



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 I will participate

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 Scott P. George Date 1-22-2016

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



EmpowerU 8th Congressional District Candidate Survey

Candidate: Scott George

1. What federal government agency/department, if any, warrants elimination? Why?

I believe the IRS can and should be eliminated. My rationale begins with the fact the IRS is responsible for the collections of taxes and the administration and compliance with our tax codes. It is now also responsible for the enforcement of portions of the Affordable Care Act (healthcare). It has been proven the IRS is now being used as a political weapon against particular groups and individual citizens. The corruption within the department and the system will not be solved through reform.

The biggest reason for elimination would be through the implementation of a flat tax or consumption-based tax system and the repeal of the ACA. We would no longer require much of the work done in the IRS. It is true we would still need services dedicated to the processing of tax revenue collected through retailers. The new system would not need the tax compliance and enforcement elements of the agency.

I would also suggest consideration of the EPA. If not total elimination, I would suggest a significant reduction in scope and power.

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?

Yes it is possible to keep America safe while protecting the privacy and freedom of individual citizens, although you can never remove 100% of risk. We must secure our borders and we must stop immigration of individuals with ties to Islamic terrorist countries until we have a valid way to vet them. We should stop the collecting of mega-data of U.S. Citizens without probable cause. When probable cause is established a warrant should be issued and then the government can move forward with an active investigation. With that said, non-citizens are not subject to the protections of our Constitution and I believe are open to any and all investigation and surveillance.

Our government, and government leaders, need to support our law enforcement. They have been vilified by the current administration with very few leaders stepping forward to support them. This lack of support has created a divide and reduced cooperation and respect among the citizens. Law enforcement is the local solution and must be respected by the citizenry.

I don't believe you sacrifice freedom for anything. Necessity will be the argument for that transition. "Necessity is the plea for every infringement on human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves." William Pitt (the younger) 1782 in the House of Commons. You must address the root cause without infringing on the freedoms of U.S. Citizens.

3. Should there be term limits in the House of Representatives? If yes, how many? If no, why not?

Yes, I believe members of the House of Representatives should be limited to 3 terms. I believe it is impossible to be part of the political machine for more than 3 terms and not have your thinking corrupted. At that point you are no longer accurately representing the voters in your district.

4. Should the U.S. create a path to citizenship for people who have entered the country illegally?

There should not be a path to citizenship for those who are in our country illegally. They have defied our laws and should not be rewarded with citizenship.

5. Can this be justified while avoiding unequal treatment of those pursuing citizenship or naturalization via the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service?

We cannot justify the reward of citizenship to those who do not respect our sovereignty by entering our country illegally, while those who have obeyed our laws are working through or have worked through the system. They have incurred the costs, put forth the effort to meet requirements and demonstrated the patients to move through the process for their opportunity to be an American citizen.

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?

The United States must develop a bi-partisan foreign policy strategy where America leads from the front. The world is a safer place when America leads. This does not mean we fix every country with a problem. This does not mean that we build other nations in our image.

Foreign policy should serve the long-term national interests of the United States. There may be a role for nation building but only in the event that a country's people have overthrown their government and wish to have the United States help in building a democracy. It is not our role to use U.S. Military force to overthrow legitimate leaders of a foreign country; regardless of the type of regime they command. We can apply pressure through a coalition of diplomatic sanctions but it is not our role to overthrow them.

7. Do you support a voucher tax credit program whereby parents are given the right to choose which school receives the tax dollars allocated for their child?

I would be open to support a voucher tax credit program depending on the structure. As a supporter of the free market I like the idea of creating competition between schools to attract students. This is one way for parents to hold their local school district accountable. This can be a good thing as long as schools are being measured using the same standard of measurement. One problem we have today is we are using different standards for different schools i.e. public schools vs. charter schools). This may cause two different schools to look similar when there are very different in the results they deliver.

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?

As the parent of a 3rd grader and a 1st grader, I do not support common core.

First, common core has tied student test results to teacher accountability. It does not account for all the variables that impact a child's ability to learn (student, parent, teacher, administration, environment, curriculum...).

Second, I would challenge that a test score does little to provide insight into the quality of a child's thinking. The ability to successfully complete a test proves that you have retained information, it does nothing to show that you have gained knowledge. Information is not knowledge. Knowledge requires a theory and you must apply the information, testing your theory. The results of the experience provides knowledge.

Finally, I can embrace a national standard if it is scientifically validated to be appropriate for student success in the working world. It should be a bar to strive for and not used as a disciplinary tool on teachers and schools. I believe education should be managed at the local level not through Federal mandates, meaning, I believe the curriculum and teaching methodologies should be developed and managed at the local level. Those who are closest to the problem know best how to address the issues.

9. What is the proper role of the U.S. Department of Education as it pertains to the individual state's ability to govern themselves and local control of education?

I can embrace a national standard if it is scientifically validated to be appropriate for student success in the working world. It should be a bar to strive for and not used as a disciplinary tool on teachers and schools. I believe education should be managed at the local level not through Federal mandates, meaning, I believe the curriculum and teaching methodologies should be developed and managed at the local level. Those who are closest to the problem know best how to address the issues.

I believe the U.S. Department of Education could lead research in new learning methodologies, tools, equipment and environmental conditions. The results should be recommended to local districts as possible solutions that can be adopted if they feel they are appropriate in their district.

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?

There were at least 10 items in the omnibus bill that would have caused me to vote no. 1) Funds the Dream Act, 2) Funds sanctuary cities, 3) Funds all refugee programs, 4) funds all Middle East immigration programs, 5) Funds illegal alien resettlement, 6) Funds release of criminal aliens, 7) Quadruples H-2B foreign worker visas, expanding a controversial provision of the Shumer-Rubio gang of eight. All while we have over 90 million people under-employed or unemployed, 8) Funds tax credits for illegal aliens, 9) Increased the IMF quota, giving them access to more of our tax dollars to bailout irresponsible States like Greece, 10) Funds Planned Parenthood, 11) Funds Obamacare.

I would also vote no because this bill suspended the debt ceiling until March of 2017, meaning there is not debt ceiling. The government is free to spend at any level where funds are released.

It is also equally important to note what isn't in the budget bill that will be funded in addition to the omnibus; Highway Trust Fund and the Ex-Im Bank adding hundreds of billions to the tax burden.

Two other areas not funded I believe are important to mention is a social security cost of living increase and the 700 miles of border fence promised over a decade ago.

This bill is not a complete budget, is full of things that should not be funded and is missing several things that should be funded. I would vote no and would stick to my decision until the problems are addressed.

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?

First the House of Representatives needs to retrieve its taxing, spending & borrowing powers from the executive agencies. It needs to stop passing continuing resolutions funding everything that was funded in the previous budget with a normal 4 – 5% increase. The House needs to start passing individual appropriations bills funding each department or agency separately. All revenue collected by agencies should go into the Treasury. No agency should be self-funded.

In theory the House should agree on a target for reduced spending for the year and begin the process of identifying potential reductions long before budget deadlines. If all members of the House are dedicated to this process it can work. However, if either party does not want to negotiate they have the flexibility to prevent progress until the official deadline.

It may be possible to negotiate using other bills deemed important by budget opposition as leverage to continue budget talks throughout the year. We have to change the legislative mindset to America first, party second.

12. How would you describe the job of U.S. Representative in the House?

I would start by saying the job of the U.S Representative is to be the voice of the people for their district. You must be in touch with the people of your district, understand their issues, hear their solutions and align with their values and beliefs.

You use that information to provide input into bills, debate, guide your decisions and direct your vote. Congress legislates and it must retrieve the legislative powers it handed off to the regulatory agencies. The job of the House is to raise the revenues necessary to fund the federal government, appropriate funds from the treasury and control the level of government debt.

13. Please identify one current House and one Senate member who most closely aligns with your personal ideology and/or view of governance. Please explain why you have chosen these two people.

I would say Mia Love is the member of the House that most closely aligns with my personal view of governance. Like Love, I come from a modest background where my parents worked hard, instilled good moral values, a solid work ethic and the will to make a difference. I worked my way through school. Love and I are both very connected to working class people because that is our heritage and who we are. We are both conservative, believe in limited government and seek to defend individual liberties and promote a free market economy limiting government restraints on business. We both believe in personal responsibility and reduced government dependency.

I would say the member of the Senate who most closely aligns with my personal view of governance is Ted Cruz. For reasons similar to Mia Love; conservative, limited government, defender of the constitution and individual liberties. The area that may best align us is our willingness to keep our word and fight for what we believe in and what is right. Even if those beliefs are in conflict with our party leadership, not our party platform, but the party leadership. Both Mia Love and Ted Cruz reflect my belief that as a member of Congress my duty is to my country and the constituents of my district. I answer to the voters who elected me, not other members of Congress. I'm pretty easy to get along with and I am not unreasonable, but I will honor my values and my commitment to the people who elect me.