

		FROM: Commissioner Rick LoCastro (District 1)			
Type	#	Question	ANSWER	Candidate Comments/Answers to the Vetting Committee	
Main	1	Yes or No. Will you champion a Collier ordinance that requires all <u>new ordinances</u> that have a multi-year expenditure to have a 5 year mandatory Sunset Clause?	YES	Maybe even less than 5 years depending on the Ordinance.	
Main	2	Yes or No. Do you support development of rural lands in Eastern Collier County?	NO*	*I'm sensitive to our environment and there are more advantageous locations to use for development--however, most of Collier County was once "rural land" way back when... but is now developed. I support a "managed" approach to land use--but FULLY ensuring we protect environmentally sensitive areas. I've been a champion for conserving environmentally sensitive lands and have led improvements to ensure taxpayer dollars aren't merely saved in a bank-- but UTILIZED to purchase and protect environmentally sensitive parcels. Since these changes, we've purchased more parcels in my District in the last 6 months than had been purchased in the last 10 years.	
Main	3	Yes or No. Will you support a resolution authorizing to the Collier County Sheriff to remove the pornography and age-inappropriate LGBTQ content in all CCPS schools?	YES	Of course.	
Main	4	Yes or No. Do you support eliminating the Florida Corporate income tax?	YES	Of course.	
Main	5	Yes or No. Will you champion a Collier County ordinance with accountability that prohibits the training of Critical Race Theory or any of its many tentacles to any Collier or state government employee?	YES	I've been the champion of <u>every</u> Ordinance brought forward that protected citizen rights (even the ones that initially failed due to the lack of other Commissioners who were more "politicians" and less PUBLIC SERVANTS. When those failed -- I was fully available to all assisting in mentoring and coaching the team who was preparing to present the Ordinance proposals again... and they eventually passed. I was one of the few who ALWAYS voted for citizen voice and citizen rights giving them CHOICE.	
Main	6	Yes or No. Do you support moving new Collier County employees to a "Defined Contribution Pension Plan" while keeping the existing employees on a "Defined Benefit Pension Plan"?	NO*	*As I stated in a similar questionnaire in 2019 -- If possible, I'm supportive of employees having "choice" in their plans or all employees being on the SAME plan for fairness. Before any vote I'd need to know many more details about proposed plans and the pros/cons of each. often the "name" sounds great but the fine print isn't.	
Main	7	Yes or No. Do you support the current ordinance declaring Collier is a "Bill of Rights" sanctuary county with criminal and civil accountability for violators?	YES	Of course! I championed and voted for it... even when it failed the first time. I also took great pride in making myself fully available to the citizens who believed in the Ordinance and who wanted to benefit from some better advice and coaching so they could ensure they made the strongest case in the BCC meeting the next time -- and they did.	
Main	8	Yes or No. Will you champion an ordinance declaring Collier County is a sanctuary county for the unborn?	YES	My position on the Right to Life is <u>well known</u> from my days in the military, later here in Collier County as a healthcare executive, and even before I was a Commissioner. As a Commissioner I have served with pride as the emcee and a guest speaker for <u>Action for Life</u> events over the last 4+ years with Father Orsi, Teddy Collins, and Greg Harper (CEO, Action For Life).	
Main	9	Yes or No. Do you support reducing Collier County acceptance of federal dollars to our total county budget over the next 5 years?	YES*	*I'm for a balanced State & County budget -- but if the Federal government contributes (gives back) dollars to our State that we can use for the benefit of our citizens I would want to first use my experience to analyze the specific situation before blindly saying I'd turn down funds needed by our community. <u>HOWEVER</u> -- I'm well aware often there are "strings attached" with accepting Federal and even State dollars. We need to know what those strings might be. As we've learned in the past few years... if we later discover something we don't like -- we can give the money back... just as we have done in several cases -- ALL WHICH I VOTED TO DO.	
Main	10	Yes or No. Will you champion a Collier policy of "zero" tax increases to both the Collier Board of County Commission and the School Board over the next 3 years by holding to the roll back millage current rate?	YES	I <u>already</u> voted to do just that! However, the School Board votes on their own taxes. I was disappointed to see them RAISE their rate when we as Commissioners did just the opposite.	
Main	11	Yes or No. Do you support offshore drilling in Florida outside the 10 mile limit? This means not visible from land?	YES	As stated earlier I'm sensitive to environmental concerns -- however we have many untapped resources in our country we need to responsibly explore. I'm <u>not</u> for haphazard drilling, but if the plan is solid and assists us in becoming less dependent on foreign oil... it's worth considering to pursue. We don't need another BP oil spill, but we can't artificially stifle ourselves from exploration if done right.	
Main	12	Yes or No. Do you support the continuation of a .25 mills property tax for the Conservation Collier Program for the remaining 8 years?	NO	We've already seen this program mismanaged to the tune of collecting \$60 Million from taxpayers over the last 2 years... and only spending \$5 Million of that. Citizens should be more outraged at the lack of aggressive actions to purchase and protect sensitive lands. As Commissioners, most of us realized this program <u>wasn't</u> just about collecting money from taxpayers who supported the program -- BUT more importantly ensuring those taxes were MANAGED properly to actually affect change in protecting land... THEY WEREN'T. Before I blanket approve YEARS worth of automatic tax collecting to add to a program already heavily funded... I'd rather see us prove we can MANAGE this program properly... and consider <u>one year at a time</u> "if" the collection of taxes is required. Might be we have plenty in the bank and few parcels left to consider purchasing -- so merely blindly burdening our taxpayers for no reason is <u>NOT</u> the type of government I support.	
Main	13	Yes or No. Do you support a Florida state imposed internet sales tax?	NO		
Main	14	Yes or No. Do you support Collier County subsidizing low income housing for school teachers and first responders?	NO	I'd rather continue what we have been doing... aggressively supporting affordable housing across all of Collier County that teachers, first responders, blue collar workers, workforce employees, retirees, and those under the average median income can qualify for and get. We are years BEHIND in doing this... thus the great need now. We've approved more affordable housing projects in the past year than has been approved in many years prior. That's the best way to assist our workforce... <u>not</u> with handouts or subsidized government housing. Ask them -- they will tell you they want access to "affordably priced housing" -- and we are finally doing that utilizing many better other options at our disposal... than just taxpayer subsidies.	
Main	15	Yes or No. Will you champion a Collier Resolution to the Legislature and Governor that eliminates Birth right citizenship and requires at least one parent to be a US Citizen?	YES	Of course. Illegal immigration and "automatic" citizenship is <u>not</u> something I support.	
Main	16	Yes or No. Will you champion an ordinance for maximum of two --four year term limits for the Office of County Commissioner (total of 8 years)?	YES	I'm a huge supporter of term limits and I'm against career politicians. If you want to give back to your community (and actually have something to give back)... 8 years should do it. Hopefully you have mentored a deep bench of others and inspired them to follow in your footsteps as you near the end of your two terms. I'm flabbergasted when someone serves an extended period of time and then "retires" -- and how often we have few high-speed candidates to backfill the person exiting... and how the person leaving hasn't done much or anything to ensure they have mentored their possible replacement.	
Principles/Character	17	Yes or No. Do you support continuing the prayer for BCC meetings and having a Collier County resolution that recognizes our nation was founded under Judeo-Christian values and is One Nation under GOD?	YES	Absolutely. When I served as Chairman of the BCC... and heard the School Board removed the opening prayer from their meetings... I was extremely disappointed. I made sure we <u>didn't</u> even consider having that discussion for our BCC meetings. We take pride in our opening prayer (regardless of religion). The money in our pockets ALL say IN GOD WE TRUST... and we even have signs in our County building that says that. Why would we eliminate prayer or the Pledge of Allegiance? We <u>won't</u> as long as this military Veteran is a Commissioner.	
Principles/Character	18	Yes or No. Will you support Florida ratifying a National balanced budget amendment, with exception only for periods of declared war or National Emergency?	YES		
Principles/Character	19	Yes or No. Do you support a 5 year transition to privatize all public education in Florida tied to an Education Savings Account (ESA) where the money follows the student?	YES	I'm for anything that empowers PARENTS and gives them a CHOICE for their children... especially selecting the educational path <u>they</u> feel is best. Their options should be expanded -- not limited.	
Principles/Character	20	Yes or No. According to our Constitution, do you support our elected County Sheriff's authority to protect the Citizens of our county against unconstitutional Federal and State overreach of "the people's" rights?	YES	...and I voted for just that... MULTIPLE TIMES (even when certain Commissioners did not)	
Principles/Character	21	Yes or No. Do you support the concept of Nullification under the 10th amendment? This gives individual states and the people the authority and power to ignore Federal mandates and laws that are not enumerated under Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution?	YES		
Principles/Character	22	Yes or No. Do you support the human life protection amendment that establishes life begins at inception?	YES	... see my Right To Life Answer in #10.	

Principles/Character	23	Yes or No. Does the County Commission have the legal authority to implement a mask or Vaccine mandate?	NO	I was a <u>candidate</u> for County Commissioner when all that ridiculousness happened. I sat in the audience at every BCC meeting watching them close beaches, mandate masks, touted the vaccine, etc... I've stated repeatedly -- I'm for CITIZEN CHOICE.
Constitutional	24	Does the Federal government have the "right" or the "authority" to take away your individual rights? YES or NO.	NO	Our Federal government can't take away our rights (life, liberty, or property) as they are fundamental to all individuals. Human rights are inalienable. However, if laws are broken by an individual, some of their rights can be suspended as a penalty.
Constitutional	25	Where do our individual rights come from?		Some will say documents such as the Magna Carta, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are the written precursors to many of today's human rights documents. As a Christian/Catholic however... I also believe our rights come from God... enshrined in the Bill of Rights and our Constitution. We are subject to obvious "human rights" and morality as a free people made in the image and likeness of our Creator. Written documents <u>formally</u> outline in word the rights we are afforded and endowed with.
Constitutional	26	What is the role of government in the lives of "free citizens"?		First and foremost -- the role of government should be LIMITED. To protect citizen's rights (life, liberty, or property) -- while limiting government. As Ronald Reagan said in his inaugural address in 1981 "Government is <u>not</u> the solution to our problem... government <u>is</u> the problem." We need to work hard to ensure that isn't the case. Government already has the framework provided by our Founding Fathers... and government's role is to ensure our country is working within those already set parameters. Government should be <u>protecting</u> free citizens from outside influences, any direction or ideas that are above, beyond, or outside of the framework already in place. Government must utilize the framework and taxpayer funding to ensure the well-being and continued improvement to society and its free citizens. I always remind citizens that "It's not the County that spends money, builds parks, etc.... It's TAXPAYERS." The role of government is to ensure taxpayer dollars are being <u>invested</u> properly and not merely spent. Ensuring the role of government doesn't grow beyond the framework initially intended is critical... and also listening to its free citizens and ensuring open lines of communication is key as well. Government must also ensure enforcement of laws, rules, amend safety -- but <u>never</u> beyond the rights of a free society. Anything government does to hamper the rights of "free citizens" is NOT good government. I firmly believe we'd have better governance in our County, State, and Nation if those in government realized they are public servants FIRST -- and not merely politicians.
Constitutional	27	What is the US Constitutional role of the County Commissioner?		To protect the rights, enforce the laws, ensure fair and just treatment, protect liberty, etc... As an elected official I support and defend the Constitution and support and enforce the lawful laws of the state of Florida. Our US Constitution is the supreme law of the United States... all rolls down from that. The 7 Articles outline how our Founding Fathers wanted the government to run the country... and how our country's government should be organized. "WE THE PEOPLE" -- says it all. THE PEOPLE -- <u>not</u> the government. The government represents THE PEOPLE... and that includes State and Local governments as well. Regardless of the level of a government official... we are all sworn to abide by and protect the Constitution. Our role as Commissioners is to ensure we follow the direction of the U.S. Constitution... and also protect our citizens and our County from any and all who misinterpret it's direction... or who feel it is subject to loose interpretations. Amendments to the Constitution are allowed -- but rare. Our job as County Commissioners is to support and enforce what has already been approved and ratified... and if we see "deviations" to our Constitution that are NOT approved Amendments... but merely "improper direction" from the State or National levels... we have the right to speak out and/or challenge it. Much of the verbiage in the document refers more directly to the National levels of government... but Articles IV-VI do describe the relationship of the States to the Federal Government. In Article IV States are given the power to enact laws... and although through the Constitution is reminds that Federal Law prevails... States and Local levels have the right to challenge laws passed down to them if they feel them to be unconstitutional. Article VI states Federal law is supreme, or higher than State and Local laws. This means if a State law conflicts with a Federal law -- Federal law takes precedence. <u>However</u> , "the politics of today" have taken an ugly turn in recent times. I believe our Founding Fathers would applaud the steps we've taken locally here in Collier County to protect ourselves from any legislation from State or National levels we feel should be challenged. I voted for ALL of those Ordinances and Resolutions (even at times when the motions failed because other Commissioners disagreed and would not champion the protection of OUR FREE CITIZENS).
Constitutional	28	What was the legal compact (contract between the 13 "Independent Nation States" that created the Federal Government?		The Articles of Confederation was the agreement among the 13 original states that served as our first Constitution. It provided clear written rules for how the States would be organized. The Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation and that served as the first Constitution in the United States in 1777... and established the government in our first 13 states. Over time -- weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation began to appear. The U.S. Constitution (ten years later) was <u>much</u> more detailed... and improved upon and fixed the issues of the Article of Confederation.
Constitutional	29	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?	NO	No. The Supremacy Clause establishes that the Constitution constitutes the "supreme law of the land" and takes priority over any conflicting state laws. But in today's political landscape -- Yes & No. Very debatable... especially in today's society. The Supremacy Clause states the Federal Constitution and Federal law "generally" take precedence over state laws -- and even state constitutions. The Supreme Court's role is "judicial review"... but just look at Roe vs. Wade, gun laws, medical and recreational marijuana, etc... Our Federal government and even Supreme Court can make decisions on major issues... but often there are clauses that allow States the latitude or the overall authority to determine certain issues as they see fit. That's the reason we <u>used</u> to have different drinking ages in our county (some states 18... some 21)... and currently many states have totally different gun laws. The Abortion decisions by the Supreme Court and changes thereafter continue to plague our country as some States look to enact laws that supersede the Supreme Court and the Federal government. Those end up in lawsuits and continue to divide our country.
Constitutional	30	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?		Keynesians believe in increased government spending and government intervention. Austrians (and I) believe in a true free market, that savings drives growth, and government should <u>not</u> spend in excess. Keynesian Economic Theory are <u>not</u> the friend of free markets -- that's BAD in my opinion. Austrian Economic Theory dislikes any government intervention or overreach -- and as a Conservative Republican who believes in small government -- I AGREE with that. MORE government (Keynesian) -- sounds like the platform of the Democrats. I'll stick with the Austrian Economic Theory that believes a free market (not the Federal Government) can best allocate resources. You ask how it's affected our country? Another way to answer this is how a Keynesian destroyed other countries. The United States survived and thrives due to free markets limiting government intervention. Austrian economics emphasizes the importance of innovation and competition... while Keynesian economics favors regulation -- NO THANK YOU! Our Republican Party believes in fiscal conservatism, free markets, and that individual achievement and hard work lead to economic prosperity... <u>not</u> handouts and government subsidized programs. Look at the countries worldwide who believe in a more Keynesian approach -- they grumble or at best -- stagnate and their people suffer. I believe in the Austrian Economic Theory... and what our Republican Party stands for. Ronald Reagan educated America by stressing the need for less government intervention, a balanced budget, slowing government spending, reducing taxes, keeping inflation low, and disliking all government regulation -- I agree and support that philosophy. I <u>don't</u> need to invent or redefine a philosophy... we already have a good one to follow... our country just needs to stick to it. All these changes and flip flops in our White House with everchanging direction of our economic doctrine and policies has greatly weakened us as an economic and military superpower.
Constitutional	31	Do the States have the authority to limit the federal government to its constitutional boundaries? Why or Why not?	YES	Yes. The 10th Amendment "reserves all powers not given to the Federal government, or prohibited to the States by the Constitution, to the States or to the people." This is a great question especially in today's society and with so many citizens upset at what is happening in Washington DC. Our Constitution and Federal law generally take precedence over State laws... and even State Constitutions. But many states are starting to challenge this. Here is Collier County we have even recently passed Resolutions and Ordinances that protect us from any unconstitutional direction from the Federal government (I VOTED FOR ALL)... but it remains to be seen how enforceable we can make it if we indeed were to challenge Federal Law or direction. Any State can file lawsuits to challenge the constitutionality of a Federal statute declaring anything unconstitutional. We are seeing much more of that now than ever before. My hope is Federal government would limit themselves to the Constitutional boundaries already set forth... and no State would have to challenge anything. But that's not happening -- especially currently.

Constitutional	32	Would you support a congressional law that defines the General Welfare Clause based on the "Original Intent of our Founders?" YES or NO.	YES	Yes. I think our Founding Father's "got it right" and we need to support their original intent to limit government and ensure power comes from the PEOPLE. Our U.S. Constitution was authored by our Founding Fathers to promote the general welfare of our <u>citizens</u> . Unfortunately our country has drifted away from what our Founding Fathers originally authored. Yes, times do change -- but I'm a purist when it comes to our country's founding documents. I'm not supportive of "loose interpretations". I'd support laws that remind us of what our country was built on and anything that further solidifies what our Founding Fathers directed.
Constitutional	33	Why does the Bill of Rights include the 9th and 10th Amendments? Explain each and why they are both part of the US Constitution.		These Amendments were added to address the concerns of the anti-Federalists by guaranteeing certain individual rights and ensuring additional clear limitations on governmental powers. <u>9th Amendment:</u> "Makes clear that the enumeration of some rights shall not be interpreted to deny other rights retained by the people." <u>10th Amendment:</u> "Reserves all powers not given to the federal government or prohibited to the States by the Constitution are retained by the States or the people."
Constitutional	34	What does the "well-regulated militia" phrase mean in the Second Amendment?		This is often confusing to some... but <u>not</u> to me. The 2nd Amendment "protects the right to keep and bear arms for the purpose of maintaining a militia." Although some misinterpret the intent of "militia"... I believe what others have stated in court... that it comprises "all who are physically capable of acting in concert for the common defense." It means the right of people to bear arms shall NOT be infringed. Unfortunately it has been infringed upon by many states. This Amendment guarantees the right of citizens to defend themselves, their property, etc... as well as ensuring our nation can defend itself against enemies. Although some have made this subject to interpretation... gun ownership is a right under this Amendment. Unfortunately multiple States have enacted laws limiting the Second Amendment... these "Sanctuary Counties" in my opinion weaken our country when you can cross state lines and gun laws can vary greatly.
Constitutional	35	What does "shall not be infringed" mean?		Plain and simple... a person's rights can't be restricted or limited upon. Under the Second Amendment -- the government may not interfere with the right to bear arms. Tell that to the Second Amendment Sanctuary States -- Ridiculous.
Constitutional	36	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?		Article V of the U.S. Constitution allows States to call an "Amendments Convention" if they feel the Federal Government is exceeding its Constitutional authority. <u>EXAMPLE 1</u> -- COVID. Every candidate should be mentioning Covid, "the jab", mask mandates, etc... the most recent form of government overreach. I've made my position/remedy clear -- CITIZEN CHOICE is my view. However, private businesses have the right to direct "no shoes, no shirt, no service"... and if you feel that is a rule you don't agree with -- take your business elsewhere. HOWEVER, the Federal government "directing" anything 100% to our citizens when it came to Covid did <u>not</u> have my support. As a 24-year military Veteran -- seeing military members dismissed from our services due to refusing to take the Covid vaccine was criminal by our government. That was proven when a year later our Federal government and Department of Defense offered to reinstate anyone discharged for refusing the vaccine. Unbelievable. What was my remedy for that once I was elected? First, I was NOT in office when Collier County Commissioners closed beaches, put up signs making masks mandatory, etc... Once elected I VOTED FOR EVERY Ordinance and Resolution that gave CHOICE to our citizens and reversed the mistakes of my predecessors. <u>EXAMPLE 2</u> -- EDUCATION. As a supporter of the Florida Citizens Alliance, I've learned we have at times seen gross overreach in the area of education. The push of Common Core is one such example. The remedy -- it's critical we elect the BEST to serve on our School Board and eliminate/prevent educational overreach.
Constitutional	37	What formal training have you had to study the US Constitution?		As a 1988 U.S. Air Force Academy Graduate... and having served 24 years in the Air Force retiring as a full Colonel... you more than "receive training"... you live it. You defend the Constitution every day with your ACTIONS. Proud to also say I've learned a lot from local patriot Dan Cook and his teachings as well as his comments at Board of County Commissioner meetings... and many others. While some "study" the Constitution... my role as a military member was to actually defend it... that clearly is the best training and education any person could undertake.
Constitutional	38	Many believe the US Constitution is a living, breathing document. What is your view and why?		I'm NOT one of those people who would agree with the statement "It's a living breathing document". I feel the Constitution is an absolute document that means exactly what it says... just as our Founding Fathers intended. Interpretation can often be a challenge, but we must ensure we "support and defend the Constitution of the United States"... just as I swore to do as a military officer. It's not to be tampered with.
Constitutional	39	Do you support Article 1, section 8 of Florida's Constitution, including the exception that makes it unique to most of the 50 states?	YES	Of course I support it -- although I believe the Second Amendment in our U.S. Constitution are all the words we need for clear direction. Article 1, Section 8 states "The right of the people to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves and of the lawful authority of the State shall not be infringed, except that the manner of bearing arms may be regulated by law."
Constitutional	40	Describe what guides your moral compass.		I'm a devote Roman Catholic. Eight years in Catholic school, raised by strong moral and patriotic Italian parents, and the product of a military high school and a U.S. Service Academy. My moral compass is guided by God's teachings, the example of Jesus (The Golden Rule), and the morals instilled in me by amazing parents, the military, and many mentors. Treat others as you would want to be treated.
Constitutional	41	Name three primary principles from the US Constitution that will guide you as our County Commissioner? Explain.		I'm already a County Commissioner and I believe my <u>ACTIONS</u> during my first term speak loudly. <u>1. Limited Government:</u> My role as a County Commissioner is to enforce and also protect the rights of individuals--but without government overreach. I'VE DONE THAT... championing every vote (sometimes even in defeat) to limit government/overreach. <u>2. Freedom of Speech:</u> Allowing citizens the right to speak their mind, offer ideas and criticism, and ensure they are completely allowed to do so. But that freedom of speech also applies to me as well. I can offer my professional views without concern about the undue influence of others. As Board of County Commissioner Chairman in 2023 -- I made it clear we were no longer going to rudely cut off citizens at the podium at exactly 3 minutes. Many of our population have never spoken in this forum... and often are nervous and not as organized as they thought they were. The most important portion of any BCC meeting is PUBLIC COMMENT (Freedom of Speech). <u>3. Popular Sovereignty:</u> The authority of a State and its government are created and sustained by the consent of the people through their elected representatives (such as a County Commissioner).
Constitutional	42	What is your understanding of "State Sovereignty?"		States have the power and authority to run themselves. Obviously certain items have been passed or are shared with the federal government.
Constitutional	43	In your opinion what is the most important clause in the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights?		<u>1. Declaration of Independence:</u> Without question one of the most quoted sections and most important to the freedoms we hold dear is: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain <u>unalienable Rights</u> ; that among these are <u>Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness</u> ." Although our country has made great strides... we still have work to do to ensure the freedoms of all, lack of racism, etc... <u>2. Constitution:</u> The Constitution is organized into three parts. The first is the Preamble and describes the purpose of the document and the Federal Government. The second part is the seven Articles and establishes how the Government is structured and how the Constitution can be changed. The third part is the Amendments which lists changes to the Constitution (the first 10 are called the Bill of Rights). The Preamble sets up all words that follow and to me contains the most important clauses: "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." <u>3. Bill of Rights:</u> The First Amendment is extremely important and provides that Congress make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise. It protects freedom of speech, the press, assembly, and the right to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Constitutional	44	Would you support the repeal of the 17th Amendment? Why or Why not?	YES	The 17th Amendment gives voters the power to directly elect their Senators. It also states that the U.S. Senate includes two Senators from each state, and that each Senator has one vote in the Senate. Although as a County Commissioner this one would <u>not</u> cross my desk... I would support the repeal. I believe (as most Conservatives do) it would restore more power to the State and make Senators more accountable to the people of the state which is what I believe our Founding Fathers intended. Elections have at times become popularity contests with candidates often spending more time raising money to garner votes -- than focusing on the issues.
Constitutional	45	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	YES	If part of the purpose of this questionnaire was to ensure candidates not only knew the basics... but also reviewed our nation's most important documents and in some cases dove into them for the first time-- I'd say MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. Many of these documents are obviously very familiar and well known to me... but for the purposes of this lesson I looked up each one and reviewed them. Definitely learned and re-learned a few things! Dan Cook's prior teachings also helped... and I carry my pocket versions of all... started doing that while I was in the Air Force.
Final	46	Do you agree to have your answers published for public review?	YES	I'm proud and stand behind the responses I've written... and I'm consistent in the answers I gave previously when a candidate in 2019/2020. There's always more to learn however in each of these questions and topics. All elected officials need to be open to further education... however, the basic principles of integrity, responsibility, and any non-negotiable items... should remain steadfast in <u>every</u> public servant's actions. I'm appalled at those who flip-flop easily based on pressure from citizens and they do so when they feel their popularity or security in the seat might be in jeopardy. I take great pride in the <u>consistency</u> of my positions. I'm always open to hearing opposing views... but there are many issues I already feel strongly about... have all I need to know about the topic... and I'm strong and unwavering in my position.