



EmpowerU 8th Congressional District Candidate Interview/forum

Format

Approximately two hours are planned for this forum: 90 minutes of question and answer, posed by the panel and 30 minutes of select questions from the audience. The forum opens with each candidate introduced by the moderator (EmpowerU is working to secure a professor of political science with knowledge of the 8th district to serve as moderator.)

Each participant is asked to provide a short bio/introduction (paragraph) to be read by the moderator. A three-minute closing opportunity will be afforded each candidate to offer any comments/qualifications and/or explain why they would be the best choice to represent the voters of the 8th district.

Questions will be posed by a panel consisting of three individuals—each versed in a specific area of government policy.

Candidates will have up to two minutes to answer each question. A timekeeper will use paddles to alert when 30 seconds remain (yellow) and when time expires (red). Note, this forum is not a debate, rather a candidate interview for the congressional seat.

The moderator has the discretion to ask the panelists if they have a follow-up to a candidate's answer. They may also comment or ask a question to clarify a response.

If an invite is issued, will you be able to participate in the candidate's forum at Lakota Freshman School on February 24? yes

Please sign, date and return the attached survey by 1/22 to acknowledge consent to inclusion of responses in the voter guide and agreement with the format of the forum.

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Ohio 8th Congressional District Candidate Survey

1. What federal government agency/department, if any, warrants elimination? Why?
2. The federal government is charged with protecting American's freedoms while also keeping America safe. Is it possible to keep America safe while protecting the privacy and freedom of the individual citizen in an increasingly dangerous world? If both freedom and safety are in conflict, what should be the top priority?
3. Should there be term limits in the House of Representatives? If yes, how many? If no, why not?
4. Should the U.S. create a path to citizenship for people who have entered the country illegally?
5. Can this be justified while avoiding unequal treatment of those pursuing citizenship or naturalization via the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service?
6. What is the proper role of the United States when it comes to the internal affairs of other countries? Should foreign policy serve the national interests of the United States or is there a role for nation building?
7. Do you support a voucher or tax credit program whereby parents are given the right to choose which school receives the tax dollars allocated for their child?
8. Do you support the common core standards mandated by the U.S. Department of Education? Should curriculum and standards be set at the federal level.
9. What is the proper role of the US Department of Education as it pertains to the individual state's ability to govern themselves and local control of education?

10. The recent Congressional omnibus bill funded organizations and programs that many Americans claim violates their core values and raised Constitutional issues. Is any item currently being funded in the federal budget that would require you to vote against a "must pass" budget even if in doing so, it forced a closure of some percentage of the federal government.
11. How would you avoid the necessity of passing last minute Omnibus bills?
Could/Should budget votes be separated so that controversial subject matter not be included in a must pass bill?
12. How would you describe the job of a U.S. Representative in the House?
13. Please Identify one **current** House and one Senate member who most closely aligns with your personal political ideology and/or view of governance.
Please explain why you have chosen these two people?

Please complete your responses on separate sheets and attach to this form.

Signed  Date 1-19-2016

Please return your responses to this survey by January 22, 2016



J.D. Winteregg

Ohio 8th Congressional District Candidate Survey Responses

1. Any federal agency/department that falls outside the parameters outlined in the Constitution warrants elimination. The Constitution enumerates the powers of the federal government, and anything that is not listed is to be left to the states. For instance, nowhere in the Constitution does it talk about education, so there should be no Department of Education—it's to be left to the states to handle. I support eliminating any and all departments/agencies that fall outside these Constitutional parameters.
2. I believe it is possible to keep America safe while protecting the privacy and freedom of the individual. We need to secure our borders and respect the Second Amendment; the right to keep and bear arms is meant to help us to keep ourselves secure. The federal government has no right to take our freedoms by ignoring the Fourth Amendment in the name of safety. (Safety defined by whom?)
3. I believe that members of the House of Representatives and Senate should be limited to 12 years of service; that's 6 terms for members of the House and 2 terms for members of the Senate. This gives every representative a chance to govern with their party in power (should they encounter an 8 year Presidential term). Taking this a step further, I also favor a requirement that members of Congress live and vote from home. The centralization of lobbyist influence in Washington DC has created a culture of corruption, and the geographical buffer between representatives and their constituents has fostered the growth of this culture. There's a greater measure of accountability on representatives when they know there's an end to their term and that they have to directly face those they represent every day.
4. No.
5. A path to citizenship serves to show that our laws serve no purpose. Allowing people to break the law and "cut in line" is unequal and unfair to those who respect our laws and try to enter our country via the correct means.
6. The United States has a role in the affairs of other countries as it pertains to the powers enumerated in the Constitution; providing for the common Defense, protecting our borders from invasion, regulating international Commerce, taxes/duties on imports/exports, accepting presents and titles without Congressional consent, treaties ratified by a Senate supermajority, and borrowing money are the only roles permitted to our federal government. The federal government should use these powers to serve national interests, not to nation build.
7. The premise of this question is flawed if it pertains to the federal government; the federal government has no Constitutional justification for confiscating and redistributing our tax dollars for the purpose of education. That being said, I support removing the federal government from our educational system and allowing the states and local communities to decide how to address the educational needs of their respective students. The parents have the ultimate authority to decide how their children are educated, and should the states and local communities decide to provide choice through vouchers or tax credits, that is a decision I would support.
8. I do not support the Common Core standards, and I do not believe that the curriculum and standards should be set at the federal level.
9. The US Department of Education has no proper role as it pertains to the individual state's ability to govern itself.

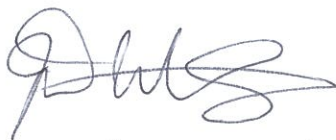
10. I would vote against a “must pass” budget if it included funding for anything outside of what’s permitted in the enumerated powers in the Constitution. Specifically, I would not vote for anything—ever—that included funding for abortion.

11. Last minute Omnibus bills occur because of fundraising (pandering to lobbyists’ agendas) and a lack of conviction by leadership to engage in honest discourse because they fear how they will be perceived by the media. Budget bills should (and can) be separated, but only if the representatives can appropriately apply pressure to the leadership. We can avoid the fiasco of controversial, last minute Omnibus bills and apply pressure to the leadership by effective organization. This includes finding like-minded individuals and developing a winning messaging plan. One area in which liberals and Democrats are far superior to conservatives and Republicans is in messaging. We can use effective messaging to win the constituents over who can then apply pressure on their elected officials to engage the issues before they reach “crisis” status. We may have to consider finding ways to run ads, move grassroots volunteers, and other non-conventional methods in order to push our message, but it can be done. We just need people in there—like myself—who are moved more by conviction than by re-election.

12. The job of a U.S. Representative in the House is to represent his or her constituents within the boundaries of powers enumerated in the Constitution. The job of the US Government is to secure and protect our God-given liberties.

13. House—Justin Amash; I believe Justin does his best to govern according to the principles of the Constitution, and I admire that he explains every vote he makes to the public through this lens.

Senate—Ted Cruz; I believe Ted Cruz has a deep understanding of the Constitution, and I admire his will to stand against his leadership to ensure that the Constitutional powers are respected.



1-19-16