

1. Is a government shutdown ever warranted as a means of achieving policy goals?
NO, this is a method that hurts many innocent people that should not be punished by our Congress's inability to function. With the massive amount of wasteful spending, there are plenty of opportunities to cut costs and reduce government operations without a total shutdown.

2. On balance, has the Affordable Care Act been helpful or harmful? What changes are needed?

Harmful. Too many people have had their premiums increased or have completely lost the plans that they prefer. Doctors are being separated from their patients. Overall, our health care system is becoming less effective for many patients while it is increasing the overall cost of our healthcare system. The ACA was a poorly planned program and the unintended consequences have been severe for the average citizen. A "one size fits all" for the entire nation is simply not workable. Instead, we should repeal the act and do what should have been done in the first place. For example, open up the free market to cross-state insurance, allow people to keep their plan when they change jobs or move to a new state, allow insurance companies to develop special policies for unique groups of people, or allow groups of citizens to come together as group to buy group insurance. These are just a sample of ideas that could create more choice to patients while controlling costs and improving the quality of treatment.

3. Should the government use financial incentives to encourage the growth of renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar?_

NO. Even if these technologies prove promising some time in the future, funding them with tax dollars is not the way to go. These industries, if managed well by the people inside the industry, will potentially eventually thrive and be successful in a free market environment. But subsidizing them with "free money" from taxpayers only creates bad habits in management, reduces the hunger to succeed, and creates situations like Solyndra, the government-subsidized company that failed miserably. It cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars while enriching only the people who got the government subsidies.

4. What is the most important policy change needed in immigration reform?_

Secure the border. Until that is accomplished, no other actions make sense. We need to have skilled immigrants. They bring new ideas and new energy to American business. We should continue to encourage that. But as long as we have open borders, there is no way to manage that process. Open borders also allows people to freely come here that are not good for America. Criminals and terrorists can freely come across an open border.

5. Do you support the nationwide legalization of marijuana?_

This should be a state-by-state decision. States would be able decide when or even if they want to legalize it. States should be able to plan their legalization programs to fit their local needs, resources and timeline.

6. Should same-sex marriage be legal?

This should be a state-by-state decision. The federal government is wrong to try to dictate a single solution for every state. Each state has the collective wishes of its people. I am careful to not force my personal opinion on the will of the voters.

7. Are more restrictions needed on the ability of intelligence agencies to monitor the communications of US citizens?

Yes, we have due process standards in America. When the government starts to monitor everyone's actions "just in case", this is not acceptable.

8. Do you support new restrictions on the sale or possession of firearms?

No, we have an amazingly huge number of laws regarding gun sales. The problems we have are not with legal gun owners. Criminals generally ignore gun laws. We need to work on preventing and prosecuting the illegal use of guns.

9. On abortion, do you consider yourself generally "pro-life" or "pro-choice?"

The law regarding pro-life vs. pro choice has been set for 40 years. We need to live by and enforce this law. The problem is when people in power think they can ignore the law or modify it for their own opinions. Abortion is available under the law. I do believe that steps must be taken to insure that taxpayer money is not used to provide abortions. As long as it is legal as a personal decision, those costs should not be a taxpayer responsibility.