

Q & A

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1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



The following survey has been edited due to space constraints. For the complete survey go to www.deseretnews.com and click on the election link in the left-hand column.

1. In general, what are the two major issues facing the United States and your specific House district today, and how would you address them?

First, military issues will always be important in northern Utah and encompass a lot of my work in Congress. Second, solving the problem of illegal immigration is another major issue affecting our nation and state. And it's not just about jobs; it's about securing our homeland.

2. Would you over the next two years in office ever vote for a tax increase?

No. We should make the temporary tax cuts permanent to avoid an automatic tax increase. The economy does better when we let Americans keep more of their hard-earned dollars.

3. Before the United States invaded Iraq, did you favor or oppose the U.S. taking new military action in the country?

There was a compelling legal case for action. Saddam Hussein threatened our security, and the world is a safer place without him in power.

4. In your opinion, what should the U.S. do now in the Iraqi war?

If we have learned any lessons from history it is that combat situations require decision to be made by military leaders in the field who understand the whole picture, not by politicians in Washington trying to set their own agendas. Setting artificial deadlines for withdrawal would only benefit the enemy. Those types of decisions should be made by the military leaders on the ground and should not be public.

5. Should Democrats take control of the U.S. Senate after the November elections, predict three things that will happen over the next two years because of the power shift.

First, liberal San Francisco representative Nancy Pelosi would be speaker of the House. That's scary enough. Next, based on the bills and budgets the Democrats have proposed in the last few years, the legislative agenda would shift dramatically to the left and overall spending and taxes would likely increase significantly.

6. Considering that the U.S. budget will be in deficit again, do you favor or oppose making the current tax cuts permanent?

History has proven that when we cut taxes and let people keep, spend and invest their own money, revenues into the government actually increase. The real answer to the deficit is to cut spending, not increase taxes. I favor making the current tax cuts permanent, and I have voted many times to reduce spending.

7. Please give your specific stands on the following issues, which some term as moral issues:

– **Stem cell research.** I oppose embryonic stem cell research, which requires the destruction of existing human embryos. This research is currently allowed, but it has yielded no significant treatments. I support adult stem cell research, which does not require the destruction of potential human life and has already produced dozens of proven medical treatments being used today. The only issue before Congress, however, is which research, if any, will receive federal funding.

– **Cloning of human cells.** I oppose human cloning.

– **Abortion.** I am pro-life and oppose abortion and believe it should be illegal in all cases except those involving rape, incest or the life of the mother. I have supported efforts to

ban the heinous practice of partial-birth abortion.

– **Capital punishment.** I support the right of juries and judges to use capital punishment for the punishment of serious crimes such as murder.

– **Same-sex marriage.** I oppose same-sex marriage.

8. Specifically say how you would "solve" the immigration problem in the short and long term?

First, we need to better enforce the laws already on the books. Next, we need to secure the borders. We must reform our current system of legal immigration to make it less cumbersome for those coming for the right reasons and tougher on those coming for the wrong reasons.

9. What is the one area where you see a real difference between you and your major party opponent?

I would say the biggest difference is experience.

Responses to questions from Democratic candidate Steve Olsen:

1. How would you restore America's fiscal integrity?

The bottom line is that the federal government spends too much. So the answer to our fiscal problems is not to raise taxes, as many Democrat leaders have indicated they would do. The solution is to cut spending.

2. Most Americans feel the common interest of the people has become subservient to those who can afford to hire a top-notch lobbying firm. What steps would you take to address this problem?

The First Amendment protects the right of individuals to petition the government. I'm hesitant to infringe on that right, even if it may currently be popular to do so. In general, everyone who cares about an issue or contacts his or her member of Congress is a lobbyist – lobbying for something he or she thinks is important. I appreciate the information and perspectives constituents and lobbyists provide, and in the end I base decisions on what I think is best for our state and its citizens.