

Gubernatorial National Political Awareness Test

Background and Important Instructions for Candidates

The purpose of the National Political Awareness Test (NPAT) is to measure each candidate's willingness to make a good-faith effort to provide voters with their issue positions on the issues they will most likely face on the citizens' behalf. The results of the test will be provided to voters through our 200 sponsoring news organizations, 5,000 sponsoring libraries, and the millions of citizens now accessing our data through the Project Vote Smart website (www.vote-smart.org), Voters' Research Hotline (1-888-VOTE-SMART), and the Project's *Voter's Self-Defense Manual* distributed to millions of voters nationwide. Additionally, we will enable voters to access your campaign web site directly.

You must provide your signed NPAT on or before the deadline. Shortly after that date, we will release the results through our media partners and over the Project's web site. The names of those candidates passing the test, as well as those failing the test, will be released.

This Gubernatorial NPAT has been intensively researched, written, and reviewed for several months by leading political scientists, members of the national media, and the Project's entire Founding Board. The issues included on the NPAT are only those that are consistently listed among the top concerns of the American people or likely to come up in the next congressional session. They are developed by examining national polls over the last three years, the majority, minority and third party platforms, State of the Union and Response speeches, the congressional leadership and executive branch agendas, and after having been reviewed by over 100 prominent national political journalists and political scientists serving on our advisory board.

The NPAT is not designed to commit candidates to specific positions or to vote in a certain way while in office, *and there are no right or wrong answers*. The test simply measures a candidate's willingness to consider the public inquiry and respond to it--any response, even those not germane to the inquiry are accepted. If you do not select a specific option or response, it does not necessarily mean that you oppose this option. You only need to answer 70% of the issues to pass the NPAT. Candidates passing the NPAT are invited to include any additional position statements that will be included on our web site. Please submit these via disk or email to positions@vote-smart.org.

- Project Vote Smart (PVS) serves as a national, non-partisan library of government and political information.
- The sole mission of the Project is to provide unbiased, factual information to voters and the media concerning the records, backgrounds and positions of elected officials and candidates running for public office. PVS is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that *does not* lobby for or against any cause, *nor does it* support or oppose any candidate for public office.
- The Project is funded entirely by foundation grants and the individual contributions of 45,000 members.
- Up to one million requests per day are received for information from the Project databases.

Question Types

1. Multiple choice questions: Please choose at least one and as many selections as you wish for these questions.
2. Yes/No questions: Please select either Yes, No or Undecided.
3. "Other" or open-ended questions: Using the space provided, please provide your answer as clearly and concisely as possible. Responses that extend beyond the space provided or word limit will not be included in the database.
4. Level Indicators: Please select only one answer (greatly increase, slightly increase, etc.) for each federal program in the Budget and Spending and Taxes sections.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Candidates must sign the completed questionnaire to be included in the database.
2. **Do not alter questions.** The wording of questions is locked in the database and any changes made cannot be entered.
3. Candidates should use the "Other or expanded principles" option to clarify or expound their answers or state their position if it is not listed in the options.
4. Do not write any answers beyond the space provided or the word limits. Also, do not write answers for questions that are not open-ended (i.e. yes/no questions, multiple choice, etc.). **All answers beyond the format of the test, including comments written in the margins, will not be included in the database.**
5. You can fax your responses back to (406) 859-8681 or mail to: NPAT Department, One Common Ground, Philipsburg, MT 59858. If you have any questions regarding the NPAT, please contact the NPAT Department by phone at (406) 859-8692, or email: npat@vote-smart.org.
6. For those candidates who return their responses to the NPAT before the deadline passes, Project Vote Smart will include their position papers on our web site. Please forward them to us in electronic format (disk, email, web link). Please note that special formatting (pictures, special fonts) will not appear.

The NPAT must be in our office by 11:59 pm Mountain Standard Time the day of the deadline

Project Vote Smart does not permit the use of its name, the NPAT or any of its other programs in any partisan political advertising or activity.