



MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE SURVEY – 2021

The following statements represent the Core Beliefs and Positions of We Believe We Vote. Please respond to the **Core Beliefs** statements by checking the box that corresponds to your level of agreement/disagreement, according to your worldview.

Issue Application: Following the Position Statements, relevant issues are posed with a statement that indicates a possible response. As a potential elected official, please indicate your level of agreement/disagreement with the response. Optional space is available to explain your responses.

CORE BELIEFS

1. **The Holy Bible**

The Holy Bible is the supernatural, inspired Word of God; it is inerrant, supreme, complete, and final.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Strongly Agree ----- Strongly Disagree
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

2. **The Work of Christ**

The sinless life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ provided the perfect sacrifice for the redemption of sinners, who are redeemed by faith alone.

Hebrews 10:5-14

Strongly Agree ----- Strongly Disagree
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

3. **The Constitution** (Limited Government)

Our Constitution is the supreme law of the land. It defines and limits the authority of government. The original intent of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights is to uphold the unalienable rights of American citizens.

Psalm 19:7-9; Deut. 4:5-8; Isaiah 33:22; Preamble to the Constitution

Strongly Agree ----- Strongly Disagree
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

POSITION STATEMENTS

4. **Life**

God created man in His image. The duty of civil government is the protection of innocent human life from conception until natural death.

Gen 2:7; 9:5-6; Ps 139:13-18; Bill of Rights; 5th Amendment

A) Issue Application: Washington State’s “Reproductive Privacy Rights” law allows minors to obtain abortions without parental consent. Additionally, this law requires taxpayer-funded abortions, on-demand. Late-term abortions are legal throughout all 9 months of pregnancy in WA because of the vague way that viability is defined in this law.

Response: The Reproductive Privacy Rights law needs to be challenged and/or repealed at both the state and local levels.

Strongly Agree ----- Strongly Disagree
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

B) Issue Application: In the past, Planned Parenthood and other abortion rights organizations have received municipal funds for various social services.

Response: Taxpayer funds should never be granted to organizations that provide or promote abortions.

Strongly Agree ----- Strongly Disagree
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

COMMENTS:



5. **Liberty**

Our system of government is based on the premise that individuals must be responsible before the law for their own conduct. The source of liberty is not found in a government, but in the inalienable rights of all men, including freedom of conscience. Governments are created to protect those rights and encourage morally responsible choices.

Gal 5:1; 1 Peter 2:16; Bill of Rights Amendments 1-10

Issue Application: The response of officials to Covid-19 has generally been an example of government over-reach, with the result that citizens' rights have been seriously compromised. Public health agencies have been given power they are not Constitutionally entitled. Additionally, individuals, including medical experts, who have challenged the prevailing narrative about covid have been censored.

Response: While elected officials must make decisions that protect the safety of all, the rights of individuals and business owners to exercise First Amendment rights must not be infringed upon. Elected officials have a duty to resist unelected bureaucrats who try to impose controversial mandates, such as forced mask wearing, quarantining the healthy, and vaccination passports.

Strongly Agree ----- Strongly Disagree
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

6. **Property**

A person's property (land, possessions, money, opinions, and conscience) is protected in the Constitution. Civil government is instituted to protect property rights of every sort.

Ex 20:15, 17; Deut 19:14; Constitution: Article 1, Section 2, 1-8-8

Issue Application: Washington State and Spokane County officials have infringed on the property rights of citizens with burdensome regulations and ever-changing restrictions about wells and water rights. Groups with an environmentally restrictive purpose, such as the urban advocacy group Futurewise, oppose private property owners from developing their own land. They advocate for unnecessary government regulatory control under the guise of the undefined concept of "environmental justice." Lobbying from such groups led to the Washington State Supreme Court ruling of October 2016, *Hirst*, which created an obstructive and costly policy that worked to prohibit permit-exempt wells in parts of rural Washington.

Response: Limiting the influence of groups such as Futurewise and safekeeping the interests and rights of property owners must be a high priority.

Strongly Agree ----- Strongly Disagree
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

7. **Family**

Only marriage between one man & one woman should be protected by civil government because it is the optimal environment for raising children, it is the cornerstone of every other societal institution, it strengthens the social & economic stability of the nation, and it reinforces the God-given, timeless role, & priority of the family unit.

Gen 1:26-27; 2:21-25; Psalm 78:5-7; 1 Tim 5:4-8

Issue Application: Most parents uphold the preeminence of marriage between one man and one woman, and the biological reality of two sexes, which determines gender. Yet, taxpayer funds have been used to promote policies that normalize alternative lifestyles, blend gender distinctions resulting in grammatically incorrect pronoun usage, and support programs such as drag queen story hour in libraries.

Response: Elected officials should not use taxpayer funds for programs that undermine the traditional family, such as those cited above. Public funding and/or endorsement by public officials of such programs should be prohibited.

Strongly Agree ----- Strongly Disagree
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

8. **Education**

It is the fundamental right and responsibility of parents to direct the education of their children.

Prov 22:6; Eph 6:1-4

Issue Application: Critical Race Theory, The 1619 Project, and other like-minded programs, are based on incorrect assertions and false narratives about our nation's history. They promote a harmful ideology of social victimization.

Response: The above cited programs and initiatives should not be implemented in taxpayer-funded agencies, nor should the underlying assumptions of these programs serve as a springboard for other municipal action.

Strongly Agree ----- Strongly Disagree
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



9. **States' Rights**

The Tenth Amendment of the Constitution reserves “to the states...or to the people” all powers not expressly delegated to the federal government. Therefore, state and local governments comprise the vast majority of governmental functions.

Ex 18:14-25; Deut 1:13-17

Issue Application: Local government (city and county) has not done enough to push back against the ever-increasing encroachment of state and federal regulations on our communities (e.g., covid response; property rights regulations; attempts to restrict 2nd amendment rights, etc.). Federal and state officials sometimes force local communities to comply with draconian executive orders and bureaucratic regulations by threatening to withhold funds for important local projects.

Response: Local elected officials should use the “bully pulpit” of their office to inform their constituents when state and federal officials usurp their authority, especially when they threaten to withhold funds that rightly belong at the local level.

Strongly Agree ----- Strongly Disagree
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

10. **American Sovereignty**

Our national sovereignty is vital to preserve our nation and allow it to advance its mission. Federal and state borders help define where resources and responsibilities are to applied. Judeo-Christian values found in the United States Constitution and Declaration of Independence provide guidance for our laws and liberties. The abundant blessings that God has bestowed on the U.S. underscores its responsibility to be a good steward to its citizens and to the world.

Constitution, Article 7

Issue Application: Advocates of Cultural Competency programs claim that they promote appreciation for a diversity of cultures; but, in reality, these programs attempt to diminish or dismiss the importance of America’s history and its foundations.

Response: Cultural Competency programs, and other “equity” initiatives, should be eliminated from all taxpayer funded government agencies.

Strongly Agree ----- Strongly Disagree
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

11. **The Environment**

God’s creation should be properly protected and stewarded. The environment is provided for our use to produce food and provide resources for abundant life. We have a duty to protect the environment for its beauty, provisions, and sustainability.

Genesis 2:15; Ezekiel 34:18

Issue Application: The Spokane City Council authorized the “2021 Sustainability Act Subcommittee” (SAS) to write a report that outlines issues and develops goals for supposedly reducing greenhouse gases. This report is short on details about specific environmental initiatives but it emphasizes “equity” as one its 4 major goals. This proposal will be voted on by the City Council in the Fall of 2021.

Response: The SAS report contains many questionable assertions and it lacks details on how its goals will be met. Furthermore, the report incorporates language about “equity” that opens the door for more programs that potentially divide our citizens. Therefore, local elected officials should question the assertions and reject the recommendations in the SAS report.

Strongly Agree ----- Strongly Disagree
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

COMMENTS:



12. The Poor and Needy

Providing a safety net for the poor and needy is the responsibility of individuals, families, churches, and local communities. It is not the responsibility of civil government, which primarily exists to protect citizens from foreign and domestic threats. Those who are able should be encouraged to work because the satisfaction of the fruit of their labor, regardless of how minimal or mundane, is dignifying and life-giving.

Romans 12:11-13; 1 John 3:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:10; James 1:27

Issue Application: Like many other metropolitan areas, Spokane County has a growing problem with homelessness, which is often connected to drug addiction and mental health issues. Local government officials should focus on protecting the safety of all citizens by enforcing regulations against public disturbance, trespassing, and loitering.

Response: Government officials should leave the provision of housing, rehabilitation, and other social services to individuals, families, and private organizations that are better equipped to directly help the homeless. Additionally, local officials should support law enforcement with proper funding, good-faith negotiations, and responsible accountability.

Strongly Agree ----- Strongly Disagree
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

13. Refugees and Immigrants

The needs of refugees, foreigners, and immigrants should be met with kindness and sympathy. We must do this while protecting our existing citizens and properly stewarding our country's resources, security, and debt.

Leviticus 19:9-10 & 33-34; Deut 10:18-19; Romans 13:1-2

Issue Application: Legal immigration is foundational to America's heritage and prosperity. Borders need to be respected and illegal immigration must be curtailed.

Response: Our nation needs stronger border control and immigration management. Employers should use E-verify when hiring non-citizens. The Visa worker program needs better monitoring. So-called sanctuary cities should not be allowed to provide known criminals with a safe harbor and access to taxpayer-funded resources. Only citizens have the right to vote.

Strongly Agree ----- Strongly Disagree
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

14. Debt

We have a moral obligation to repay our debts and not to presume upon the future. A balanced budget and freedom from debt protects us from becoming subjected to our "lenders."

Proverbs 22:7; Deut 15:6

Issue Application: The core responsibility of local elected officials is governance over the areas of public safety, utilities, and roads. It is the duty of local elected officials to refrain from expanding local government beyond its designated sphere of responsibility.

Response: Local elected officials should publicly advocate for the development of and adherence to a balanced budget. They should also work toward downsizing local government back to its proper role.

Strongly Agree ----- Strongly Disagree
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

NAME _____ DATE _____

WHAT OFFICE ARE YOU SEEKING? _____

COMMENTS: