



Tea Party Boise, LLC
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Tea Party Boise Stance on Issues

"As the 2010 elections approach, Tea Party Boise feels it is important to publicly state what we are "FOR or AGAINST", and why. Our positions are based upon sound, Constitutional principles, core conservative values, and the common good sense we share with most Americans."

Fiscal Responsibility

Reduce the Size & Cost of Government

Mandate a force reduction of federal employees of 25% across the board, except for the military and Homeland Security.

Businesses do this all the time in order to balance their books, deliver value to their shareholders, provide jobs for people and survive as a business. While always difficult to let people go, it remains a necessary tool when revenues fail to meet expenses. Government cannot be allowed to "take a pass" on this accounting reality, just because they have the taxpayer to bleed when they overspend. The "across the board" cut makes the most sense, because each federal agency will share in the responsibility to cut federal positions, forcing them to cut waste, duplication and over-compensation.

NOTE: Average Federal Employee Salary is \$70K/yr & \$40K in benefits
Average Private Sector Employee Salary is \$50K/yr and \$9K in benefits
The ONLY job market that is growing today is working for the federal government

Freeze ALL discretionary spending for 24 months

The Government wastes money because they DO NOT earn money. They view money as nothing more than "political capital" to be used by politicians to buy power, influence and personal gain. There are NO exceptions to this axiom today, in Congress or the White House. Spending has reached such irresponsible levels that America's security; both national and financial is at risk. WE MUST STOP SPENDING MONEY! That means an ABSOLUTE FREEZE on ALL DISCRETIONARY SPENDING FOR A FULL 2 YEARS!

Balanced Budget Amendment

This amendment is ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY in order to return America to a sound financial condition. Businesses have to do this to remain viable. Households have to do this to prevent

bankruptcy. State governments, by law, have to do this in most cases today. The federal government CAN NO LONGER RUN FROM THIS REQUIREMENT!

Corruption & Ethics

Eliminate the things that corrupt our political process

Pass a PERMANENT and ABSOLUTE BAN on ALL EARMARKS

Earmarking is nothing more than trading taxpayer money to buy support from a politician for a particular bill or measure, and to buy votes or campaign donations for that politician. It is sold as "bringing home Idaho's fair share of federal money". That is an absolutely dishonest statement. First, the federal government HAS NO MONEY! It's ALL our money. Secondly, one is hard-pressed to find an earmark that can be justified by tangibly showing that the expense to the taxpayer was offset by creation of jobs, reduction in taxes, fees, and cost of living, or improvement in the quality of life for our citizens. The most important thing about earmarking is that it has grown as our government and out of control spending has grown. **There is NO UPSIDE FOR THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER!**

FACT: It is estimated by watchdog groups, that up to 98 percent of earmarks to appropriations bills are added in the conference phase. **That means they are inserted in the bill after the fact.**

FACT: In the 1970 Defense Appropriations Bill there were a dozen earmarks. By 1980's bill that number had grown to 62 earmarks, and by 2005 the same bill contained 2,671 earmarks.

FACT: When President Dwight Eisenhower proposed the first national highway bill in the 1950s, there were two projects singled out for specific funding. By 2005 there were 6,371 earmarks in the same bill.

FACT: According to "Taxpayers for Common Sense", **the FY2010 Omnibus Bill "Disclosed"** earmark numbers are staggering. In numbers posted on December 9, 2009, there were 5,224 earmarks that had been disclosed, worth \$3.898 billion dollars of your money. When you add in the four bills that have already been enacted so far there are 7,577 disclosed earmarks worth **\$5.994 billion in FY10.** It is important to remember that these numbers represent ONLY the disclosed earmarks.

FACT: Three of four of our Idaho Congressmen and Senators are major requestors of earmarks. To learn more about your Idaho Senators and Congressmen and their use of earmarks, go to <http://www.washingtonwatch.com/> and select "Earmarks" Tab.

Pass a Constitutional Amendment creating term limits for Senators (2 terms) and members of Congress (3 terms)

The 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1951, was passed in response to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 4-term presidency, and the massive amount of power he acquired because of it. It was feared that any President, too long in office, would eventually run the risk of becoming a dictator. Today, the corruption of our political process, massively favoring incumbent re-election and the influence of "special interests" control of our legislators, has effectively created a "Privileged Political Class" in America. The game is "rigged" in favor of the incumbent and therefore **DEMANDS TERM LIMITS FOR ALL HOUSE AND SENATE MEMBERS.** Fully 91.4% of our surveyed members support term limits for the House & Senate.

DEMAND that Congress use their “power of the purse” to reign in the Executive Branch’s abuse of its power and use of “Czars”

The historic challenge of our Representative Republic is how to maintain the separation of powers, checks and balances and advice and consent mechanism provided for in our Constitution. Throughout our history, arrogant and self-absorbed politicians have tried to usurp the powers of the other branches of government. While the natural tension between the three branches of our federal government is an inherently good thing for America, the abuse of power of one branch over another is not at all a good thing for America.

Today, President Obama’s unprecedented use of unelected advisors, called “Czars” to enforce Executive political policy has taken the Executive Branch of our government to new depths in terms of pure, unbridled arrogance and abuse of Presidential power. A weak and ideologically compliant Congress and Senate has allowed this to happen, by “rubber-stamping” President Obama’s radical left wing agenda, at the cost of American liberty, state’s rights, and both economic and military security. **WE THEREFORE DEMAND THAT CONGRESS USE ITS CONSTITUTIONAL POWER TO DE-FUND PRESIDENTIAL CZARS, BUREAUCRACY, AND AGENCIES** that attempt to enforce policy without Congress having passed laws to warrant it. We further demand that NO presidential advisor or “Czar” be given any power to influence, enforce, or execute policy, WITHOUT the advanced approval of Congress.

Sovereignty & State’s Rights

Respect the 10th Amendment rights of the individual states

Challenge the mandatory health insurance law, at the federal level by blocking funding for additional IRS staff needed to enforce the law and work to repeal the law at the earliest possible time

The Healthcare Reform Bill passed into law by the Democratic Majority and the President clearly violates the 1st, 4th and 10th Amendments to the Constitution. One of the mandatory stipulations by the law requires each American citizen to purchase a product from a private company, under threat of fine or imprisonment if they refuse to comply. We absolutely oppose this massive overreach of federal authority and we fully support Idaho’s current Healthcare Freedom Act, and the subsequent lawsuit filed on our behalf, challenging the constitutionality of this provision of the law. Similarly, this law gives unelected bureaucrats enormous control over our health, our privacy and our God-given rights to be free in society, and we reject it outright.

We further support any and all “Nullification Laws” passed by our state legislature that protect Idaho’s 10th Amendment sovereignty rights under the U.S. Constitution, and demand challenges to federal overreach, using the Commerce Clause of the Constitution.

Eliminate the federal Department of Education, returning all control of public schools to the individual states

We believe the best quality in education is best decided by those who reside in the state where the education is administered. Local control is the fundamental principle of the 10th Amendment. The Department of Education was created in the 1970’s, with the intention of improving the quality of American public education. Instead it has resulted in exponentially skyrocketing increases in cost to American taxpayers, while over that period of time; student performance has remained essentially flat. In short, it’s a failed agency, and one that is ill-equipped to improve

the education of our kids, or the choices of their parents. The Department of Education is today, by definition a "National School Board", dictating to state and local school boards what they can teach, how they can teach, and which methods of evaluation they can use for student performance. This flies in the face of our founding philosophy of "limited government".

Furthermore, the Department of Education has done nothing to reign in the runaway political power of unions in the education system, resulting in states and communities being saddled with poor performing schools, poor-performing teachers being allowed to keep their jobs, while strong performers go unrewarded and unappreciated. Parents, because of the wrong-headed way federal education dollars are allocated for public schools, using the District or zip code as the recipient basis, instead of the student, have effectively negated the parents right to choose the best school for their child. We support full school choice.

Repeal the 17th Amendment to the Constitution, effectively returning the selection of U.S. Senators to the individual state legislatures

Before 1913, all U.S. Senators were appointed by their respective State Legislatures. This was done so that the Senate would be comprised of legislators who went to Washington to protect their states from federal intrusion and overreach. The 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution changed that, allowing U.S. Senators to be popularly elected and outside the rights of the states to appoint or fire them for cause. The result has been disastrous. From 1913 until the present, the federal government, under both parties has grown exponentially in size, intrusion and arrogance. It is time to repeal the 17th Amendment to the Constitution and put the control of U.S. Senators back in its original place; the State Legislature.

We oppose ANY legislation granting a path to citizenship to illegal aliens, without first returning them to their native country, and requiring them to go to the back of the line for legal immigration.

America simply cannot afford to ignore illegal immigration, or use it as a means to establish a dependent and artificial voting block for the political class. It is illegal to come here without going through the immigration process and the law should be vigorously enforced. States have to absorb the enormous cost of illegal aliens requiring state and community services, like healthcare, education, housing and language orientation. While we fully support LEGAL immigration, we view the current policy on ILLEGAL immigration to be a state sovereignty issue as well as a national security issue. We SUPPORT streamlining the LEGAL immigration system to help make it more responsive to those foreign citizens who simply want to be Americans and go by the rules.

Liberty

Protect individual liberty and enforce the Bill of Rights

Reject ANY measure restricting our right, as individual Americans, to own, keep and bear arms under the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions in the District of Columbia case affirmed that our right to own, keep and bear arms is an "individual right", not just a "state militia" right. We agree. Cases now pending in the U.S. Supreme Court will determine if that District of Columbia ruling extends to all states and municipalities. We support that decision to extend those rights to where we live and we oppose ANY infringement on our 2nd Amendment rights.

Amend the Patriot Act to comply with the 1st and 4th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution

The Patriot Act, enacted into law following the 9/11 attacks, and under President Bush's administration, although well-intentioned, has utterly trampled on the 1st and 4th Amendment rights of ordinary American citizens, and we want that corrected immediately. The law gives unconstitutional powers to Homeland Security and by extension, to other law enforcement, to ignore our God-given right to privacy, protection from illegal search and seizure, and the protection of our right to free speech. It does this in the name of "keeping us safe". As a Founder once said; "Any man who is willing to trade security, for liberty, deserves neither". We agree. This Act needs to be amended or repealed.

We oppose ANY bill or law that allows taxpayer money to be used, directly or indirectly, to fund abortion

We have serious concerns that the recently passed Healthcare Reform law, using provisions for "Community Centers", will indirectly or directly allow taxpayer money to be used to fund abortions. The Hyde Amendment, for 30 years, prevented taxpayer money from being used to fund abortion, but this language was voted "OUT" of the current law, and replaced with language that is considerably less emphatic. We oppose any use of taxpayer money to fund abortion, whether it is through direct funding of a Community Center, Planned Parenthood, or other agent, such as a private insurance company, as prescribed in the Healthcare Exchange provision of the new law. **We demand that the current law be repealed or amended to bring it into alignment with the Hyde Amendment.**

We oppose ANY law or policy that infringes upon a person's right to exercise their "right of conscience", without penalty, including the right to refuse to perform abortions, fill "morning-after" prescriptions or sanction gay unions, based on their personal and religious beliefs.

The 1st Amendment to the Constitution guarantees our freedom of religion and the exercise thereof. Religion cannot be freely practiced if the government or employer penalizes a citizen for refusing to do something that violates the tenets of their faith. Just as "conscientious objectors" have, for decades, refused to serve in the military, based on their religious beliefs, and been granted exemptions to that service without penalty, we believe that the same protections apply to other moral situations.