

DO YOU BELIEVE THE TENETS OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION?

With the country sharply divided between those who believe all beneficence flows from government as opposed those who believe in the opportunity offered by America to pursue your own dreams without government interference, perhaps it's time for each of us to re-evaluate the situation.

We are currently mired in wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Our national debt is skyrocketing to the point that it can never be repaid. The dollar is falling against other currencies. The U.S. Dollar is in danger of being replaced as the international reserve currency. Trade deficits are growing. Our "leaders" seem bent on nationalizing as many facets of our economy and our society as possible. We have rampant and blatant corruption in Washington and most state capitols. We continue to "reinterpret" the Constitution to comply with the agendas of special interests...and the list goes on and on.

This nation was founded upon the principles of individuals excelling to their full potential with a minimum of governmental regulation or meddling. Indeed, the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, specifically limit the power of government regarding the God-given rights of the people. Yet, hardly a day goes by that government at some level does not find new and creative ways to exercise more and more control over individuals.

The U.S. Constitution is a truly remarkable document in the annals of human history. For the first time a nation was established with the premise that the purpose of government was to serve the people rather than the the opposite. Somehow we have lost sight of that fact.

Columnist Chuck Baldwin recently wrote a piece that is a take-off of comedian Jeff Foxworthy, which points out some of the discrepancies between the ideals of the founding fathers, the republic they left us and the manner in which we are now being governed. Following are some of his points:

You Might Be a Constitutionalist If:

1. You believe that every congressman, senator, President, and Supreme Court justice is required to obey the U.S. Constitution.
2. You believe that before the United States invades and occupies another country, Congress must first declare war.
3. You believe the federal government should live within its means, like everyone else is forced to do.
4. You think that taking away people's liberties in the name of security is not patriotic, nor does it make the country more secure.
5. You would like to see poli-

ticians be forced to abide by the same laws they make everyone else submit to.

6. You understand that we have three "separate but equal" branches of government that are supposed to hold each other in check and balance.

7. You believe that the federal government has no authority to be involved in education or law enforcement, or in any other issue that the Tenth Amendment reserves to the States, or to the People.

8. You believe that gun control laws do nothing but aid and abet criminals while trampling the rights and freedoms of law-abiding citizens.

9. You believe that the income tax is both unconstitutional and immoral, and, along with the I.R.S. and the Federal Reserve, should be abolished.

10. You believe the federal government had no authority to tell former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore that he could not display a monument containing the Ten Commandments in the Alabama Judicial Building in Montgomery; or to tell a Pace, Florida, high school principal that he could not pray before a meal.

11. You believe that Congress or the White House or any sovereign State is not required to submit

to unconstitutional Supreme Court rulings.

12. You understand that freedom has nothing in common with illegal immigration.

13. You understand that outsourcing American jobs overseas is not good for America.

14. You believe that the United States should get out of the United Nations and get the United Nations out of the United States.

15. You believe that it is not unconstitutional for children in public schools to pray or read the Bible.

16. You believe that the Boy Scouts are not a threat to America.

17. You believe that the federal government should honor its commitments to America's veterans and stop using U.S. military personnel as guinea pigs for testing drugs and chemicals.

18. You believe that U.S. troops should never serve under foreign commanders or wear the uniform or insignia of the United Nations, and that they must never submit to illegal orders, such as turning their weapons against American citizens, or confiscating the guns of U.S. citizens.

19. You believe that the federal government has no business bribing churches and faith-based organizations with federal tax dollars.

20. You believe that federal agents who murder American citizens should be held to the same laws and punishments that any other citizen would be held to. (Can anyone say, "Waco" and "Ruby Ridge"?)

21. You understand that NAFTA, GATT, the WTO, and the FTA (and similar agreements) are disastrous compromises of America's national sovereignty and independence.

22. You would like to see congressmen and senators be required to actually read a bill before passing it into law.

23. You understand that it is the job of government to protect and secure God-given rights, not use its power to take those rights away.

24. You understand that there is nothing unconstitutional about the public acknowledgment of God and our Christian heritage.

25. You believe that government bailouts and "stimulus" expenditures defy virtually every principle of free enterprise and are a flagrant leap into socialism.

26. You believe that airport screeners have no business touching women's breasts, using sophisticated machinery to look through passengers' clothing to see their na-

ked bodies, confiscating fingernail clippers, or denying pilots from carrying handguns.

27. You believe that many public schools' "zero-tolerance" policies are just plain stupid.

28. You believe that parents have a right to home school their children.

29. You believe that governmental seizure of private property is plain, old-fashioned thievery.

30. You are personally determined to not submit to any kind of forced vaccination.

31. You oppose any kind of national health insurance.

32. You believe that U.S. troops are not the world's policemen, that they are not "nation-builders," and that their purpose is only to defend American lives and property, not to be the enforcement arm of international commercial interests or global elitists.

33. You understand that the county Sheriff is the highest law enforcement officer of his district and that federal law enforcement (much of which is unconstitutionally organized, anyway) is obligated to submit to his authority.

34. You are determined to oppose America's merger with any kind of regional, hemispheric or international government, such as the North American Union.

35. You oppose sending billions of taxpayer dollars as foreign aid; the U.S. State Department meddling into the private affairs of foreign countries; and ubiquitous foreign entanglements that require vast sums of money, create animosity and hostility towards us, and expose us to foreign wars and conflicts in which we have no national interest.

36. You would like to meet one single congressman or senator who acts as if he or she has ever read the U.S. Constitution.

Have YOU read the Constitution? Do you agree with any or all of the above? Are you a Constitutionalist? If so it is time to put away the labels of Democrat, Republican, Liberal, Conservative or any other designation to which we are all expected to subscribe and become just an AMERICAN who understands and believes in the vision of our founding fathers. This means never again voting for anyone - from any party - who will not preserve, protect, and defend the U.S. Constitution.

This country belongs to the people, NOT the politicians or the special interests. Only WE, THE PEOPLE can take it back before its too late.

PROPERTY TAX STATEMENTS ON THE WAY

Coos County 2009 - 2010 property tax statements were mailed October 15. Property owners who have not received their statement by the first week of November should contact the Tax Department.

To avoid any late charges, payment must be received or postmarked by November 16, 2009.

Coos County will process 2009 - 2010 property tax payments through our bank's payment center in Portland, Oregon. This will allow us to speed up the delivery of tax dollars to the cities, schools, ports, hospitals and other districts within the county.

Payments may be made by mail or in person at the County Tax Office located at 250 N. Baxter in Coquille. Tax Office hours are from 8:00 AM to Noon and 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Telephone numbers for County Offices are 541-396-3121 or 541-756-2020.

Tax payment information - XT 333
Assessed value information - XT 268 or 300
Value appeal information - XT 228

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