



CONSERVATIVE V. LIBERAL
POSITIONS ON KEY DOMESTIC ISSUES
IN 2020 AND BEYOND

August 2020

NATIONAL ISSUE	CONSERVATIVE POSITIONS	LIBERAL POSITIONS	IMPACTS ON CITIZENS/TAXPAYERS
<p>CORE BELIEFS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● American exceptionalism ● Capitalism is the only economic system that can raise standards of living for all races while honoring personal liberty. The private sector drives prosperity. ● Believe in universal values: liberty, fairness, rule of law, individual achievement, freedom of expression, and personal responsibility. ● How do I serve my country ● National unity, individual rights and freedoms, states rights and limited government power ● Under our Constitution, voters make sovereign decisions on national policy according to the Founding Fathers’ vision for self-governing society. ● Many argue that the progressive wing of the Democratic party has abandoned middle-class Americans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Revisionist history of America ● Confiscatory taxing policies to fund a cornucopia of expanding social programs ● Government should compete with and limit free enterprise when it views it in the “collective” interest. ● Aggrievement, entitlements and reparations; government-guaranteed equal opportunity ● How my country can serve me ● Identity and outrage politics, special interest rights, historical (“1619”) and cultural “re-education” ● Federal bureaucrats and judges legislating from courtrooms ultimately make the key decisions on national policy. ● Progressive leaders and biased progressive media have persuaded black Americans (and other non-whites) that they are the victims of systemic racial injustice, and that their only choice is to continue supporting progressive candidates and government policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We have surrendered way too much control over our lives to big government. ● American taxpayers are forced to support government programs having too little societal impact. ● Government is the biggest employer in a free enterprise economy. About 18 percent of all U.S. workers derive their paychecks and more generous benefits (than the private sector) from Federal, state and local governments. ● Contrary to liberal messaging, black and other Americans of color support many of the same values as conservatives, including: school choice, charter schools and vouchers, pro-life, traditional marriage, the importance of God and religion, and equal economic advancement opportunities versus a welfare state. ● (It is noteworthy that many so-called “liberals” actually believe in – but don’t admit it -- the same values and principles that conservatives do.)

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<p>ECONOMIC EQUALITY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Believe that economics of inclusion and strong economies benefit the majority and can mitigate poverty ● Job creation, increasing average wages through economic growth and opportunities expanding the workforce ● Pro-growth, pro-investment tax code ● Self-reliance on individual education, talent and ambition, participation in market enterprise ● Regarding the \$1 trillion-plus in Federal welfare, support programs that have measurable, positive outcomes -- not perpetuated ineffective services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Believe capitalism is inherently unfair and favors corporations and the wealthy ● Higher minimum wages; some even advocate universal basic incomes ● Income redistribution through progressive taxation ● Reliance on government for more services to the less fortunate, including universal healthcare ● Marxist-style progressive economic principles have been expressed in unionization movements and social movements such as Occupy Wall Street and Black Lives Matter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current administration policies created opportunity and prosperity for black Americans -- if not most Americans – before COVID-19 changed the narrative. ● Prior to COVID-19, black salary/wages +9.2 %, job creation +4.2 % since January 2017. Black employment figures rose sharply. ● Women, veterans, and disabled employment also has risen sharply since 2017. ● Thousands of jobs brought back to the U.S. through the Administration’s trade policies and pressure, including investment in low-income communities and Opportunity Zones. ● Billions in Federal contracts to minority-owned businesses, creating more than 20,000 jobs. ● More than 2.5 million Americans lifted out of poverty and 10 million from welfare. ● A buoyant stock market – despite COVID-19 – in which half of Americans are invested.

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SANCTITY OF LIFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Killing unborn babies is morally wrong. ● Supports a “human life” amendment to the U.S. Constitution and overturning Roe v. Wade ● Support H.R. 162 – Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (anti-infanticide law) ● Appointment of more pro-life judges ● Require insurers to disclose coverage of abortions ● Oppose public funds used to perform or promote abortion or to fund organizations such as Planned Parenthood ● Support passage of Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) laws ● Support pregnancy resource programs that provide alternatives to abortion, and state-mandated counseling programs on health and mental health risks ● Limit or prevent foreign aid from U.S. from funding abortion industry in other countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Individual freedom for women to make their own decisions about reproductive life ● Limitless public support of abortion and organizations which assist abortions ● U.S. House Democrats have blocked votes on H.R. 162 more than 80 times ● Support embryonic stem cell research ● Seven U.S. states now permit third-trimester abortions ● Applauded recent SCOTUS 5-4 decision striking down Louisiana law restricting abortion clinics ● Believe that reproductive choice allows women an empowering pathway to education and participation in labor the force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● States have been passing pro-life laws as never before. ● Recent Gallup Poll shows 1 in 3 Americans consider pro-life a top November election issue. ● After Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, U.S. abortions rose to 1.6 million in 1990; have decreased to 862,000 by 2017. (Note: Federal data is incomplete because it does not reflect information from all 50 states.) ● Self-managed medical abortions (the abortion pill) are now believed to be 40 percent of all abortions. ● Black women account for 33% of all abortions. <p>Sources: Susan B. Anthony List, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; media reports</p>

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<p>K-12 EDUCATION, SCHOOL CHOICE</p> <p>STATISTICS AND PERSPECTIVES FROM: NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS; CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON EDUCATION OUTCOMES (CREDO) AT STANFORD U.; NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS; THE MANHATTAN INSTITUTE; AND MEDIA REPORTS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents, not zip codes, should decide the best education options for their children. Vouchers for charter and other private schools is an alternative to poorly managed public schools. The traditional public-school model does not offer enough programs for academically-advanced students and those with learning challenges. Competition from charter schools pressure traditional public school administrators to provide better outcomes for students. Parental satisfaction with charter schools is based on innovation, curricula flexibility, smaller classroom size and better teacher-student ratios, less administrative bureaucracy, and fewer discipline problems. Parents also feel charter schools are safer environments, especially in urban areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Education Association, and local teachers' unions across America, oppose the expansion of the charter school movement. The NEA opposes Federal and state funding for private charter schools. Liberals/progressives beholden to teachers' unions oppose further expansion of the school choice/charter school movement, largely based on arguments that charter schools siphon away government funding that should go to traditional public schools. Charter school opponents include Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, and other Democratic politicians. Opponents of charter schools argue that there is no academic performance difference between charters in traditional public schools. (That debate varies from state to state, and city to city.) They also criticize admissions lotteries for charter schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liberal/progressive government has produced some of the worst urban public schools in the country. Charter schools are a win-win for students as well as taxpayers. They are a positive force in reversing racial inequality in schools, giving children of color a first-class education. Charter schools also have lower rates of teen pregnancy, criminal activity and incarceration. Studies show that charter schools in cities serving mostly black and Hispanic students tend to outperform public schools. Charter schools are producing college grads at a rate of two-four times above the average for all students from similar socioeconomic backgrounds. Charter schools help students choose the right colleges and provide continuous career counseling to their graduates. In polls, black and Hispanic parents support charter schools at higher percentages than white parents.

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<p>HEALTHCARE REFORM</p> <p>(A recent Economist survey ranked healthcare the #1 issue for voters this November, followed by the economy and climate change.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overturn Obamacare in the U.S. Supreme Court now that the individual mandate – as a government tax -- is gone, making the ACA law unconstitutional. (Obamacare will again be before the Supreme Court in its 2020-21 session.) ● More patient-driven choices and competition for quality access to care ● Replace the ACA with a fairer and more competitive program, as Wisconsin and other states have been trying to do ● Allow healthcare insurance to be sold across state lines ● More vigorous prosecution of medical fraud and systemic abuse ● Modernize Medicaid at the state level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preserve Obamacare or replace it with a government-managed, single-payer system similar to those in the U.K. and Canada ● Dramatically expand Medicaid ● Promote de facto rationing of healthcare by forcing doctors to opt out of serving Medicare and Medicaid patients ● Turned the threat of losing health insurance coverage into a big issue in 2018 Congressional races, and are doing it again in 2020 ● Some progressive policy makers using COVID-19 crisis to “stabilize” long-term funding of Obamacare while restricting choices for patients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rises in the cost of healthcare have generally slowed since 2013, averaging 1.3 percent increases a year, but are expected to rise in 2020-2030. ● Eliminating systemic waste remains an estimated \$1 trillion challenge. ● Price transparency for everything from drugs to hospital costs is a huge issue due to long-established third-party payment model. ● Obamacare/ACA has done little to stop soaring prescription drug prices and increasing insurance deductibles for those paying for their own h/c coverage. ● The ACA clearly benefited the poor and uninsured in the way of preventive care and easier access to emergency care, but the middle class has not benefited as much. ● Healthy people who do not qualify for government subsidies have seen premiums rise by an average of 10 percent a year since 2014, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

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IMMIGRATION POLICY & REFORM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong border security ● Enforcement of laws prohibiting illegal immigration, including deportation of offenders ● Expect immigrants to respect the law ● Encourage civic, patriotic and language assimilation ● End legality of chain migration ● Complete the border wall ● Reduce human trafficking exported to the U.S. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open borders ● Pathway to citizenship for undocumented workers, as well as access to healthcare and other government benefits reserved for U.S. citizens ● Blanket amnesty for those who have immigrated to the U.S. illegally ● Sanctuary cities if not a “sanctuary nation” ● Defunding or elimination of ICE ● Progressives in general favor expanded immigration under the belief those new Americans will vote for Democratic/liberal candidates and causes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Illegal immigration is a factor in wage suppression for lower-skill jobs. ● Heritage Foundation study concluded that first-generation immigrants without high school degrees receive \$4 of government assistance for every \$1 they contribute in taxes. ● Open borders have produced ruthless gangs and rampant illegal drug commerce. ● But some studies conclude that illegal immigration’s impact on the economy is minimal, and produces benefits such as shoring up labor shortages, lowering the cost of specific consumer goods, and potentially replacing taxpayers and workers as the population ages.

	OTHER IMPORTANT	NATIONAL ISSUES	
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SOcial JUSTICE: POLICE/LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adopt an every “human life matters” mindset ● Reform but do not defund police departments ● Greater adoption of police body cameras ● More training in situations requiring de-escalation tactics ● National database to track police misconduct ● Impose mandatory prison sentences for assaults causing serious injuries to law enforcement officers ● Trump administration forged a coalition to pass a Criminal Justice Reform bill ● Reform over-criminalization by streamlining categories of criminal statutes ● Impose mandatory minimum sentences for dangerous criminals ● Regain control of and civility in prisons that have become racial and gang battlegrounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have used incendiary rhetoric and blanket criticism about racism to provoke violent protests ● U.S. House Dems passed the Justice in Policing Act with little GOP input. A U.S. Senate bipartisan-sponsored bill still being modified to seek common ground with Democratic opponents. ● Support defunding of some municipal police departments ● Ban chokeholds used by law enforcement except for extreme circumstances ● Make prosecution of police misconduct easier ● Qualified immunity reform to allow more victims of police brutality to seek damages ● Some states seeking to certify police officers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Academy of Sciences study found that police brutality against blacks is episodic and not systemic, but specific cases such as George Floyd’s death have exaggerated racial bias. ● Liberal news media have distorted facts of systemic police bias based on race. ● Of 1004 people killed by police in 2019, 23 percent were black (blacks are 13 percent of the U.S. population but a much higher percentage in some of the cities where these killings took place). ● Majority of black homicides are black on black shootings. Twice as many whites killed by blacks as blacks by whites, according to national crime statistics. ● Top 20 most dangerous cities for crime are governed by Democratic mayors. ● Cities with chronically high-crime rates have impacted economic development and investment as well as municipal reputations.

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GUN CONTROL, 2ND AMENDMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lawful gun ownership is a Constitutional and an inalienable right of citizens. ● Oppose Federally mandated licensing and registration, other challenges to 2nd amendment ● Prosecute felons/criminals who lie on gun registration applications ● Improve data and cooperation and sharing of “red flag” warnings of high-risk individuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Claim there is an epidemic of gun violence in America, though that is not supported by national crime statistics ● Strip down 2nd Amendment rights ● Some support confiscation of legally obtained firearms. ● Outlaw conceal and carry in states ● Toughen background checks ● Stricter assault weapons laws ● Experiment with amnesty programs for illegally owned guns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mass shootings are sensationalized by the media but are a small percentage of the average 33,000 annual gun-related homicides in U.S.. ● About 2/3 of all gun-related deaths are suicides, largely white males. ● Some cities with the toughest local gun control laws (Chicago) have the highest gun crime rates and fatalities. ● Gun related crimes are highest among blacks against blacks -- half of all national homicides in 2019.
WELFARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase household self-sufficiency through job creation ● Focus on causes of poverty, not just the consequences. ● Employment/workfare and married households should be preconditions for receiving government assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Higher taxes and spending to expand welfare and create government jobs to more administer programs ● Five-plus decades of progressive taxpayer-funded programs have increased government dependence for millions of people. ● Progressive policies have allowed welfare and government assistance to be perpetuated from generation to generation to retain these voters in the Democratic party. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Federal, state and local governments spend \$1 trillion a year on welfare programs that do not address root causes of economic disparity and unemployment. ● Government financial, food and housing benefits are not counted as income to families on welfare, thus maintaining a poverty level in the nation that is artificially high at around 12 percent. ● Bad policies result in a broken system that disincentivizes work, discourages marriage.

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<p>ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to eliminate regulatory barriers to the production of clean, affordable, reliable energy sources – especially natural gas ● Keep using abundant energy sources while developing job-producing renewable sources ● Build and open natural gas pipelines ● Support more nuclear energy programs ● Support net-zero carbon emission target, but no consensus on a target year ● For the U.S. to go from energy independence to global energy dominance, restrain legal, political, and regulatory obstacles to NG pipelines and further development of the once booming U.S. shale business. ● Funding to incentivize EV charging station investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overturn Trump decision to exit the Paris Climate Agreement on Nov. 4, 2020 ● Have the U.S. lead international climate change actions. ● Big-government approach to severely restrict the free enterprise system and drive up energy costs to lower demand and CO2 emissions. ● Tax credits for clean and renewable energy solutions, and modernizing the electric grid (also supported by GOP policymakers) ● Progressives refuse to acknowledge that U.S. utilities have replaced coal with cleaner natural gas reducing carbon emissions ● Environmental activists are intent on stopping fossil fuel production in the courts — even though shale fracking has made the U.S. the leading energy producer in the world. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The U.S. this year became a net energy exporter for the first time since 1952. ● The U.S. is one of the world’s largest natural gas producers and the fourth largest exporter of natural gas. ● Progressive policies ultimately stifle economic growth and make the U.S. less competitive by adopting unreasonable global standards. ● Biden’s proposed \$2 trillion plan for clean energy and rebuilding infrastructure borrows from Senator Bernie Sanders’ progressive wish list. It could kill many energy industry jobs if ever enacted. ● The New Green Deal proposed in 2019 by progressives is estimated to cost \$90 trillion. ● 12 states have targeted 2050 in enacting 100% clean electricity policies and CO2 reduction programs. (More states are considering.)

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NATIONAL SECURITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Global peace can be maintained largely through U.S. military strength ● U.S. allies should pay their fair share of NATO, Asia-Pacific, and other regional defense pacts and organizations. ● Recognizes China as our greatest threat in undermining many dimensions of U.S. security ● Cyber warfare and espionage against the U.S. have become big problems in need of sophisticated countermeasures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More open border policies and easier entry to the U.S. by foreigners, ignoring the threat of some who may pose serious homeland security threats. ● Favor more relaxed diplomatic and trade policies with China, Cuba, and other U.S. adversaries. ● Support shifting considerable Federal budget spending from national defense to domestic social programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong U.S. border security, Customs practices, and counter-terrorism intelligence result in reduced criminal trafficking of all kinds, and can thwart terrorist and homeland security threats. ● U.S. needs to focus increased awareness and strategies on threats posed by China’s goal to supplant American influence around the world ● National defense, border security and intelligence operations must remain the highest priority for our leaders in Washington.

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