

# Questions Every Candidate Needs to Answer

If you are considering running for office, it is recommended that you review the following questions. Obviously, this list does not include every question which might be asked. It will, however, give you an idea of what will come up during the campaign season. At some point before the election, each of these questions will be asked...either by the voters, by your opponent, or by the media. The better prepared you are, the more successful your campaign will be.

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

Why are you running for office?

What do you think are your main qualifications to serve in a public office?

What are your objections to your opponent?

What does your family think about you running? Are they going to be involved in the campaign?

What are the most important problems facing the district right now? What would you do about trying to solve them?

Who is supporting your candidacy?

Will you run a negative campaign?

How much money is the campaign going to cost?

How much of your own money will be spent on the campaign?

How much time are you going to spend campaigning?

Will you debate your opponent anywhere, anytime, and on any subject?

What experience have you had that qualifies you to become an officeholder?

Why are you a Republican? Have you always been a Republican?

## ISSUE QUESTIONS

What will your first action be once elected?

How do you describe yourself philosophically?

Will you vote your conscience, or will you vote the will of the people in your district?

How do you feel about affirmative action?

Do you support drug testing of employees by businesses?

Do you support the use of the polygraph machines by private business? Do you support the use by government?

Should the government provide money to private businesses in order to improve the economy?

What are your feelings regarding the Second Amendment and gun laws?

Once in office, what would you do about fighting crime?

How do you feel about campaign finance reform?

What will you do to bring jobs to your district?

What is your opinion regarding health care in the state?

## Questions Every Candidate Needs to Answer

What should be done about the immigration issue?

Do you support term limits?

What are your feelings regarding the issue of abortion?

How do you feel about same sex marriages?

Do you have objections to gambling being used for increasing state revenue?

What are your views on public education / private schools / homeschooling?

What can be done to improve the quality of education in your district?

How should the state raise revenues? Do you support/oppose a state income tax? Increasing the state sales tax?

Do you favor/oppose placing a cap on the amount property taxes could be raised in a year? If so, what should the cap be?

What are your feelings regarding eminent domain and private property rights?

### **BACKGROUND QUESTIONS - LEGAL AFFAIRS**

Have you ever been arrested? If so, what was the charge? Were you convicted?

Are you a registered sex offender in Texas or any other state?

Have you ever been the subject of a formal complaint submitted to a law enforcement agency?

Have you ever sued another person or business entity? If so, why? What was the outcome of the case?

Have you ever been subjected to a lawsuit? If so, why? What was the outcome of the case?

Have you been divorced?

Do you owe child support to anyone? If so, are those payments made on time? Have they ever been late?

### **BACKGROUND QUESTIONS - FINANCIAL**

Have you ever filed for personal bankruptcy?

Have you ever been an owner or partner in a business that filed for bankruptcy?

Have you ever been involved in a foreclosure or been evicted?

Do you always pay your taxes? Have you ever filed late, or not filed at all? Income tax? Property tax? Franchise tax?

Have you ever received government subsidies?

Have you ever had an IRS lien placed against you or your spouse?

If asked, will you release your personal tax returns?

What is your net worth?

Do you own any stocks or bonds? If so, in which companies? What is the value?

Do you have any outstanding debts? If so, what is the total?

## Questions Every Candidate Needs to Answer

What real estate property do you, or your family, own?

Do you own rental property? If so, have any tenants ever filed a complaint against you?

### **BACKGROUND QUESTIONS - POLITICAL**

Have you worked, or volunteered, for any candidates or campaigns?

Have you ever publicly endorsed any candidate for party or public office?

Have you contributed to other candidates/parties/PACs in the past? If so, who and how much?

Have you ever run for office before?

### **BACKGROUND QUESTIONS - PROFESSIONAL**

Have you served in the military? If so, were you honorably discharged? Will you release your military records?

Are you a member of any boards of trustees?

Do you hold a professional license? Have any complaints been filed or disciplinary actions been taken against your license?

What is your education background? Do you have any other professional training?

What is your employment history? Where have you worked? For how long?

Have you ever been terminated from a job? Have you ever had any disciplinary action taken at your place of employment?

Have you ever been the subject of a formal complaint submitted to your employer?

Have you lobbied before any state or local governmental agency within the past five years?

### **BACKGROUND QUESTIONS - PERSONAL**

Have you ever cheated on your spouse?

What groups/organizations are you a member of or affiliated with?

Do you attend church regularly?

How long have you lived in the district? In Texas?

Have you used any illegal substances?

If you were born after 1959, are you registered with selective service?

Have you voted in every election (general, primary, city, school board, constitutional amendments election, etc)? If no, why not?

Are there any incidents in your background, or your family's background, which might compromise your campaign?

### **BACKGROUND QUESTIONS - MEDIA**

Have you published any books or articles?

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Have you ever been interviewed on TV?

Have you ever had a letter to the editor published? If so, what was the topic? Do you have a copy of the letter?

Do you have a personal website?

Do you have a blog?

Have you commented on any article, webpage, blog, etc on the internet, using your own name?

Do you have any social networking websites (Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, etc)?

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