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The formation of the United States of America: We the PEOPLE of the United States....do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.....**OF** the PEOPLE, **BY** the PEOPLE, and **FOR** the PEOPLE.

**Below is a listing of current issues that are linked to my position on each issue.**

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**Freedom:** The principal that founded our great nation is that of freedom. Many lives have been sacrificed to obtain, support, maintain and preserve our freedom. Freedom is the primary factor that allows our Democracy to work. Our freedom is envied by most of world's people, and hated by others. Many people, in the past and still today, abandon their homes, their families, their heritage, and risk their lives and that of their families to seek the freedom that we enjoy here in America. Every time Congress passes a bill, implements a regulation, or forces an industry reform, they are chipping away at the base of our democracy, the cornerstone of our America, the building block of our society, namely, our freedom. I firmly believe that all bills to be presented to Congress should be written in a manner that the average American citizen can read it, and understand it. I also believe that before any legislation is voted on, it should be thoroughly read, understood, discussed, presented to the American people, and considered in the context of how it promotes a continuation or expansion of the Freedom of the America People.

**Responsibilities of an elected official:** It is my belief that a person that seeks election to any public office must, first and foremost, understand that the position they seek is as a "Representative" of the voters that elected them. They must make themselves available to the people so that they can hear and understand the issues that are important. An elected official has a duty to be forthright and truthful in every aspect of their lives, and must establish a transparent position so that the voters can determine if they are doing an effective job. They must remember that they are sent there, **BY** the people and **FOR** the people.

**Term Limits:** I believe that a person can stay in Washington too long. I believe there should be a minimum and maximum age limit on holding a position in Congress. I believe that a person should be between the ages of 25 and 70 to seek office in the United States Congress. A person 69 years of age could seek office as long as they would be in office prior to reaching age 70. The number of terms a person serves should be and would be determined by the voters they represent, as is the principal and guiding force of a strong democracy. Some have suggested that 3 terms is the appropriate limit for someone to serve. That would be 6 years for a congressman and 18 years for a Senator. I am not certain where the correct number of terms may come from. I believe that if the elected official is transparent in their actions, truthful in their communications, and forthright in their positions, the PEOPLE will determine the number of terms they will serve, and that will be Democracy at work.

**Participation in the Congressional pension:** I am seeking election as your congressman for North Carolina's 6<sup>th</sup> district. My intentions are to go there to WORK for you as your representative, as an employee of the people. I believe that as a member of congress, working for you, I should have the opportunity to build and save for retirement as would most employees in the United States.

**Jobs:** The current unemployment rate is the highest it has been in many, many years. To get Americans back to work, we have to put policies in place that provide capital to businesses so they can grow and expand. We should be **investing** in the future of business instead of handing out money. Instead of Bailing out businesses that are faltering, we should be providing resources for these businesses to expand and export. We need to stop trying to put short-term "fixes" in place to get past the next election; we need long-term sound investment strategy. Unfortunately, our current employment outlook is not good. I don't think we can resolve this problem by throwing money at it. We are where we are, looking back and trying to place blame is not the answer, we need to look forward.

I believe that we are going to have to expand the unemployment coverage for those Americans that can't find productive employment. However, we need to tie that to the recipients' investment in their future as well through re-training, additional education, and community service. We need to invest in our colleges, universities and community colleges and have them develop these educational and training programs to "re-tool" America and get Americans back to being productive.

**Health Care reform:** We should all, just say no thanks. I have no confidence that the government can intervene in any industry and make it more efficient, and cheaper to operate. The health care proposal, I feel, will take a huge chunk out of our democracy and move us one step closer to socialism. I don't believe that is what our founding fathers and our ancestors had in mind when they laid down their lives for America.

I do believe, however, that there needs to be some change in the health care industry. I believe that most people have little or no say in their health care. They have insurance through the insurance plan their employer chose, take medicine their physician prescribed, and pay whatever the insurance companies tell them to pay. I dare say that most people can't tell you what the true cost of their health care is, most probably don't know what their medications cost. For these reasons, I believe that some oversight is required.

I believe that the providers in the health care industry should be charged with revitalizing the health care industry. We should put together independent industry panels, including a panel of citizens, for each sector of the health care industry to develop a plan that, they believe, can help improve health care. The plan from each of these groups should be passed on to a separate and independent group made up of representatives of each group to review each of the plans and formulate an overall plan for review by Congress. The final plan should outline specific ways the government could help with improving the efficient and economical operation of the health care industry. The involvement of any and all lobbyists must be strictly forbidden. From my standpoint, Tort reform has to be one way that Congress can make a positive impact on the cost of health care. It bothers me that the monetary settlement for getting a cup of coffee accidentally spilled in your lap is many, many times larger than the settlement a surviving spouse will get to raise their family when a soldier falls in service of his country.

**Gun Control:** I am a firm believer in our constitutional right, under the second amendment, to own and bear firearms. I believe that the current regulations relating to age and previous convictions are sufficient for the protection of the public and no further regulations should be enacted related to this constitutional right. I believe that gun control is more about control than it is about guns.

**Abortion:** I am adamantly opposed to abortion as a method of birth control. I am supportive of abortion in the instances of rape, incest and at times when the life of the expectant mother is at risk, within the constraints of the current law. I consider myself to be pro-life.

**Iraq and Afghanistan:** We undertook the military move into Iraq and Afghanistan for formidable reasons, and to protect America, Americans, and our way of life. This decision, I am certain, was not undertaken lightly. I believe we have performed a great service in these countries but believe it is time to reassess what we intend to accomplish in the future. If, in fact, we are there as a service to these countries to provide security and training, then they should be footing the bill. How can we, in good faith, continue to ask the American citizens to shoulder the financial responsibility of the mission in those countries without any cost to those countries? Why should our military, stationed in Iraq, pay an average of \$3.23 per gallon for gasoline while the citizens of Iraq, that we are there to protect and teach, pay only \$1.36. I believe we need to redefine our role, explain our intentions for a conclusion to our presence, and have these countries support our operations financially. Based on my understanding of their oil reserves, they have the resources to make at least some contribution to the cost. If we just “give” them their freedom without them having to help “earn” it, it will have no value.

**Deficit:** The deficit for 2010 is estimated to exceed 1.5 trillion dollars (1,500,000,000,000). In short, the government plans to spend 1.5 trillion dollars more than it brings in. I don't know about you, but my bank won't allow me to do that. Our national debt is expected to exceed 12 trillion dollars in 2010, almost \$40,000 for every citizen in America. The really bad part is that our debt is growing. We have to stop spending outside of our ability to pay. I believe that we must get our spending in line, and we can do this by investing in the resources for business, increasing operating efficiencies in government operations by employing more technology, reducing the government red tape, and by reducing wasteful programs and spending. I believe every spending bill that is brought before Congress must come with an automatic expiration date such that that program will receive no further funding after that date, unless it is renewed. If a bill is important enough to justify the spending, it is important enough to justify the review.

**Taxes:** Taxes in some fashion are required to operate this great nation. I believe that most citizens understand this, and would gladly pay their taxes if they felt their tax dollars were being spent wisely and in an efficient manner. We must look at alternative ways to implement tax policy so that taxing our citizens is fair and equitable. If you consider Federal, State and local taxes, our citizens get taxed when they earn it (income tax), taxed when they spend it (sales tax), and taxed if you don't spend it (estate tax), and taxed if you give it away (gift tax). We need tax reform that is real reform and real simplification. We should eliminate the estate tax, close the loop holes, and simply the taxing process so that taxation is fair to all citizens.

**Natural resources and climate:** Most people, I believe, would agree that we are consuming our natural resources at a rapid pace. One point to be certain of, is, that at some point in the future we will consume the natural resources we have on the planet. Our global oil reserves may seem huge, but they aren't infinite, they are a fixed quantity. Whether you believe we are or are not in a pattern of global warming isn't as important as the realization that we must conserve our natural resources for future generations. We must look at ways to reduce our carbon footprint, better utilize our natural resources, develop alternative energy sources, and further exploration of our resources. It is our **responsibility** to do all we can to preserve the resources we have for our children. Developing better and alternative energy policies is a winning policy for everybody. These policies can help preserve our natural resources, reduce pollution, reduce waste, reduce our dependency on foreign energy sources, create jobs, and reduce our trade deficit. We must promote investment into and development of these energy sources.

**Foreign trade:** We continue to see U.S. manufacturing jobs going out of America and to other countries. We ship raw materials out of the country valued at \$100, they are processed into finished goods and shipped back into the US valued a \$1,000, and the cost to the consumer for those products is less than that of similar goods produced wholly within the US. Those foreign countries and companies are making significant profits in this trading process. China holds a favored trading partner status with the U.S., it is also the single largest holder of US debt. There have been discussions that the labeling, "Made in the USA" can help consumers in the U.S., buy products made in the US. While I believe this can't hurt, I don't believe it is the solution. We, as a nation, need to get to the root of the issue, determine how and why these products can be made cheaper abroad and determine how we can have a realistic and sustainable impact on our manufacturing costs.

I believe that some of the root issues are that our industry is overburdened with regulations, strained with excessive taxes, and constricted by lack of working capital. While I do believe that some regulation is required to protect the public as a whole, I think the government needs to get out of the way and stop hindering business. We need to insure that companies have the resources available to improve efficiencies so that products made in the US are competitively priced with products produced elsewhere. We need to shift our focus away from that of punishment through fines and penalties to that of rewarding companies for developing new and innovative processes and technologies. I think we all realize that the cost of fines and penalties is passed on to the consumer through price increases, it should follow as well that the savings from rewards and increases in efficiencies would push through as reductions in pricing and increases in savings to the consumer.

**Special interest groups:** I believe there are too many special interest groups involved in the decision making process. There is too much of the “Good ole boy” network and too much pork tacked on to what might be otherwise good policies. I believe the first step to controlling the involvement of special interest groups and lobbyists is to establish a transparent system for making available all contributions, spending and participation of our leaders with these groups and lobbyists available for the people to review.

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