

The Ten Questions Civil Libertarians Should be Asking Candidates

Want to know what candidates think about core civil liberties issues like national security, discrimination, criminal justice and immigration? This guide lists ten suggested questions to ask federal and state candidates during debates, candidate nights, at radio or television interviews or any other forum where there is an opportunity for you to interact with candidates.

FEDERAL

- 1** Do you believe accused terrorists should be able to challenge their detention in U.S. courts?
- 2** Would you support a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage?
- 3** What are your thoughts on the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy?
- 4** With a disproportionate number of minorities on death row and a rising number of exonerees, what's your stance on the death penalty?
- 5** What changes, if any, would you propose to the PATRIOT Act and the FISA Amendment Act to better protect civil liberties?
- 6** During the past 10 years, 200,000 college students have been denied college financial

aid through the federal government after being convicted of drug offenses, including first-time misdemeanors. Do you support a change to this law?

7 Inexplicable delays of months and years have so far kept hundreds of thousands of people from becoming naturalized U.S. citizens. Will you work to clear this backlog?

8 Since 2003, at least 83 undocumented immigrants have died while in Immigrations and Customs Enforcement custody. Do you promise to improve conditions at detention facilities in order to avoid such regrettable and preventable deaths?

9 Is it ever acceptable to profile people based on their race or religion?

10 How would you ensure that faith-based groups receiving federal money do not discriminate against clients and employees?

STATE

- 1** Do you support laws that make it illegal to discriminate against people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity?
- 2** What would you do to ease the transition of prisoners back into society?

3 Currently in Ohio, prosecutors are under no legal obligation to share evidence with defense attorneys. Would you support legislation to open the discovery process?

4 Which, in your opinion, is the better method for teaching sex education in our schools – abstinence-only or comprehensive sex education?

5 What method of voting technology do you prefer for Ohio voters and why?

6 Do you favor giving police in Ohio the authority to assist with enforcement of federal immigration laws?

7 Would you support a moratorium on capital punishment in Ohio so it can be researched whether or not the death penalty in our state is administered fairly?

8 Do you think it's acceptable or desirable to segregate school children by gender?

9 Would you support legislation to study the issue of racial profiling by police in Ohio?

10 In your opinion, is there any place for the teaching of biblical creationism or "intelligent design" in Ohio's public schools?