes government interference as distorting economic signals and causing inefficiencies.

- **Economic Cycles**

Keynesians believe that economic downturns are due to insufficient demand and that government can mitigate recessions by stimulating demand through spending and monetary policy. Austrians see economic cycles as natural and often exacerbated by government intervention and manipulation of interest rates, which can lead to malinvestment and economic bubbles.

- **Monetary Policy**

Keynesians often support the use of monetary policy to manage the economy, seeing central banking as a tool to adjust interest rates and manage inflation. Austrians are critical of central banking and fiat money, advocating for a return to commodity-backed currencies and viewing inflation as a result of government increasing the money supply.

The debate between Keynesian and Austrian economic theories has significant implications for state-level fiscal and monetary policies.

Keynesian Theory might influence a state to adopt stimulus measures during economic downturns, suggesting that government spending can spur demand and mitigate the effect of a recession. This approach could lead to increased state spending on public works, education, and social services in an effort to boost economic activity. On the other hand Austrian economics would caution against such measures, arguing that excessive government intervention can distort market signals, lead to inefficient allocation of resources, and exacerbate economic cycles. From an Austrian perspective, the emphasis would be on fiscal responsibility, reducing government spending, and minimizing regulation to allow the free market to operate more efficiently. The choice between these approaches affects how our state manages its budget, taxes, and economic development initiatives, impacting everything from job creation to investment climate.

My basic economic policy aligns with Austrian principles meaning that I will advocate for policies that prioritize economic freedom, lower taxes, and less government intervention, aiming to create a conducive environment for growth and prosperity within the state.

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

Yes, states do have the authority to limit federal government within constitutional boundaries, as emphasized by the Tenth Amendment of the US Constitution. This amendment reserves to the states all powers not explicitly delegated to the federal government, reinforcing the principle of federalism. I advocate for state's rights and the importance of maintaining a balance of power between state and federal governments. The Constitution design ensures states act as a check on federal authority, allowing them to challenge federal overreach through legal channels. This system safeguards the autonomy of states and protects against expansion of federal power beyond its constitutional limits.

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

Yes, I would support a congressional law that defines the General Welfare Clause based on the "Original Intent of our Founders." This approach aligns with a strict interpretation of the Constitution, ensuring that the federal government operates within the explicit limits and powers originally intended, which helps to prevent overreach and preserves individual liberties and state

rights. Such a law would reinforce the principles of limited government that are fundamental to constitutional conservatism.

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 Ninth and Tenth Amendments are integral to the Bill of Rights to protect individual liberties and reinforce federalism. The Ninth Amendment ensures that the enumeration of certain rights in the Constitution does not limit the people's rights, indicating that citizens possess other rights beyond those explicitly listed. The Tenth Amendment reserves all powers not delegated to the federal government by the Constitution to the states or the people, clearly defining the scope of federal authority and safeguarding state sovereignty. Together, they address concerns over federal overreach, ensuring a balance between government power and personal freedoms, and highlighting the framers' intent to protect both enumerated and unenumerated rights as well as to maintain a clear division of power between the federal government and the states.

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

The phrase "well-regulated militia" in the Second Amendment reflects the framers' intent to ensure the readiness and capability of a citizen militia for the security of a free state. It emphasizes the importance of an armed citizenry as a safeguard against tyranny. The Amendment also asserts the individual right to keep and bear arms, essential for maintaining a militia and protecting personal freedoms. This interpretation underscores the belief that the right to own firearms is a fundamental aspect of individual liberty and national security.

12) What does "shall not be infringed" mean in the 2nd Amendment?

The phrase "shall not be infringed" in the 2nd Amendment is a clear directive emphasizing the importance of protecting the right to keep and bear arms from government restriction or encroachment. I interpret this phrase as a strong assertion of an individual's unalienable right to own and carry firearms. It underscores the belief that this right is essential for personal protection, the defense of liberty, and the ability to resist tyranny. The inclusion of "shall not be infringed" signals the framers' intent to place this right beyond the reach of government interference, ensuring it remains inviolate as a fundamental principle of American freedom and individual sovereignty.

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13) In your opinion, what are 2 current examples of the most egregious Federal

- **Covid-19 Mandates** – *I believe federal mandates for COVID-19 vaccinations infringe upon individual liberties and exceed federal authority.*
Remedy: Assert states' rights to manage public health policies, encourage vaccination through education and voluntary incentives rather than mandates.
- **Executive Orders on Immigration** - *Executive actions bypassing Congress to change immigration policies significantly have been critiqued for exceeding the President's constitutional authority.*
Remedy: Strengthen border security through legislation, restore congressional oversight on immigration policy changes, and uphold the separation of powers outlined in the Constitution.

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

While I don't have formal training in constitutional law, I've pursued independent study of the US Constitution through various resources. I've engaged with textbooks, online courses, scholarly articles, and historical documents to deepen my understanding of constitutional principles, legal precedents, and the Founding Fathers' intentions. Additionally, I actively participate in discussions, forums, and debate clubs to exchange ideas and perspectives with others interested in constitutional studies. Though my approach may differ from formal training, my dedication to self-directed learning reflects my commitment to understanding and upholding the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

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

I hold the view that the US Constitution is a foundational document with enduring principles that must be interpreted according to its original meaning at the time of ratification. I believe in the importance of adhering to the text and original intent of the Constitution, as understood by the Framers. While some argue that the Constitution is a living, breathing document that should adapt to modern circumstances and societal changes, I maintain that its strength lies in its stability and timeless principles. The Constitution provides a framework for limited government, individual liberties, and the separation of powers, which serve as essential safeguards against tyranny and overreach. By adhering to the original meaning of the Constitution, we uphold the principles that have guided American governance for centuries, preserving the integrity of our constitutional system and protecting the liberties enshrined in this founding document.

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 Article 1, Section 8 of Florida's Constitution, particularly its unique provision granting citizens access to government meetings. This provision embodies principles of transparency and accountability, aligning with my values of limited government and civic engagement. By ensuring that government actions are conducted in the open and subject to public scrutiny, this provision upholds the rights of citizens to participate in the democratic process and holds government officials accountable for their actions.

17) Describe what guides your moral compass.

My moral compass is primarily guided by a combination of foundational principles, personal values, and empathy for others. I place a strong emphasis on individual liberty, personal responsibility, and respect for traditional values. I believe in the importance of upholding ethical standards and treating others with fairness, honesty, and compassion. Additionally, I draw inspiration from philosophical and religious teachings that emphasize virtues such as integrity, humility, and empathy. Ultimately, my moral compass is shaped by a desire to contribute positively to society, promote justice and equality, and live in accordance with principles that uphold the dignity and well-being of all individuals.

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

The three primary principles from the US Constitution that will guide me as a state representative are:

- **Federalism** - The principle of federalism delineates the division of powers between the federal government and the states, ensuring a balance of authority. As a state representative, I would prioritize preserving the autonomy of our state government and advocating for state sovereignty in areas not explicitly delegated to the federal government. This includes safeguarding states' rights to legislate on matters of local concern and resisting federal overreach that encroaches on state prerogatives.
- **Separation of Powers** - The Constitution establishes a system of checks and balances among the three branches of government—legislative, executive, and judicial—to prevent

any one branch from accumulating too much power. As a state representative, I would adhere to this principle by respecting the roles and responsibilities of each branch of state government and working collaboratively with other branches to ensure accountability and effective governance.

- **Protection of Individual Rights** - The Constitution enshrines fundamental rights and liberties that are essential to the preservation of a free and democratic society. As a state representative, I would prioritize protecting these rights, including freedom of speech, religion, and assembly, as well as due process and equal protection under the law. I would work to enact legislation that upholds the dignity and rights of all individuals within our state, including marginalized and vulnerable populations, and oppose any measures that infringe upon constitutional rights.

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

I understand state sovereignty as the inherent authority of individual states to govern themselves within their own jurisdictional boundaries, free from excessive interference by the federal government. It's a fundamental principle of federalism, granting states autonomy to enact laws and policies that reflect their unique needs and values while still respecting the supremacy of the federal Constitution and laws.

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

- **Declaration of Independence** - The clause affirming "unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness" resonates with me because it emphasizes natural rights and the role of government in securing these rights.
- **Constitution** - The "Enumerated Powers Clause" (Article I, Section 8) because it outlines the specific powers granted to Congress, thus limiting the federal government's authority to those enumerated powers.
- **Bill of Rights** - The Second Amendment because safeguarding the right to keep and bear arms, is essential for individual self-defense and as a check against government tyranny.

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

.While I personally lean towards supporting the repeal of the 17th Amendment due to its deviation from the original intent of the Founding Fathers and its impact on federalism, I acknowledge that this is a complex issue with potential practical and political implications. I would emphasize the importance of restoring the balance of power between the federal government and the states, as


intended by the Constitution. However, I would also recognize the need for careful consideration of the potential consequences of repealing the 17th Amendment, including concerns about corruption and maintaining accountability in the selection of senators.

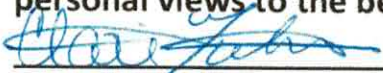
22) Have you read these primary source documents from our nation's founding?

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

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

Yes

 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 4/18/2024

 Seal and Signature of Notary

