

The Reset Button – Candidate Position Issues

Samples of

- a.) A blank sheet, used in Candidate Position Issues (candidates would be required to submit one sheet for every listed “Candidate Position Issue” for that current election cycle.)
- b.) Two samples of a hypothetical Candidate Position on Issue # 5, Education Reform, by two different 2014 senatorial candidates (John Q. Public and Janet A. Person), in the State of Indiana.

Between these two hypothetical senatorial candidates (out of ten), an Indiana voter that believes in the current educational system would probably agree with “John Q. Public”, and depending on how heavily Education Reform weighed in that voter's mind, may be a factor in determining which candidates to vote for, for Indiana Senator. On the other hand, a voter that believes that a massive transformation in education is overdue would hold more weight with the views expressed by “Jane A. Person.”

After the hypothetical election, let's say that Jane A Person was chosen as a State Senator in Indiana, and then began backpedaling in regards to Education Reform, even reversing her written position. Voters in Indiana now have her written word, which they depended upon for determining who to vote for, as possible grounds for a recall vote. If Senator Person was able to convince Indiana residents that her change of mind was warranted by new facts coming to light, then probably enough voter signatures could not be collected to begin a recall. If enough signatures were collected to go ahead with a recall, a recall election would be scheduled.

These written submissions by all candidates would give voters the ability to directly compare their own assessment of the issue with each candidate's assessment of the issue. This would be true for all of the issues used in that particular election cycle. Finally, a way for voters to actually know where each candidate stands on critical issues, providing a true apples-to-apples comparison between candidates for the same office.

Candidate Name Jonathan Q. Public Date: 8/14/2014

Seeking: Office US Senate Jurisdiction Indiana Year 2014

Federal State County Local (Township, City, etc.)

<---Strongly disagree					Neutral					Strongly agree--->										
-10	-9	-8	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>																	

Topic (5) - Education Reform

I strongly disagree that the education system in the US needs to be revised. It ain't broke - don't fix it. Rockefeller and Carnegie were right - we need to train good, obedient workers in schools, not train people to do useless things like art, or debate, or "critical thinking." If someone can make a living at art or debating, fine - let them. But not on school time. Don't make people think, just teach the basics and make sure they remember the basics. Don't force kids to learn useless skills. Look at the job market, and that is where the curriculum should come from. Training a bunch of "free thinkers" will ruin society as we know it. None of them will want to work in available jobs. Who will flip burgers and scoop fries? Who will collect garbage?

Building new school buildings, spending trillions of dollars is nuts. The schools we have are fine, better than most countries in the world. A coat of paint here, a light bulb there - that's all we need. See, I just saved taxpayers trillions of dollars.

In fact, public schools are a form of socialism, and I am strongly against any form of socialism. Let the parents of the school kids pay for school, not all the whole community. Why should people without school-age kids have to give their hard-earned money to schools? If that means a lot of schools have to close and teachers getting laid-off, well, that is simply what it will take to make it right. The teachers are smart and should be able to get a job doing something else. There, see, I just saved taxpayers billions more dollars.

Candidate Name Janet A. Person Date: 8/17/2014

Seeking: Office US Senate Jurisdiction Indiana Year 2014

Federal State County Local (Township, City, etc.)

<---Strongly disagree					Neutral					Strongly agree--->										
-10	-9	-8	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>																		

Topic (5) - Education Reform

I concur with nearly every word written in the Education Reform essay, and additionally see a strong need for a transitional program for students who are already inside the old paradigm schooling. It will be quite jarring to at least some of those students and we risk a knee-jerk reactionary response to having the walls of the old paradigm torn down so quickly that the students may reject new learning opportunities.

Children are resilient, and the younger students will likely have a much easier time making the transition. We need to be mindful that the older students may feel a sense of loss, having literally been trained to see their former (rote, testing-intensive) educational methodology as "real education", and may flounder at finding the self-motivated and self-paced educational opportunities as meaningful. This is not to say they will not make that transition, but we need to be ready to facilitate the transition – like an animal caged for life making contact with the outdoor soil and plant life for the first time.

Another aspect that will have to be faced is that of former teachers that are unable to transition themselves into the role of facilitator/counselor/helpers. Some will reject a new educational paradigm devoid of the former traditions and protocol. Fewer opportunities for "old school" teaching will be available, and those former teachers will need for us to remain cognizant of their need to transition into other fields besides teaching.

The mandate for entirely new school grounds and buildings, designed from the ground-up as described, to foster a sense of wonder and to provide mental stimulation, is brilliant, and a cornerstone to a new educational paradigm.