

Gubernatorial Vetting Questionnaire - Tennessee Patriot Vetting Committee (Compiled by Sumner United for Responsible Government (www.SumnerUnited.org))

Note: Candidates were given limited direction, so answer style may vary greatly. Misspellings are likely our fault and should not reflect on the candidates.

	<u>Bill Haslam</u>	<u>Ron Ramsey</u>	<u>Zach Wamp</u>
Party	Republican	Republican	Republican
Website	www.BillHaslam.com	www.teamronramsey.com	www.zachwamp.com
Occupation / Employment	Mayor of Knoxville	Lt. Governor of Tennessee; Owner and Operator of Ron Ramsey & Associates Auction Company	United States Congressman from Tennessee's 3rd Congressional District
What background and experience prepare you for the office you seek?	20 years in business, including 13 as president of a Tennessee-based, national company with approximately 14,000 employees in 39 states. 6 1/2 years as Mayor of Knoxville.	Served as the Lt. Governor for 4 years, balancing state budgets without wasteful spending or tax increases. I know how state government works and I'll be ready to lead in a Conservative fashion on day one.	Fifteen years ago, I founded the nationally-recognized "Tennessee Valley Technology Corridor" economic development organization where we showcase the Tennessee Valley's superior quality of life and the people, business, natural and scientific resources needed for job creation, high-tech research, development, business and investment in the 21st Century. As the Republican leader of the military construction & veterans affairs committee, I have had the responsibility of managing an \$80 billion budget - nearly 3 times the size of Tennessee's annual budget - and directing essential allocations of that funding to support this nation's military installations and veterans operations. A native of Chattanooga, I spent twelve years as a small businessman and commercial real estate broker before being elected to Congress. My wife, Kim, and I have a son, Weston, who recently graduated from the University of Tennessee; and a daughter, Coty, who is in college at the University of Tennessee. My family and I actively attend church, where I have helped lead an adult Sunday school class for nearly two decades.
Specify pertinent civic and political organizations; interests and activities (positions held):	Elder at Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church (EPC) for the past 21 years, member for 27; co-founder KnoxAchieves and Project Grad of Knoxville; former chairman of the board of Salvation Army; former board member of United Way of Greater Knoxville, YoungLife, the East Tennessee Center for Non-Profit Management, and Cornerstone Foundation.	Member of the TN House of Reps., First District (1994-1996) Senator, Senate District 2, Johnson and Sullivan Cos. (1996-Present) Lt. Governor (2007-Present) Elected Chairman of the Tennessee delegation to the Republican National Convention (2008) Named National Chairman, Republican Lt. Governor's Association (2009) Member of the Blountville Ruritan and the Indian Springs Optimist Club, a past member of the Farm Credit Advisory Board, and a member of Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Church where serves as a Sunday School teacher.	Political experience: began as precinct vice chair in Chattanooga, '83; youth coordinator for Gene Roberts for Chattanooga Mayor; President, Young Republicans of Chattanooga, '83-84; helped run dozens of area campaigns; Chair, Hamilton County Republican Party, '87-88; Regional Director for State GOP, '89-90; Candidate for Congress, '91-92; elected to Congress, '94; served as Member of Congress, 1995-2010, re-elected overwhelmingly 7 times. Business experience: National Sales Supervisor – Olan Mills, '81-82; Partner – Wamp Alliance Architects/ Development Co., '83-88; Vice President – Charter Real Estate Corp, '89-92; Top Commercial Broker-Fletcher Bright Real Estate, '92-94.

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	<u>Samuel David Duck</u>	<u>June Griffin</u>	<u>Brandon Dodds</u>
Party	Independent (George Washington Opposed, so do I)	Independent	Independent
Website	www.duck4gov.com		www.doddsforgov.com
Occupation / Employment	Software Developer	Housewife	Optometrist - Dodds Eye Care
What background and experience prepare you for the office you seek?	I know the Constitution fairly well. I also know the Federalist Papers, Articles of Confederation, Declaration of Independence, Tennessee Constitutions, and some of the history behind these Constitutions and Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. I also follow world events and Bible prophecy very closely. Prophetic events have far more bearing than most politicians realize. I am also familiar with the differences between Keynesian Economics and Austrian School economics. I know who the Rothchilds and Bilderbergers are. I also know the difference between fractional reserve banking and interest free fiat currencies such as talley sticks, colonial script, and the green back. Most politicians don't have a clue in this regard.	Active political involvement since 1968.	I am a medical professional, small businessman, father, historian, and Christian. Growing up on a farm, working my way through school, and running a business have taught me the importance of hard work and how to work with others to find solutions.
Specify pertinent civic and political organizations; interests and activities (positions held):	I don't formally belong to any organizations, but I often work with organizations for individual projects, should the need arise. I can talk about specific cases if you want.	Tennessee Committee for the Bill of Rights; Tennessee Minute Women; Citizens for Decency in Taxation	Lions Club

	Bill Haslam	Ron Ramsey	Zach Wamp
What are the sources of your income, including, if applicable, your spouse's? Exclude annuities and child support:	Co-owner of Pilot Corporation; various investments. A complete listing of all my sources of income was provided to the Tennessee Newspaper Network and can be accessed here: http://web.knoxnews.com/pdf/2009/120609tn-gov-haslam-summary.pdf	I run an auction business that I started from scratch with my wife Sindy. Additionally there is a small stipend for working in the state house.	Only source of income is congressional salary.
What would you like to accomplish in the office you seek, and what issues do you consider the most important:	My top priority will be making Tennessee the No. 1 state in the Southeast for high quality jobs, and I will accomplish this while standing up for our Tenth Amendment right to govern the state according to our own priorities and fighting to protect the values we as Tennesseans hold dear.	We need to get Tennesseans working again, and no issue is more important than job growth in the state of Tennessee. As Lt. Governor I've fostered a pro-business climate in our state that has successfully lured jobs here to Tennessee. As Governor, I will continue this work until we're on the right path again. The second issue that I feel is imperative is reigning in the size of our federal government and preventing Washington from pushing down on us with unconstitutional unfunded mandates, like Obamacare. Federal estimates show that Tennessee will be expected to foot the bill for Obamacare to the tune of \$250 Million dollars. Even without that unfunded, forced mandate we'll be facing a \$1.9 Billion dollar budget shortfall next year. Simply put, Tennessee just can't afford it. As Governor, I will stand strong for Tennessee and against the Federal Government. They have grown out of control and that model simply doesn't fly here in Tennessee. I'm committed to running our state government the Tennessee way and that means smaller, smarter government and living within our means.	My 20/20 Vision for Tennessee starts with job creation and economic development. We need a bold new production agenda centered around manufacturing, agriculture, and infrastructure – an agenda that focuses on building, making, and growing things. In East Tennessee, I helped create the Tennessee Valley Technology Corridor, where we have focused on long-term regional efforts to grow and promote the manufacturing jobs of the future, specifically in the transportation and energy sectors. Due to these efforts, we landed Volkswagen and Wacker Chemie in the Chattanooga area, bringing in billions of dollars of new investment and about 15,000 new jobs, even in the midst of a national recession. Now we must take this aggressive approach at regional cooperation and new job creation statewide. New businesses are drawn to our state because of our right-to-work status, low cost of living, high quality of life, great work ethic and having no state income tax, so we need a Governor who knows how to leverage these assets to recruit new business and investment, and a Governor who understands Secondly, we need a new focus on education in our state, because education. My 20/20 vision calls for a new emphasis on preventive healthcare. Our Finally we need to address security in our state. I will fight for tougher security.

	<u>Samuel David Duck</u>	<u>June Griffin</u>	<u>Brandon Dodds</u>
<p>What are the sources of your income, including, if applicable, your spouse's? Exclude annuities and child support:</p>	<p>I work for a living</p>	<p>My spouse.</p>	<p>Private Optometry Practice, family farm / author</p>
<p>What would you like to accomplish in the office you seek, and what issues do you consider the most important:</p>	<p>God's will. I hope that includes freeing Christians and all of our fellow Americans from government oppressions before the oppressions become more tangible. Free us from the grip of central banks, before we are melded into a world government, which is definitely coming.</p>	<p>Restoration of Constitution; Federal and state - elimination of official bribery and mandates.</p>	<p>I have many goals to achieve as Tennessee's governor. I feel we have to fix the economy, reform our educational system, protect the right to keep and bear arms, protect the rights of the unborn, address the illegal immigration problem and stop Obamacare. I think reestablishing our constitutional "states rights" is imperative to turning our state and nation back to the values and system of government that made it great.</p>

	Bill Haslam	Ron Ramsey	Zach Wamp
1. Do you favor enacting a law in Tennessee similar to the controversial Arizona illegal alien law (Arizona SB 1070)?	<p>No answer</p> <p>If our legislature decides to pass a bill similar to Arizona's, I would sign it. While the Arizona bill makes sense for Arizona, I believe a better approach for Tennessee would be to focus on making sure employers do not hire illegal immigrants</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p> <p>Recently, Arizona took action to protect their state from the scourge of violence and crime that illegal immigration is causing in their state. For years they asked for help from the federal government to enforce immigration laws and protect their communities. After being ignored, they've taken action on this important issue within their state government, and I agree with their actions. The primary function of the federal government is to protect its citizens from foreign threats and yet we hear Administration officials like Attorney General Eric Holder and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano – herself a former Governor of Arizona – claiming they have yet to review Arizona's new immigration enforcement law even though they claim to be against it. Worst of all, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said the federal government will sue Arizona over the law.</p> <p>Here in Tennessee we've passed resolutions which declare support for Arizona and their immigration law. This is yet another example highlighting how out of touch Washington is with the needs of main street America. I support these efforts.</p> <p>We are a nation originally comprised of immigrants and while I support legal im</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>
2. Do you favor expanding the use of the e-verify system?	<p>Strongly Favor</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p> <p>I am a small business owner myself, and I know that easing the burden of proof from the business owner by providing a centralized system with which they can check a potential employee's legal status is extremely helpful. We are a nation of laws and we must abide by them, unfortunately some illegal immigrants have found ways of forging documents in order to obtain jobs illegally. I am absolutely for implementation of this system so business owners can check to ensure the individuals they hire are legal and above the board. I do want to mention that I had a lead role in legally abolishing the availability of drivers' licenses for illegal immigrants. It's crazy to think that once upon a time, illegal aliens could obtain a legal drivers license. No more. Not on my watch.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>

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1. Do you favor enacting a law in Tennessee similar to the controversial Arizona illegal alien law (Arizona SB 1070)?	<p>Tend To Favor</p> <p>I haven't taken a strong stand on Arizona SB1070 yet. Out of necessity, Arizona has taken the lead in this matter. Tennessee has the luxury of just a little more time. Furthermore, challengers won't take office until 2011. Prudence dictates, we observe Arizona, and learn from this law between now and then. If the law seems to be having the desired effect, then it could serve as a model for a similar law in Tennessee.</p>	Strongly Favor	Strongly Favor
2. Do you favor expanding the use of the e-verify system?	<p>Tend To Oppose</p> <p>One of my primary concerns is protecting my family from the coming mark of the beast. I'm more worried about the mark than illegal immigrants. I'm also more worried about the national RFID than e-verify. However, I could see networks, such as would be used in e-verify, becoming the infrastructure behind the mark.</p>	<p>No response</p> <p>I am for deportation of illegals and requiring an oath-bound pledge of allegiance to the United States and the Republic for which it stands.</p>	Strongly Favor

	<u>Bill Haslam</u>	<u>Ron Ramsey</u>	<u>Zach Wamp</u>
<p>3. Do you favor state legislation and state lawsuits to prevent the implementation of the entirety of the federal health insurance law, the so-called Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act?</p>	<p>Strongly Favor Yes. The federal law imposes unbearable, unfunded mandates</p>	<p>Strongly Favor The Federal Govt, under the Obama Administration, passed a trillion dollar govt takeover of our health care system. Obamacare will take away patients' choice by increasing cost & decreasing access & quality to medical care in this country. Worse, Obamacare pushes an unconstitutional unfunded mandate on our state, to the tune of \$250 million that the taxpayers of TN are expected to shoulder. I am resolutely against this encroachment of our state sovereignty & I am committed to fighting it & pushing back on an increasingly out of control Washington. I am the only candidate in this race who has taken to the airwaves to publicly state I will sue the federal govt over Obamacare. It is the duty of a Governor & his Attorney General to protect TN from unconstitutional actions taken by the federal govt. That is why I have asked AG Cooper to seek a basis for judicial intervention in blocking the current federal healthcare bill. Other states have joined my call since the bill was passed. Unfortunately, Attorney General Cooper has shirked his responsibility to stand tall for the families of Tennessee and refused to file suit against the federal govt. When I am Governor, I will be in the best possible position to be able to circumvent. When the federal government requires unfunded mandates, it is the duty of the Governor. The job of a Governor is to defend and protect the people and interests of this state.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>

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3. Do you favor state legislation and state lawsuits to prevent the implementation of the entirety of the federal health insurance law, the so-called Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act?	Strongly Favor I'll take this one step farther. I want to challenge the constitutionality of mandatory participation in social security, medicare, and unemployment insurance. Furthermore, I want to challenge the 16th amendment, which is what makes the punitive taxation of the entire program possible.	Strongly Favor	Strongly Favor

	<u>Bill Haslam</u>	<u>Ron Ramsey</u>	<u>Zach Wamp</u>
4. Do you favor forming a coalition of states, including Tennessee, that would work together to oppose unconstitutional federal mandates, both funded and unfunded?	Strongly Favor Yes.	Strongly Favor I am in favor of banding together with like-minded governors in other states to push back on unfunded mandates such as Obamacare. I am also in favor of standing for our state sovereignty whenever it is challenged by the federal government.	Strongly Favor
5. Nullification is a process first used by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison to void laws of the federal government that the State determined were not within the constitutionally-defined powers of the federal government. Do you favor nullifying federal laws that the Tennessee legislature determines to be unconstitutional, including potentially the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010?	No answer I believe in opposing federal overreaching by every legal, cost-effective means.	Tend To Oppose Instead of nullification, I will challenge unconstitutional federal laws like Obamacare in open court. I am a law and order candidate and, as such, I must abide by the law that settles conflicts between federal and state law in favor of federal law. But I guarantee you, I and my Attorney General will scrutinize every piece of federal legislation that effects our state to look for ways to push back.	Strongly Favor
6. Do you favor the interpretation of our nation's Constitution that holds that each of the separate States is a voluntary member of the United States of America, and as such has the right to secede from that union?	No answer I believe the founders created a union where the power of the federal government was limited and the power of the states was protected. Staying true to that original vision is the best course.	Tend To Oppose The time of succession has passed with the conclusion of the Civil War. Now is the time for us to win the battle of ideas and fight for our beliefs so state and federal government reflect our beliefs. Secession is tantamount to giving in and accepting defeat. We can renew government at all levels by sharing our ideals with others and winning at the ballot box.	No answer I am a strong supporter of state sovereignty and the 10th Amendment of the US Constitution.

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4. Do you favor forming a coalition of states, including Tennessee, that would work together to oppose unconstitutional federal mandates, both funded and unfunded?	<p>Oppose My opposition here is probably what you'd call procedural. I am all for states working together to oppose federal government intrusion into states rights. When you formalize this opposition, it begins to sound like a confederacy within the union. In addition to informal co-operation, I want to challenge the 17th amendment, using the final clause of Article V, so states are again represented in the Senate.</p>	<p>Strongly Oppose This will water down state sovereignty and create temptation to compromise.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor A coalition would be nice to stand up to the federal government, but it would be unnecessary. Based on the 10th Amendment on state could oppose unconstitutional mandates.</p>
5. Nullification is a process first used by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison to void laws of the federal government that the State determined were not within the constitutionally-defined powers of the federal government. Do you favor nullifying federal laws that the Tennessee legislature determines to be unconstitutional, including potentially the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010?	<p>Strongly Favor Yes, but... The problem with nullification is cash flow. Currently, money flows from individuals, to the federal government, then back down to the state for compliance with mandates. We need to challenge the 16th Amendment, so money will flow directly from individuals from the states. Then the states can pay the federal government for services rendered. He who controls the money, controls the power.</p>	<p>No response I favor resistance to the mandates. Our money is held hostage by these mandates.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>
6. Do you favor the interpretation of our nation's Constitution that holds that each of the separate States is a voluntary member of the United States of America, and as such has the right to secede from that union?	<p>No answer How does one answer that question? I suppose, if a state wanted to secede, I would prefer the federal government allow the state to secede, as opposed to civil war. That said, I really, don't want to see that happen. I don't want to see this country torn apart. I'd rather restore Madisonian principals to our government. I'd cry if, one day our flag had 49 stars on it.</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>

	<u>Bill Haslam</u>	<u>Ron Ramsey</u>	<u>Zach Wamp</u>
7. All federal money comes with implicit, and sometimes explicit, expectations that the federal government may exert control over the recipient of the money, often in ways completely unrelated to the money. In order to reduce federal intrusions, do you favor rejecting funding from the federal government?	No answer Whenever federal money comes with requirements that offend our values or usurp our authority, I favor rejecting it. As Mayor of Knoxville, I have turned down federal money that came with strings that made irresponsible demands on our city budget.	Tend To Oppose In times of natural calamity, I would not hesitate to accept federal resources to save the lives of Tennesseans. Thankfully, those circumstances are few and far between	No answer I am against federal intrusion and oppose federal funding that comes with strings attached.
8. Do you favor an amendment to the Tennessee Constitution that prohibits state and local income taxes?	Strongly Favor Yes.	Strongly Favor Income taxes punish work and that is simply bad policy	Strongly Favor
9. Do you favor repeal of the Hall tax (state income tax on investments)?	No answer Once our economy has recovered and we have reduced the size of state government, I would support repealing the Hall tax.	Strongly Favor My plan would be to increase the Hall income tax exemption for taxpayers 65 years of age or older \$10,000 annually beginning the next legislative session. I filed legislation to do that this year and I will push this plan as Governor. This would attract investors and retirees from across the nation to our state, who would then pour their money into our economy, instead of a state that taxes income and investments	Strongly Favor
10. Do you favor repeal of Tennessee's estate tax?	No answer Once our economy has recovered and we have reduced the size of state government, I would support repealing the estate tax.	Strongly Favor I introduced legislation this year that would increase the inheritance tax exemption \$100,000 per year until such amount equals \$3.5 million. The estate tax removes dollars from the private sector where they could create jobs by being spent on goods and services. Any tax that penalizes the accumulation of wealth sends the wrong message.	Strongly Favor

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7. All federal money comes with implicit, and sometimes explicit, expectations that the federal government may exert control over the recipient of the money, often in ways completely unrelated to the money. In order to reduce federal intrusions, do you favor rejecting funding from the federal government?	<p>Favor</p> <p>Article 1 section 9 reads, "...No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another..." By giving money to states to surrender sovereignty over those which do not, the federal government is showing favoritism in regulation and commerce. I won't allow the intrusions, but if the federal government gives a penny to other states, it can expect suits.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p> <p>All mandates should be void of penalty.</p>	<p>Favor</p> <p>I would definitely refuse federal education money and fix Tennessee's schools without federal intrusion.</p>
8. Do you favor an amendment to the Tennessee Constitution that prohibits state and local income taxes?	<p>Oppose</p> <p>If we can successfully challenge, the 16th amendment, I'd rather keep the money earmarked for federal separate from money for the state. I'd favor a flat tax, to replace current federal code, in that scenario. If we amended the state Constitution, we would have to resort to another tax, such as a sales tax to fill a post IRS void. High sales taxes entice governments to control all buying and selling in order to stem sales tax fraud.</p>	<p>Strongly Oppose</p> <p>It is no time to amend the Constitution.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>
9. Do you favor repeal of the Hall tax (state income tax on investments)?	<p>Tend To Favor</p> <p>I want to simplify tax law as much as possible.</p>	<p>Favor</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>
10. Do you favor repeal of Tennessee's estate tax?	<p>Tend To Favor</p> <p>I do favor this. I want to share a concern. The combination of stimulus expiration and decreased tax revenue is going to shrink the Tennessee budget by 6% to 8%. I oppose sin taxes (4%) and the lottery (1%). Income and inheritance taxes are 2% of revenue. If you add all of this up, that's 15% of the state's tax base that would be gone. If I may be so bold, I'm not going to wipe this out in one year.</p>	<p>Favor</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>

	<u>Bill Haslam</u>	<u>Ron Ramsey</u>	<u>Zach Wamp</u>
11. Do you favor taking a governor's pledge to limit Tennessee government spending to the same or a reduced level during each of the next four years?	No answer As Mayor of Knoxville, I've submitted seven consecutive balanced budgets, and this year's budget is less in real dollars than last year's budget and the one before that. I've also reduced the size of government in Knoxville by cutting the number of city employees to the lowest level in 15 years. As governor, I will get us through this budget crisis by prioritizing and restructuring state government, and I will use this opportunity to make state government leaner and more efficient for the future.	Strongly Favor I will reduce spending in state departments to decrease the footprint of Tennessee state government. The next governor is going to face a massive budget hole and I intend to accept that challenge head-on and make take the necessary steps to keep our budget balanced without new taxes.	Strongly Favor
12. Do you favor cutting state salaries and pensions, eliminating government departments and reducing the number of state employees to reduce the size of the Tennessee budget?	No answer We're facing a budget crisis of almost \$1.5 billion. I favor taking every step necessary to close that gap without raising taxes, which means we will have to restructure state government and make it leaner and more efficient. Immediately upon taking office, I will conduct a top-to-bottom review of state government in order to identify and eliminate waste, set priorities and establish measurable goals for those priorities, and ensure every aspect of state government is operating as efficiently and effectively as possible.	Strongly Favor As I stated in my previous answer, I will cut state departments by 1/3 when I am governor and I'll cut the jobs of those within the departments too. For example, I will fold the Department of Children's Services into the Department of Health, thus streamlining two whole departments into one. As Governor, I would also outsource our H.R. department, as Florida has done. This move alone will save Tennessee millions. I am the only candidate who has offered a specific plan of action when it comes to reducing the size of government.	Strongly Favor
13. Do you favor reducing entitlement programs in Tennessee in order to reduce the budget?	No answer I will take every step necessary to close the enormous budget ap that will exist next year WITHOUT raising taxes. Instead, I will conduct a top-to-bottom review of state government that will help us identify savings, set clear priorities and restructure government based on those priorities, and make sure every aspect of state government is operating as efficiently and effectively as possible.	Strongly Favor Wasting money on reckless entitlement spending while turning a blind eye to a rising deficit and a tin ear to the people is the way they do things in Washington. As Governor, I would absolutely be in favor of reducing entitlement programs to reduce and balance our budget. One way to do that is to root out fraud and abuse. Our current Office of the Inspector General does an excellent job arresting and convicting those who abuse prescription drugs in conjunction with TennCare. I support this aggressive effort and will back it fully as Governor.	No answer Tennessee faces a serious budget crisis and I will support state procurement reform, right-sizing state government through cuts where needed, and a production agenda to spur new economic growth, with no new taxes and solid opposition to a state income tax.
14. Do you favor	Strongly Favor	Strongly Favor	Strongly Favor

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11. Do you favor taking a governor's pledge to limit Tennessee government spending to the same or a reduced level during each of the next four years?	<p>Strongly Oppose</p> <p>I don't make any pledges other than the oath of office. For example, I haven't taken the 10th Amendment pledge, yet I am becoming noted among the TEA Parties as having one of the best plans for actually achieving state sovereignty. I agree with this point. I just don't sign pledges. I've also pointed out, Democrats tend to tax and spend. Republicans tend to borrow and spend. I intend to fight taxes. The budget is coming down, if I have my say.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>	<p>Favor</p>
12. Do you favor cutting state salaries and pensions, eliminating government departments and reducing the number of state employees to reduce the size of the Tennessee budget?	<p>Favor</p> <p>Every government program employs someone. If a government program is being cut, someone is losing a job. When cutting any program, the governor needs to expect the people who are losing their jobs, to fight for their jobs. There are also a couple of programs I'd like to just about get rid of. Period.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p> <p>Yes, as well I will stop withholding of state employees federal income tax.</p>	<p>Neutral</p> <p>I believe that several departments can be --- reducing wasteful bureaucracy. Nonproductive, redundant and unnecessary jobs should certainly be eliminated. However, I believe to attract the best and the brightest the state has to compensate its employees appropriately</p>
13. Do you favor reducing entitlement programs in Tennessee in order to reduce the budget?	<p>Strongly Favor</p> <p>Number one on my hit list is TennCare. I favor individual option to participate in social security and medicare. The same follows for TennCare. If we can cut that from our budget all together (28%), then that solves my previously stated concern about cutting too many taxes (15%) at once. Ideally, I'd like TennCare to operate more or less like a medical co-op.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>
14. Do you favor reducing	<p>Strongly Favor</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>

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reducing government restrictions on charter schools in order to stimulate the expansion of charter schools in Tennessee?	Yes.	<p>The key to a successful life is a sound education. Under my leadership as Lt. Governor, the Senate has funded K-12 education to an extraordinary degree, given the challenges which face our budget.</p> <p>However, the main problem that plagues government education programs is a failure to realize what every parent knows: every child is special and unique; an individual. While some children thrive in the traditional public school setting, others do not. Many children excel in charter schools, which may or may not be religiously affiliated. Still others reach their potential in the homeschooled environment. I recognize that what is needed is more parental choice when it comes to children's education.</p> <p>Under my leadership, the legislature has passed an expansion of charter schools and I will continue that work as Governor. Additionally, I have vowed to appoint a homeschooler's advocate to the State Board of Education.</p> <p>Tennessee's state Board of Education should represent the breadth of Tennessee's educational options and as Governor I will ensure we accomplish that.</p>	
15. Do you favor school vouchers?	<p>No answer</p> <p>I think vouchers are a good way to encourage innovation and competition in education.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p> <p>As stated in my previous answer, parents should have choices when it comes to how best to educate their children. I am strongly in favor of vouchers, charter schools and the option to home school.</p>	<p>Favor</p>
16. Do you favor the creation of a state-run pre-kindergarten education program for all Tennessee children?	<p>Strongly Oppose</p> <p>No.</p>	<p>Strongly Oppose</p> <p>Universal pre-k is a waste of the state's money. I'd reserve those funds for inclusion into our k-12 program.</p>	<p>Strongly Oppose</p> <p>The development of children from birth to school age is critical to their success in school and in life. I do believe the state's current pre-K program is a vital resource for certain children in great need in our state, but we are not in a position to expand it because of difficult budget constraints.</p>
17. Do you favor giving home school parents and students equal status and treatment as public school administrators and students in regards to state laws and scholarship awards?	<p>Strongly Favor</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p> <p>They pay the same sales tax, property tax, etc. that public school parents do so they should be treated equally.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>

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government restrictions on charter schools in order to stimulate the expansion of charter schools in Tennessee?	My model for education is simple. Teachers answer to principals, principals answer to district superintendents, who in turn answer to the board of education. The board of education is responsible to the voters. The state defends the decisions of the board of education should unions, law suits, or federal government try to interfere. In short, I oppose state or federal restrictions on charter schools.	I am for eliminating mandatory attendance	
15. Do you favor school vouchers?	Tend To Favor If Tennessee's education system follows my model, then this would be a decision made, school board by school board.	Strongly Oppose This will involve more bureaucratic jobs and controls.	Strongly Favor
16. Do you favor the creation of a state-run pre-kindergarten education program for all Tennessee children?	Strongly Oppose I'm generally opposed to state involvement in education as much as we can reasonably achieve. Furthermore, education is already as much as 48% of the budget. I'm opposed to expanding education in the budget any more. I also don't want to take away from K-12 or raise taxes to fund pre-K. I'm tired of cradle to the grave politics. Currently, pre-K is 0.3% of the budget. Yes, I want to get rid of that, but the budget impact will be small.	Strongly Oppose	Strongly Oppose
17. Do you favor giving home school parents and students equal status and treatment as public school administrators and students in regards to state laws and scholarship awards?	Tend To Favor This is a different question than I'm used to getting regarding homeschooling. I'd have to study this question more to develop a firm opinion. That said, I oppose truancy laws. That stand tends to make the question of homeschooling almost moot. Parents just raise their children how they want without asking the government for permission to 'home school'.	No answer I oppose government involvement in private schools.	Strongly Favor

	<u>Bill Haslam</u>	<u>Ron Ramsey</u>	<u>Zach Wamp</u>
18. Do you favor opposing all federal government interference and funding in Tennessee schools?	No answer I believe that control of education should be kept in the hands of parents, teachers, principals and local school officials. We should not allow federal funding to dictate policy.	Tend To Oppose Of the two questions posed here, the first is easy: I certainly oppose all federal government interference in Tennessee schools. The funding issue is a separate question. For example, last January, conservatives won education reforms we have fought to achieve for decades. Tying tenure and teacher pay to test scores and other accountability measures had been beyond our reach because we simply did not have the numbers in the General Assembly to pass them. Why did Democrats finally join us? Because the federal government offered money to fund education in Tennessee if we lifted the cap on charter schools, and tied tenure and teacher pay to student performance. Ironically, the only way Democrats would have EVER voted for those conservative reforms (and believe me, they did not want to) would be to receive federal funds.	No answer I believe that education decisions are best made at the local level. I am against federal intrusion and oppose federal funding that comes with strings attached.
19. Do you favor an amendment to the Tennessee constitution requiring the teaching of the United States Constitution using the words and writings of the original founders?	Strongly Favor Yes.	Strongly Favor	Strongly Favor
20. Do you favor reducing restrictions on privately owned firearms?	No answer I am a strong supporter of the Second Amendment. If, at any time, we find restrictions infringing on Second Amendment rights, we should remove the restrictions.	Strongly Favor I carried the bill in the legislature that confirmed the right of 280,000 law abiding citizens to have access to legal gun carry permits in this state. I am the only candidate in this race who actually has a sportsman's lifetime hunting and fishing license. I am all for our 2nd amendment rights and will continue to fight for them as your next Governor.	Strongly Favor
21. Do you favor ending the handgun permit system in Tennessee and going to a less restrictive system such as the systems in Alaska, Arizona, and Vermont that do not require handgun carry permits?	No answer I support the current system.	Neutral While I'm not familiar with the systems in place in the above mentioned states, I have a long record of expanding 2nd Amendment Rights in Tennessee. I carried the legislation which created Tennessee's handgun carry permit system when Tennesseans were not allowed to carry legally. I twice led successful veto overrides in the state Senate when Governor Bredesen vetoed guns in restaurants legislation.	No answer I strongly support the 2nd amendment rights of gunowners, and will protect that right as our state's next governor.

	<u>Samuel David Duck</u>	<u>June Griffin</u>	<u>Brandon Dodds</u>
18. Do you favor opposing all federal government interference and funding in Tennessee schools?	<p>Favor</p> <p>I want to change the cash flow, so this question is effectively rendered moot as well. However, between now and then, my approach will be to allow our schools to run as local government sees fit. If the federal government with holds funds, then I intend to challenge the federal government for violating Article 1 Section 9. (See questions #3 and #7.)</p>	Strongly Favor	Strongly Favor
19. Do you favor an amendment to the Tennessee constitution requiring the teaching of the United States Constitution using the words and writings of the original founders?	<p>Tend To Oppose</p> <p>I just don't think the Constitution is the place for this. When I stood before PET, I told them I favored teaching the Constitution, Federalist Papers, Articles of Confederation, Declaration of Independence, and notes from the first Congress (bill of rights). I also said, I want to get rid of Wilder Publishers in favor of Signet Classics, because of their treatment of these documents. That said, I wanted this to be a suggestion of state government, allowing local government the sovereignty to accept or reject.</p>	<p>Strongly Oppose</p> <p>I am opposed to changing the Constitution at this time. Changing textbooks should not require Constitutional Amendment. I am opposed to free text books.</p>	Strongly Favor
20. Do you favor reducing restrictions on privately owned firearms?	<p>Strongly Favor</p> <p>I don't see anywhere in the Constitution or any of the amendments, that indicates, you have a right as protected by the Constitution, provided you pay a fee or get permission from the government.</p>	Strongly Favor	Strongly Favor
21. Do you favor ending the handgun permit system in Tennessee and going to a less restrictive system such as the systems in Alaska, Arizona, and Vermont that do not require handgun carry permits?	Strongly Favor	<p>Strongly Favor</p> <p>All permitting - fishing, hunting, etc - should be eliminated, as well as restrictions on guns within the limits of Tennessee</p>	Strongly Favor

	<u>Bill Haslam</u>	<u>Ron Ramsey</u>	<u>Zach Wamp</u>
22. Tennessee passed the Firearms Freedom Act that asserted that firearms within TN are not subject to federal laws & regulations. The ATF concluded that federal law supercedes state law, effectively voiding the law of TN & similar laws passed by other states. Do you favor resisting the ATF & federal govt in the regulation of firearms within TN?	No answer The governor should uphold state law unless the law is found to be unconstitutional.	Strongly Favor	Strongly Favor
23. Do you favor an amendment to the Tennessee constitution that would make the state attorney general an elected office?	No answer I certainly understand and agree with the sentiment that the state attorney general should be responsive and accountable to the people. If the people of Tennessee and their representatives in the legislature decide to amend the state Constitution and change the way the attorney general is chosen, I will certainly support that. It is important that we strive to make sure the position is filled by a competent and qualified individual who will execute the office in an impartial manner and in accordance with the state Constitution and the best interest of Tennessee.	Strongly Favor Under my leadership, the state Senate has passed this amendment. I think it's become clearly evident what type of damage can be wrought at the hands of an inactive, insulated and unelected Attorney General. While Washington proceeds to push down on Tennessee with their unfunded and unconstitutional health care mandate, our Attorney General sits idly by. As Lt. Governor, I've laid the ground work so the next Governor can sue, unilaterally, on behalf of the state. I fully intend to do that as your Governor, and I've said as much all along. The difference between me and the other candidates is that I've actually passed legislation so I can defend Tennesseans against this encroachment on our state sovereignty, while they just offer simple rhetoric. I don't just talk the talk, I walk the walk. As your Governor, I will do what it takes – even if I have to hire outside council – to make this right.	Strongly Favor
24. Do you favor awarding state money to private investment companies who are not directly performing services for the state so long as transparency in the process can be assured?	No answer If the taxpayers receive a strong return on their investment and the process is open and transparent, I support the program as a way to promote the creation of good private sector jobs.	Tend To Favor The TNVESTCO program is an economic development effort aimed at helping entrepreneurs and startups provide private sector jobs to Tennesseans. I support it only as long as there is complete transparency in the process.	No answer I support providing incentives for economic development in Tennessee, but I do not support expanding the current TN Investco program due to the budget situation the state currently faces. We must be consistently vigilant that Tennessee taxpayer dollars are being used in the most efficient and transparent way.

	<u>Samuel David Duck</u>	<u>June Griffin</u>	<u>Brandon Dodds</u>
<p>22. Tennessee passed the Firearms Freedom Act that asserted that firearms within Tennessee are not subject to federal laws and regulations. The ATF concluded that federal law supercedes state law, effectively voiding the law of Tennessee and similar laws passed by other states. Do you favor resisting the ATF and federal government in the regulation of firearms within Tennessee?</p>	<p>Strongly Favor and food, and budget, and carbon dioxide, and construction codes, and... In the spirit of the 9th Amendment, point 4D of my expanded stand reads, "Enumeration of the state's rights to regulate a budget, arms, and food within it's borders shall not be construed to deny the state of other rights."</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>
<p>23. Do you favor an amendment to the Tennessee constitution that would make the state attorney general an elected office?</p>	<p>Tend To Favor That's better than our current system. I'm also not sure that's the best system. I am rather fond of the federal system for appointing these people. Furthermore, the 1870 Constitution reads, "The Judges of the Supreme Court shall be elected by the qualified voters of the State." Perhaps we should start obeying what's already in the Constitution before we start amending it more.</p>	<p>Strongly Oppose No Constitutional Amendment - Restore non-lawyer judges.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>
<p>24. Do you favor awarding state money to private investment companies who are not directly performing services for the state so long as transparency in the process can be assured?</p>	<p>Tend To Oppose If I knew a little more about what's going on in this arena, I might voice a weaker or stronger opposition. By the wording of the question, this doesn't sound good.</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Neutral</p>

	<u>Bill Haslam</u>	<u>Ron Ramsey</u>	<u>Zach Wamp</u>
<p>25. Trust in politicians is rightfully at a historical low point. Do you favor a gubernatorial recall system to allow Tennesseans to end the term of governors who betray the voters?</p>	<p>No answer I believe elections are the best way to remove officials whose policy decisions are repugnant.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor I believe in worst-case scenarios, the recall can be a useful tool. It worked to remove Gray Davis in California and can be used to remove a corrupt Governor in mid-term.</p>	<p>No answer I do not.</p>
<p>26. Do you favor SJR127, a proposed amendment to the Tennessee constitution clarifying that the state constitution does not guarantee the right to abortion or state funding of abortion?</p>	<p>Strongly Favor Yes.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor SJR 127 has passed the Senate under my leadership and I believe there is no issue more important than the sanctity of life. I led the successful effort to strip Planned Parenthood's statutory authority to receive state funds. When Planned Parenthood received permission from an unelected state board to locate an abortion facility next door to a Catholic High School in Shelby County, I called for hearings and they backed down.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>
<p>27. In awarding scholarships from the Tennessee Lottery, do you favor a strictly merit-based criteria with no preference based on race, economic situation, school institution (public, private, home school, etc) or other factors?</p>	<p>Strongly Favor Yes.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>

	<u>Samuel David Duck</u>	<u>June Griffin</u>	<u>Brandon Dodds</u>
25. Trust in politicians is rightfully at a historical low point. Do you favor a gubernatorial recall system to allow Tennesseans to end the term of governors who betray the voters?	<p>No response</p> <p>We already have one. It's called impeachment. Article V of the 1870 Tennessee Constitution and Article IV of the 1796 Tennessee Constitution. Read them.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p> <p>As long as no Constitutional Convention is required.</p>	<p>Strongly Oppose</p> <p>The recall system is used in states who have it by by partisans to attack the opposing party. It is expensive and it forces the state government to focus on the recall if employed rather than running the state.</p>
26. Do you favor SJR127, a proposed amendment to the Tennessee constitution clarifying that the state constitution does not guarantee the right to abortion or state funding of abortion?	<p>Favor</p> <p>I don't intend to interfere in HJR127. That said, murder is one of the few crimes addressed in the U.S. Constitution. The 5th Amendment reads, "No person shall...be deprived live...without due process of law..." Point 2 of my stand addresses this. If abortion does not lead to murder, then what is the objection? If it is murder, should it not be prosecuted as such? The executive can preempt this bill, and begin prosecuting murders using existing laws.</p>	<p>Strongly Oppose</p> <p>I am opposed to a Constitution Convention. Abortion should require the death penalty as all murder.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>
27. In awarding scholarships from the Tennessee Lottery, do you favor a strictly merit-based criteria with no preference based on race, economic situation, school institution (public, private, home school, etc) or other factors?	<p>No response</p> <p>I oppose the lottery.</p>	<p>No response</p> <p>I am opposed to the lottery and would end ALL administrative salaries for same</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>

	<u>Bill Haslam</u>	<u>Ron Ramsey</u>	<u>Zach Wamp</u>
28. Do you favor harsher penalties for offenders who commit 'hate crimes' or crimes against specified classes of people?	<p>No answer</p> <p>I favor tougher penalties for all violent crimes</p>	<p>Strongly Oppose</p> <p>The laws should protect all people equally. Those who commit heinous crimes against their fellow man should face the full force and weight of the law. No exceptions or special elevated classes of individuals should exist. We are all human, we all reside in the same society and we all hold the same reasonable expectation that our rights be equally respected.</p>	<p>Strongly Oppose</p>
29. Do you favor legislation that would increase penalties for violent offenders and reduce the number of appeals available to death row inmates?	<p>Strongly Favor</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>
30. Do you favor the statute that allows municipalities to annex adjoining territory against the wishes of the residents within the target territory?	<p>No answer</p> <p>I support responsible growth plans that allow all parties to have a voice in the process.</p>	<p>Tend To Oppose</p> <p>I support allowing residents to vote on such matters.</p>	<p>Strongly Oppose</p>

	<u>Samuel David Duck</u>	<u>June Griffin</u>	<u>Brandon Dodds</u>
28. Do you favor harsher penalties for offenders who commit 'hate crimes' or crimes against specified classes of people?	<p>Strongly Oppose Crimes are crimes. The government should never attempt to police thought.</p>	<p>Strongly Oppose This "hate crime" segment is an excuse to expand Title 42 - It is a grant highway for more jobs!</p>	<p>Strongly Oppose I believe a crime is a crime</p>
29. Do you favor legislation that would increase penalties for violent offenders and reduce the number of appeals available to death row inmates?	<p>Strongly Favor</p>	<p>Favor</p>	<p>Strongly Favor</p>
30. Do you favor the statute that allows municipalities to annex adjoining territory against the wishes of the residents within the target territory?	<p>Tend To Oppose This is an area, I don't know much about, but it doesn't sound good. I'd like to hear both sides of this issue at some point.</p>	<p>Strongly Oppose Zoning must be abolished. The "municipal league" must be eliminated.</p>	<p>Strongly Oppose</p>