

Local Candidate Questionnaire

Please review the following principles and indicate whether you support them or not. Feel free to comment. As an elected official, your support for a principle is your pledge to advocate for and adhere to actions and legislation consistent with that principle and to oppose actions and legislation that violate those principles.

Free Markets

When citizens decide when, where, how and with whom they will conduct their business that is called free enterprise. Competition in the free enterprise system improves the quality of services and products while reducing costs; motivates individuals to innovate and give friendly, attentive service to their customers. Whoever excels at providing the best becomes the most successful. In short, Capitalism is the key to prosperity; it is the engine that provides opportunity for all. There is no freedom without private property – which includes the fruits of man's labor, his income. Liberty can be measured by the amount of disposable income that can be used after all physical necessities are covered. Government's job is to provide protection so that the individual's life, family and property are safe from aggression or encroachments. But when government becomes too big and its regulations too intrusive - producing nothing and operating solely at taxpayers' expense - such interference becomes a form of legalized theft and the citizen taxpayers reduced to little more than serfs.

I support this principle: **Yes**

Limited Government

The powers of the federal government as given by the constitution are few and defined, among them the power to tax: "The Congress shall have power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."—United States Constitution, Article I, Section 8 - The Founders clearly stated their intentions for a limited government, yet some amendments have been abused by congress to allow for the unrestrained growth of federal control and spending. No congress has been successful at reducing the size of government. Now is the time we must hold congress accountable to the Constitution by delegitimizing any spending that strays from original intent. The federal government spent 84% more in 2009 than it did in 1988, while the population has only risen by 30%. In order to achieve a reduction in the size and scope of the federal Government, any future bill, existing law, policy or amendment that does not adhere to the principle and ideology of individual and states' rights must be terminated. Each state must be viewed as sovereign by the federal government and must not be compelled to sacrifice for the needs of another state— so that taxation is "uniform throughout the United States". By eliminating the federal government's role in the re-distribution of citizen income through taxation we can start to achieve uniformity while decreasing the scope of the federal government. Government interference in personal endeavors must end.

I support this principle: **Yes**

Personal Responsibility

America is a social compact that acknowledges Natural Law; that the basic rights of all mankind derive from God. Government is to be limited to the bare minimum intrusion into the lives of the governed consistent with community safety and liberty. Upon our nation's founding, these principles of self-government were unique and revolutionary. Today, they have withstood the test of time. America's foundational premise is that each person must be left free to exercise his rights to the fullest extent possible without infringing upon the rights of others. In America, the framework exists for each person to succeed based upon his or her merits and efforts. Equality of opportunity is inherent to our system. Equality of outcome is not. [I support this principle: Yes](#)

Constitutional Constructionism

Rightly fearing any government's tendency toward power, tyranny and oppression, the founders constructed a central government severely limited in its scope. It was to have specific and limited powers, be subordinate to the States and the People, and was to be subject to specific internal checks and balances. Time has proven the Founder's worst fears prescient. Our present federal government recognizes no boundaries to its scope, embraces no limits on its authority, demonstrates no restraint in its spending nor in its confiscation of citizen wealth through taxation. Elected officials in State and National offices must recognize and acknowledge the historic and shameful shredding of our Constitution, and understand their duty and obligation to reverse this damage to our social compact. The primacy of States' Rights, individual liberty, property rights, and the rule of law must be recognized and enforced. The federal government must be reduced in size, scope, reach, and hubris; and must be returned to its original and limited place in the lives of Americans. The Federal Government is OUR mutual compact as a people and a civilization to protect us in time of war, secure our borders, ensure an orderly society, and conduct relations with other nations. All other functions of Government are to be conducted at the local and state level. [I support this principle: Yes](#)

A Virtuous America

We the People should endeavor to be a virtuous people. Virtue implies the possession or manifestation of moral excellence. This moral excellence governs our values concerning the sanctity of life from conception to end. Honesty, trustworthiness, integrity, charity, sacrifice, industriousness, courage and reverence for God and country are all founding and God given qualities that comprise our virtue. As a People we endeavor to elect and appoint those officials that exemplify these virtues.

[I support this principle: Yes](#)

Strong National Defense

Defending the nation, providing for the common defense, is one of the few powers enumerated to the federal government by the Constitution. America must act proactively to defend itself, its citizens and its interest. We must seek peace through strength, serving as a deterrent to those who would seek to harm our way of life. Our military forces should only be used wisely and once deployed, their might unleashed to perform their task properly. The safety of America's people and her interests abroad are paramount to maintaining all other freedoms. A strong National defense, a prosperous economy and individual liberty are inextricably intertwined. One cannot exist without the others. Our borders must be secured sufficient to prohibit terrorists and criminal gangs from entering our nation. The onslaught of illegal immigrants who overwhelm our infrastructure must be halted. Energy, the engine of our economy, must not be subjugated to political whim, nor control by our enemies.

I support this principle: **Yes**

Name: Jason R. Denny

Elected office you are seeking: Austin City Council, District 5

Date: 06/28/14