

May 6, 2011

Dear Talbert,

I appreciate the opportunity to answer these important questions. Please let me know if you ever need anything. I look forward to discussing the issues with you.

God Bless,



Chad Connelly

1. Tea Party members (and all voters who identify with Tea Party principles) are welcome in our South Carolina Republican Party. As SCGOP Chairman, I will encourage an open-door policy for anyone who believes in the values and virtues of limited government, personal responsibility, protecting life, defending freedom, and true Constitution-based principles. I firmly believe that we must focus on our shared values and work together to grow our party.

But again, we must maintain a consistent, conservative message. And that includes NOT saying one thing on the campaign trail and doing another once elected.

2. I fully support Republican primaries that are open only to registered Republican voters.

I believe firmly in the Founding Principles of our Constitution and therefore oppose the current strategy to appeal to a federal judge to write this legislation into law. In fact, our platform states unequivocally that we will fight judicial activism, oppose legislating from the bench and work to end social engineering by federal judges. It is inconsistent for us to abandon our important core principle for the sake of closed primaries - regardless of our ability to do so under "right to association."

Therefore, as Chairman of our South Carolina Republican Party, I will focus my efforts in this regard on working with our solid GOP majorities in the State House and the State Senate and with Governor Nikki Haley to change state law and close our primaries by passing legislation.

3. While Voter Registration by Party law is of high importance, I believe firmly that the BEST way to grow our party is to advocate for limited government, lower taxes, free market principles and the traditional family values that support those ideals and make them a reality. Our party has a tremendous platform, and I am committed to helping us elect candidates who will promote and defend it.

4. Yes

5. Yes

6. Yes

7. Talented consultants, in all work arenas, have expertise and skill sets gleaned from years of experience and service. I believe in free markets, and as an entrepreneur, believe that if you "see a need, fill it." We must not stand in the way of good people providing assistance when necessary. However, I believe in also making our SCGOP lean and mean. We can and will do many tasks "in house." For those projects requiring outside help, there will be an open bidding process and zero "no-bid," monthly contracts. Only full-time employees should have offices at SCGOP headquarters.

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17. We need a tax system that is fairer and flatter. Countless hours are lost every year by small businessmen and women in dealing with a tax system that is unwieldy and influenced by too many special interests. They could spend their time and dollars growing the private economy. Abolish the IRS!

Agencies like the EPA and Department of Energy have too much power granted by the politicians, instead of our Constitution. Liberals like Barack Obama see no harm in using agencies to enact their job-killing policies by evading Congressional authority and oversight. The EPA and DOE should be merged and consolidated.

18. 5

19. 5

20. 5

21. 5

22. n/a

23. 5

24. 5

25. 5

26. 4, Like all legislation, the Patriot Act has some good and some bad aspects. If applied to non-U.S. citizens, it is useful tool to defend the Homeland. However, our U.S. Constitution must always be upheld and defended when dealing with American citizens.

27. 5

28. 5

29. 5

30. 5

31. 4, Our world is interconnected in ways that couldn't have been imagined 100 years ago. Threats to the American national defense can just as easily come from the Internet as they can from nuclear warheads or hijacked airplanes. America can protect its global economic interests and promote democracy without nation building. However, we cannot stick our heads in the sand and simply retreat to our shores.

32. 5, Yes, war should be defensive. But if a sworn enemy is building a catapult that is aimed at you, isn't it easier to solve the problem before it is launched?

33. 5

34. 5

35. 3, As a former United States Army officer, I would love for nations to pay for our presence. However, in nations like South Korea, there is a bona fide madman just north. Allowing him to assert unchecked power would be a humanitarian and economic disaster.

36. 4, We do too much foreign aid. However, foreign aid isn't necessarily about buying friends. Many nations are respected and long-time allies, and our partnerships can prevent humanitarian and economic problems.

37. Yes

38. 21, with no exemptions. From personal experience, I know that alcohol and too much time on your hands are a dangerous combination.

39. I have personally experienced the loss of friends and loved ones due to addiction. As SCGOP Chairman, I will stand STRONGLY AGAINST legalizing ANY narcotic drugs including marijuana, cocaine and heroin. Alcohol and tobacco are not narcotics, and the fallacy that marijuana is not a narcotic gateway drug is pushed by insidious special interests that stand to profit if it is made legal.

40. Life begins at conception. Period. I am opposed to abortion in any case. It sickens me that over 50 MILLION babies have been lost since Roe v. Wade. I am passionate about defending the unborn and proudly serve on the boards of the Palmetto Family Council and SC Citizens for Life. I will not apologize for my views. As SCGOP Chairman, I will uphold our party platform that includes the God-given Right to Life, including stopping taxpayer-funded abortions.

41. The Bible defines marriage as between one man and one woman. It is God's first institution and not the state's. Government, of the people, by the people, and for the people, should only work to protect that sacred institution. Further, activist judges should not be able discard God's intent by legalizing marriage to dogs, cats, or anything else.

42. Ronald Reagan and George Washington. Washington continuously exhibited servant leadership. He didn't ask his troops to do anything he wouldn't. Ronald Reagan left the Democratic Party because it left him. He proudly stood for his values and was unashamed to proclaim a consistent, conservative message. As SCGOP Chairman, I'll do the same.

Thank you.