

Richmond Tea Party - Candidate Questionnaire
Responses from Roxann Robinson, House of Delegates Candidate for 27th District

The Constitution and Federalism:

- 1. *The Constitution protects our God-given rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, but there is no guarantee of equal results. What is your reaction?***

I agree. The Constitution protects our rights but doesn't guarantee our success. That is best left to the individual and not the government.

- 2. *What did the founding fathers mean by the phrase "to promote the general welfare"?***

I believe they meant to lay out the guiding principle for a federal government, not as a justification for increasing the size of government or allowing its intrusion on personal liberties as some would have it today.

- 3. *What are the core functions of government?***

The core functions of government are very clear: those which are clearly enumerated in our Constitution such as to "establish justice" and "provide for the common defense."

- 4. *What is your definition of federalism?***

Federalism is a political and governmental system that vests power in a central (federal) government while reserving powers and rights for its constituent parts (the states).

- 5. *What initiatives are you willing to consider to help limit the power of the federal government? e.g. constitutional amendments, 10th amendment bills, resolutions, etc.***

Our Founding Fathers established a series of checks and balances to limit the ability of any one branch of government to dominate the others. To limit the power of Congress, I believe it is necessary for that action to come from either the Executive Branch or through the Courts. As a member of the Virginia General Assembly, my core responsibility will be to serve the constituents of the 27th District. I am supportive of efforts such as Virginia's current lawsuit against the federal health insurance law and would take action within the General Assembly that would allow and promote such future efforts where necessary and appropriate.

- 6. *Do you support an amendment to the Virginia Constitution on protecting property rights?***

Yes.

Free and Fair Markets:

- 1. *Is it ever appropriate for the government to become involved in the free market system? Please give examples.***

In limited instances, I do believe it's appropriate for government to become involved in the free market system. Food and drug safety, professional regulation of doctors, lawyers and building codes come immediately to mind.

2. *Should the government bail out corporations deemed "too big to fail"?*

I have real concerns about the government getting involved in bailing out companies that are failing due to their own actions. Who determines if a company is too big to fail and which companies would be eligible for such a program? I believe the free market should make such determinations, not the government.

3. *What do you think of how the federal government applies the commerce clause?*

I have concerns that Congress, and the Courts, have used the Commerce Clause as justification for extending the reach of the federal government. While it has legitimate uses in helping facilitate the interdependent economies of the states, its use should be balanced and fair based on the rest of the Constitution.

Fiscal Restraint:

1. *Do you support a Taxpayers' Bill of Rights? Why or why not?*

As a small business owner, I realize that my customers and patients are paying for a service and expect good customer service in return. If they don't receive that they won't continue to do business with me. Taxpayers don't have the ability to do the same and that's why I support a Taxpayers' Bill of Rights.

2. *Would you support repealing the state corporate income tax?*

75% of all new jobs are created by small businesses. Virginia corporate income taxes are overwhelmingly paid by large corporations. I would only support corporate income tax cuts if they are included with tax cuts and regulatory reform for small businesses as well.

3. *When is it appropriate to raise taxes?*

I do not support tax increases.

Bill of Rights:

1. *The Second Amendment states that U.S. citizens have the right "to keep and bear arms." Are there any circumstances in which the government should pass laws providing for the control of firearms? Explain.*

The right to bear arms is a constitutional right, just like free speech is a constitutional right. There are common sense restrictions that I do support such as convicted felons not having the

right to own or purchase firearms. Such restrictions must be narrowly crafted however so that law-abiding, responsible and competent citizens are not limited in their ability to purchase and own firearms.

2. *What is your view of the 10th Amendment and how it should be applied?*

It's very simple. All powers not specifically granted to the federal government by the Constitution are reserved for the states. In addition the 14th and 15th Amendments are also relevant to the discussion.

Immigration:

1. *What should be done about illegal aliens currently residing in the United States and Virginia?*

I support legal immigration into the United States but we are a country of laws and those laws must be followed. For those here illegally, I believe they must return to the country of origin before legally attempting to re-enter the country.

2. *What changes, if any, would you make to current immigration law?*

We need to strengthen the laws to further support law enforcement's ongoing efforts to combat illegal immigration. I support efforts that will increase cooperation with the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement to assist in the arrest and eventual deportation of criminal illegal aliens.

Tea Party Movement:

1. *What do you understand to be the reason for the current grassroots patriot movement?*

There are many reasons for the growing movements, including frustration with politicians "business as usual" approach to governing and out of control spending. There's a real sense that the average citizen in this country is being ignored.

2. *What do you believe are the goals of this movement?*

To give the people of this country a voice in their government once again. To restore our conservative principles and get our fiscal house back in order.

3. *Are you supportive of the Tea Party movement?*

Absolutely. Increased involvement by average citizens in the political process can only strengthen our nation and our government.