

# Montana Conservative Alliance Principles Questionnaire

## PART ONE: YOUR STAND ON THE ISSUES

INSTRUCTIONS: Indicate, on a scale of 5 to 1, your level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following policy positions and belief statements. ( 5 = strongly agree; 4 = moderately agree; 3 = neutral/undecided; 2 = moderately disagree; 1 = strongly disagree) Feel free to write additional comments or explanations if you wish. Answer all questions. *Skipped questions will be marked as “wrong” answers.*

1. \_\_\_\_ I believe that a balanced budget must be achieved through a reduction in government spending, and never through new or increased taxes.
2. \_\_\_\_ Government must help preserve family farming and ranching, through market promotions, availability of credit and crop subsidies when necessary.
3. \_\_\_\_ I advocate that all state regulations and statutes be amended or repealed, if a taking of private property occurs by their implementation.
4. \_\_\_\_ I believe that the marketplace is the most efficient allocator of resources and the only true mechanism for setting fair prices and wages.
5. \_\_\_\_ Local government should have the power to impose minimum “set-backs” on private landowners who build on or near stream banks.
6. \_\_\_\_ Juries have both the power and the moral duty to judge the law in each case as well as the facts, and judges should be required to inform them of their constitutional authority.
7. \_\_\_\_ I believe that competition in the educational marketplace serves the best interests of all students, and I support policies that foster the free movement of educational consumers to the schools of their choice.
8. \_\_\_\_ Parents are not always responsible, which is why some regulation of home schooling is necessary, and child health programs like CHIPS are a good idea.
9. \_\_\_\_ I oppose any requirement by government to use Social Security numbers for identification purposes.
10. \_\_\_\_ State employees should not be allowed to lobby for or against legislation while on the taxpayers’ time.
11. \_\_\_\_ Offering special incentives and tax credits for movie makers to come to Montana is a good state investment.
12. \_\_\_\_ Candidates for state legislature should have their knowledge tested on the state and federal constitutions they are sworn to uphold.
13. \_\_\_\_ Sometimes, government must protect us from our own bad choices, such as requiring the use of seat belts and safety helmets.

14. \_\_\_ All government-mandated health insurance coverage should be repealed, allowing consumers in the marketplace to make those choices.
15. \_\_\_ Public school students and teachers should have the right to question the theory of evolution, and study other scientific alternatives.
16. \_\_\_ The legislature should be willing to accept all available federal money, since it comes from our taxes and will otherwise go to other states.
17. \_\_\_ Global warming is a legitimate concern; state policies should encourage and support green industries and carbon-neutral energy generation.
18. \_\_\_ The unborn child should be constitutionally defined as a “person” and enjoy all the legal rights of other human beings.
19. \_\_\_ Local schools should have “alternate certification” authority to hire special people as teachers who may not meet state requirements.
20. \_\_\_ To strengthen local rule, the legislature should expand the authority of local government in the area of land use planning, zoning and local option taxes.
21. \_\_\_ Targeted tax credits, low interest loans, etc., to support struggling industries are good public policy.
22. \_\_\_ Government social welfare programs squeeze out private charity and human compassion, while fostering an entitlement mentality.
23. \_\_\_ I demand federal withdrawal from those areas of responsibility specifically reserved by the U.S. Constitution to the states and the people.
24. \_\_\_ Because they are essentially “monopolies,” it might be best for energy generation entities to be publicly owned.
25. \_\_\_ State workers should be given extra “incentive pay” for finding ways to save tax dollars and economize in state government.
26. \_\_\_ I oppose laws like No Child Left Behind, that impose federal standards and mandated educational programs on Montana schools.
27. \_\_\_ The state should provide support to aspiring Montana artists, including cultural and aesthetic grants to rural communities.
28. \_\_\_ The progressive income tax (federal & state) should be repealed.
29. \_\_\_ Abortion is the taking of innocent human life, and should be outlawed.
30. \_\_\_ School choice proposals, like tuition tax credits, are poor policy because they weaken the public school system.
31. \_\_\_ The “Little Davis Bacon Act”, requiring union scale wages on all state projects, should be repealed.

32. \_\_\_\_ Firearms ownership is not an absolute right; it needs to be reasonably regulated for the good of society.
33. \_\_\_\_ Parents have the right to examine all public school curricula, and withdraw their children from courses they find objectionable.
34. \_\_\_\_ I believe that some state agencies should be eliminated, while others should have their budgets reduced by at least 5% to cut out fat and inefficiency.
35. \_\_\_\_ Occupational licensing protects existing businesses from competition more than it protects consumers. Private certifications in the marketplace are a better idea.
36. \_\_\_\_ Minimum wage laws are necessary to ensure that workers receive a livable wage.
37. \_\_\_\_ I support zero-based budgeting, and a constitutional amendment requiring that all surplus tax collections be returned to the taxpayers.
38. \_\_\_\_ Government cannot create wealth. Government programs designed to “create jobs” merely redistribute existing private wealth, and have the net effect of reducing rather than increasing the number of real jobs.

## PART TWO: THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN A FREE SOCIETY

Legislators must approach each issue they face with a clear understanding of the proper, constitutional role of government. Listed below are 12 possible functions of government. After each area, please indicate the level of involvement you believe is proper and prudent for state government in Montana. Use the following scale:

- (1) – State government has a generally broad and active role in this area for the common good.
- (2) – State government’s role in this area is limited and should be exercised rarely or as a “last resort.”
- (3) – State government has no legitimate role in this area; no involvement (regulation, funding, etc.) is acceptable.

## FUNCTIONS

### Role Level

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Require professional licensing and certification for consumer protection and public safety.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase more lands for wildlife habitat, fishing access, fish & game management, and public parks.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Require employers to provide worker’s compensation coverage to protect workers in case of injury.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Provide business development loans, targeted tax credits and other incentives to spur new industry.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Promote tourism in Montana through various tax-funded promotions and advertisements.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Assist the unemployed through job placement services, training programs, etc.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Provide public assistance to the indigent, the handicapped and others less fortunate.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Issue liquor licenses to raise revenue and to limit the number of bars and lounges in an area.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Require compulsory attendance by minors in a public or private school through a certain age.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Operate a state lottery that provides revenue for education or other public needs.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Prohibit firearms ownership in certain cases, as with convicted felons.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Levy taxes on business inventory, agricultural equipment, livestock, etc.

Bonus Question (2 parts): (1) State in 50 words or less, why you want to be a state legislator and what difference you believe you can make. (2) List the books you have read that have been most influential in shaping your thinking on economics, government and political philosophy.

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NOTE: If you wish to list any references, please do so on the back of this sheet. Include phone numbers and your relationship to each person.

CANDIDATE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to: MCA, P.O. Box 11803, Bozeman, MT 59719**

**Referring Organization & Address:** \_\_\_\_\_