

Position Paper on Issues.

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1. Political Philosophy. As a Professor of American history, I have a real problem, when politicians, from the richest nation on the face of planet Earth, tell me that they cannot fund a worthy project, because we cannot afford to solve our own problems. When Americans faced the twin financial burdens of pulling themselves out of the Great Depression and winning a two-front war, during World War II, our Greatest Generation did not say that this was a mountain too high for us to climb. Instead, they pulled us up, by our own bootstraps, raised the top tax rate to 90% under the Progressive Tax System, and they got on with the business of doing what others said could not be done. Austerity, tax cuts, and funding wars by boosting the National Debt, will not now, nor will it ever, result in shrinking the National Debt, by even one Billion Dollars. The only other alternative is hiding in plain sight. Raise Taxes by reverting to the Progressive Tax System, and by adopting my Gross Transaction Tax for all business and corporate sales. We do not lack the Ways and Means to solve these problems, but instead only the political will to see them enacted into law, and then adopted into our Constitution.

2. Stands on the Issues.

a) Public Land Reform. Congress should pass my bills, and they should be followed up by a Constitutional Amendment. Public land sales and long-term leases, should be first approved by 60% of the American people, in special ballot initiative elections, during regular election years. No legislator, bureaucrat or politician should be able to sell public lands, nor lease them for a period of over three years.

b) Public School Reform. My proposal to restrict administrator compensation, and to diversity use of administration complexes and fiscal resources provides an excellent opportunity to grant classroom teachers pay raises. By contrast, Steve Pearce says that we must make the binary choice between unleashing Oil and Gas drilling and pipelines and funding our schools. At GOP Steve Pearce's Town Hall Meeting, on 3/4/2017, at 9:00 am in Ruidoso, he said that the Oil and Gas Industry funded 40% of New Mexico's public education expenses. He said that we either have fracking or we close down public schools. Show me the beef. Prove to us that the Oil and Gas Industry funds 40% of our educational system.

More importantly this sounds like an opportunity to raise taxes on the Oil and Gas Industry. They are extracting non-renewable sources of energy. Petroleum will soon be as extinct as the dinosaurs, who gave their lives to make it. In addition, fracking in Oklahoma has increased man-made earthquakes from 30 to 630 per year. Oil Wells in Texas are not being reclaimed, because Oil and Gas Companies are going

Bankrupt. Why not legislate tax increases on Oil and Gas, so that they pay 75% for of New Mexico's educational system, including colleges like NMSU? Our teachers deserve raises, and cost of living expenses, more than Rex Tillerson does. In addition, Exxon Mobile has \$500 billion dollar deal to mine Russian oil. Might they can spare some loose change to help New Mexico's public education system graduate from 49th worst in the United States, maybe up to 45th worst? Gosh, can we hope someday to rank as high as Colorado's school districts? Do we have the audacity to hope that much? Steve Pearce does not; I do.

Classroom teachers should be directly earmarked for 50% of all such government benefits.

c) Progressive Tax System. My urge is to make America Great Again, by returning to the Progressive Tax System, which worked for at least six decades to provide booming economies and tax surpluses. I will make real Bernie's pledge to make wealthy Americans pay their fair share of taxes, and to address the central issue of income inequality. My newly amended Tax code overturns Citizen's United, by requiring all persons to fully disclose political contributions. Tax penalties and surcharges shall apply for political lobbying and for excess CEO Compensation.

d) Deficit Busting. In addition, my proposal for a Gross Transaction Flat Tax on Corporations, which is based on the proven track record of the sales tax, potentially offers a doubling of tax revenue, which would pay-off the National Debt, in short order.

After our National Debt has been paid off, and 25% of government surpluses, have been banked, in case of rainy days, a bi-partisan panel of Senators shall discuss potential uses for the balance of those surpluses. Among the issues to be considered are truth and reconciliation panels for minority groups, reparations (including reparation for the descendants of slaves), and enforcing Native American treaty rights in the International Court of Justice. Taking the lead out of the drinking water in Flint, Michigan and other communities. Purifying water, which has been polluted by fracking. Fully and fairly compensating the victims of environmental disasters, chief of which include Rocky Flats, the Love Canal, and hexalvinyl chloride, etc. Mental health counseling, including PTSD for our veterans, and medical care for those same military veterans. Repairing and replacing our decaying inner cities and manufacturing base should also be considered. As should incentive plans for individual high achieving teachers and public schools. And financial aid for low achieving schools, who aspire to become high achievers. Increases in funding for Preventative health care must be discussed.

If and when that magical day comes, when we tear up the National Debt, just like a mortgage, which we paid off by our blood, sweat and tears, let us fully fund the Social Security Trust fund, boost Medicare and Medicaid. Let us then return to Gunnar Myrdal's paradox of poverty amid plenty.¹ But let us be fiscally prudent. Do

not lobby for these pork barrel projects, unless and until we retire the National Debt, to be warehoused, just like we “care for” our old folks in nursing homes.ⁱⁱ

e) Immigration Reform. My support of comprehensive immigration reform, and a legal pathway to citizenship, for those who have not violated any serious laws (felonies, robbery and crimes of violence), have paid and are willing to pay taxes is absolute. By contrast Steve Pearce has been for the Border Wall, deportation force and Muslim Bans, before he was against them.¹ Steve Pearce has supported separating families. And a minority of Republicans support a path to legal status, which means that America creates a third class of citizens, who do not vote (hence they do not count), their diminished rights a freedoms can be taken away at any time, and we publicly demonize them as sub-humans who do not deserve to be called true American citizens. They receive the privilege of working and paying taxes, but none of the benefits of citizenship. Is this anything more than Juan (and Hussein) Crow revisited?

Law abiding undocumented workers, whose only “crimes” are obtaining and using false Social Security numbers, in order to pay taxes (we certainly do not want to discourage any person from paying their fair share of taxes) and to work, under DACA, DAPA, undocumented workers, who can prove in court that they were born in non-hospital settings, such as through Mexican midwives, and dreamers shall be fast tracked to become United States citizens within six months of passage. Fingerprints, and biometric tracking of all persons, shall be phased in as practical.

Social Security cards, for all citizens, green card holders, and other persons, who reside here legally, shall be equipped with chip readers, as soon as practical, in order to increase accountability.

By contrast serious criminals, who have been deported, will now spend time in federal and/or state public prisons, at federal expense. Private prisons have proven to be unreliable and will be abolished. These serious criminals will no longer be caught, and released across the border, because too often they return to our country to commit more crimes. In addition, for example, Mexico does not want us to deport these “bad hombres” into their country.

f) Mineral Extraction Restrictions. My proposal to safeguard farming and ranching water supplies, at the expense of the Oil and Gas industry, pits one of Steve Pearce’s bases of support, against the other one.

g) Land Law Reform. I have proposed legislation, which allows farmer and ranchers, to block and hold accountable mineral rights extractors, if they pollute their water supplies.

¹ On 3/4/2017, in Ruidoso, NM, at Steve Pearce’s Town Hall Meeting, he bragged that he was one of John Boehner’s toughest votes to get. In so many words, he said

h) Health Care. I support the Affordable Care Act. I oppose efforts to repeal it. I say that Republican claims to replace it are merely political lies. I support single payer system, which works in Europe, Canada and in Massachusetts.

i) Native American Lands. I have also proposed that issues of quiet enjoyment of surface rights and water supplies should be litigated in the International Court of Justice, because they were treaties negotiated with sovereign nations.

j) Abortion. I am pro choice and in favor of religious toleration.

k) Gay Rights. I support LGBT rights, as I do civil rights for all. I believe that bathroom laws are Jim Crow rebooted. The Males only bathrooms are designed to boost the prestige of the Caucasian majority. The Transgendered only bathrooms are designed to denigrate and ostracize the minority [to demonize them as “the other”]. At best, forcing them to go into the Males only bathroom is fraught with peril.

l) Environment. Clean water and air are building blocks for American health and for economic growth. You employ more people building renewable energy, than you do drilling for oil and gas, or even coal mining. Climate change is a scientific fact, rising temperatures threaten to flood many states, and working to reduce carbon emissions has a net positive impact on the American economy. Let us pass a carbon tax and fully fund renewable energy sources.

m) Military. We need to invest in our soldiers and take care of our veterans, by earmarking funds away from defense contractors. The Military Industrial Complex² must be redirected. We should demodernize our weapons systems away from further, higher, faster³ and more technologically proficient, toward a tip of the spear mentality. Blitzkrieg is led by tank killers and Stealth fighters, but the main mechanized forces should follow up with T-35 tanks, AK-47s, Warthogs, and Phantom F4B fighters; our cheaper and more reliable workhorses.

Frederic the Great said that he who defends everywhere, defends nowhere. Our troops, special forces and intelligent community should be focused on striking at the enemy rather than defending safe zones, nation-building, or even guarding dispersed Army Corp of Engineer troops, who are stealing that country’s oil. Taking dollars away from domestic social programs and redirecting it toward the Military-Industrial Complex is one of the key ways the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

² Dwight David “Ike” Eisenhower

³ Cost overruns and delays on the Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier is the prime example.

Privates, foot soldiers and staff should be earmarked for 50% of all such government benefits.

n) Police Reform. We should adopt martial arts training for law enforcement officers. We should adopt immunity laws, which allow police to shoot armed suspects. Fifty persons in blue are murdered each year. Police should be trained to control their emotions, prejudices and fears, but they should not be afraid to defend themselves. Likewise, when police shoot unarmed and/or fleeing suspects, they should be held accountable, absent clear and convincing evidence. I know that on this issue, I am way out there. I am willing to accept feedback, discussion and comment accordingly. Actual cops walking the beat should be earmarked for 50% of all such government benefits.

o) Gun Laws. Assault rifles, as defined in the Brady Bill shall be immediately banned, and all military style weapons (such as hand grenades, LAWs rockets, RPGs, and cluster bombs, for all American citizens. Persons, who are deemed to be mentally unstable, on the No-fly list (including convicted terrorists) have no right to bear arms. The Social Security administration shall input appropriate codes, on their chip reader cards, indicating their status. The right of private citizens, to purchase non-automatic firearms shall not now, nor shall they ever be abridged. Such single shot weapons maybe used for self-defense, for home defense, and to protect their families and possessions.

p) Criminal Law. The Death penalty shall be immediately abolished, in order to relieve stress and strain on our criminal justice system. Maximum prison terms shall be capped at twenty years. Chip reading Social Security cards shall carry appropriate codes, which will carry a record of serious felonies, which involved serious bodily injury, crimes of violence, murder, sexual and domestic assault. Convicted felons may not vote for two years, after their sentences, then their full voting rights shall immediately be restored. No convicted felon may relocate to within 250 miles from the victims of their crimes, including the immediate families of those victims. These victims of crime shall be allowed to consult with law enforcement officers and agencies, in order to help determine current whereabouts of their convicted perpetrators.

Q) Drug laws. We will declare victory for our war on drugs. Henceforth, medical and recreational marijuana shall become legal, and FDIC regulations shall be amended to allow for such business deposits. Criminal laws against drugs shall be abolished, and those resources shall be redirected to rehabilitation and treatment of such addiction behaviors.

r) Attorney Fees. Lawyer's contingency fees shall be capped at 25% of every recovery. In part this is an ethical requirement, owing to the seriousness of their clients' losses. In part this is a recognition that these attorneys should be working to help their client's, instead of turning their clients into cash making entities, who line

their own bank accounts. A Lawyer's total compensation, which exceeds 25% shall be fully disclosed on their tax returns, and shall also pay a 50% tax penalty surge, which is enforceable subject to the terms of my tax reform proposals.

s) Anti-Trust Reform. Let us abolish all anti-trust laws and regulations. They are drains on our economy. Instead let us pass tax penalty surcharges on monopoly profits. Any corporate profit, above thirty-five percent of costs, which is not reinvested in blue-collar employees, job training and education, manufacturing, student loans, and building up and protecting the domestic market for their products, shall pay a 50% tax penalty surcharge. Unreported excess profits shall be subject to treble damages and attorney fees, which may also be awarded, at preliminary hearings, and also to private rights of action to enforce these tax penalty surcharges.

The main problem is that we treat the symptom of monopoly profits (size and market share), which may or may not be indicators of company stores, who charge "monopoly prices)." An example is US Steel, which maintained only moderate annual price increases, in order to retain their market share. The actual reason why monopolies, in most cases, do not charge monopoly prices, is because that would attract competitors to enter their own markets. Let us assess tax penalties and levy tax surcharges directly on monopoly profits, instead of punishing corporations for gaining control over their markets, which is actually a measure of economic success. In addition, it is a rational response to the problem of destructive competition.

t) Department of Agriculture. Let us abolish crop subsidies, which are paid to agribusiness and corporate farms, for not growing crops. Instead, invest that money in diversification, in order to address the problem of destructive competition. Small and family farmers should be earmarked for 50% of all such government benefits.

u) Foreign Aid. Stop all foreign aid to governments, and military and police units. These support dictatorships and corruption. All foreign aid shall be distributed to individuals and groups like the Peace Corps, who build local watering projects.

v) Other issues. My website has just started taking stands on these issues. If you email me, I will address your concerns.

End Notes.

ⁱ And Lyndon Johnson's Great Society; Ronald Reagan's shining City on a Hill; and Martin Luther King's society where a person will be judged by the content of his character, not the color of his skin. In addition, Gandhi said that a society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable members.

ⁱⁱ A subject which I know well, having entertained (if you want to flatter me and refer it by that exaggerated term), by singing in nursing homes for the past 16 years.