



## **Conservatives vs Liberals**

10 Nov 2015

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A new poll by Gallup says that right now in the USA, left and right-wing Americans are tied in numbers.

- 5% say they are very conservative
- 26% conservative in general
- 33% moderate
- 21% liberal
- 10% very liberal
- 5% don't know what they are

So, where do your beliefs fall? Please go through the chart starting on the next page and you should have a better idea.



## Conservative vs. Liberal Beliefs

***“We all want...the same things in life. We want freedom; we want the chance for prosperity; we want to be the best we can be; we want as few people suffering as possible, economically; we want healthy children; we want to have crime-free streets; all these things, they’re pretty common...The argument is how to achieve them.”***

<p><b>CONSERVATIVES</b> – believe in personal responsibility, limited government, free markets, individual liberty, traditional American values and a strong national defense. Believe the role of government should be to provide people the freedom necessary to pursue their own goals.</p> <p>Conservative policies generally emphasize empowerment of the individual to solve problems.</p>	<p><b>LIBERALS</b> – believe in governmental action to achieve equal opportunity and equality for all, and that it is the duty of the State to alleviate social ills and to protect civil liberties and individual and human rights. Believe the role of the government should be to guarantee that no one is in need. Believe that people are basically good.</p> <p>Liberal policies generally emphasize the need for the government to solve people’s problems.</p>
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### THE ISSUES:

ISSUE	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL
Abortion	<p>Human life begins at conception. Abortion is the murder of a human being. Nobody has the right to murder a human being.</p> <p>Support legislation to prohibit partial birth abortions, called the “Partial Birth Abortion Ban” (partial birth abortion - the killing of an unborn baby of at least 20 weeks by pulling it out of the birth canal with forceps, but leaving the head inside. An incision is made in the back of the baby’s neck and the brain tissue is suctioned out. The head is then removed from the uterus.)</p>	<p>A fetus is not a human life.</p> <p>The decision to have an abortion is a personal choice of a woman regarding her own body and the government should stay out of it. Women should be guaranteed the right to a safe and legal abortion, including partial birth abortion.</p>
Affirmative action	<p>People should be admitted to schools and hired for jobs based on their ability. It is unfair to use race as a factor in the selection process. Reverse-discrimination is not a solution for racism.</p>	<p>Due to prevalent racism in the past, minorities were deprived of the same education and employment opportunities as whites. We need to make up for that.</p> <p>Support affirmative action based on the belief that America is still a racist society. Minorities still lag behind whites in all statistical measurements of success. Also, the presence of minorities creates diversity.</p>
Death penalty	<p>The death penalty is a punishment that fits the crime; it is neither ‘cruel’ nor ‘unusual’. Executing a murderer is the appropriate punishment for taking an innocent life.</p>	<p>We should abolish the death penalty. The death penalty is inhumane and is ‘cruel and unusual’ punishment. It does not deter crime. Imprisonment is the appropriate punishment. Every execution risks killing an innocent person.</p>
Economy	<p>The free market system, competitive capitalism, and private enterprise afford the widest opportunity and the highest standard of living for all. Free markets produce more economic growth, more jobs and higher standards of living than those systems burdened by excessive government regulation.</p>	<p>Favor a market system in which government regulates the economy. We need government to protect us against big businesses. Unlike the private sector, the government is motivated by public interest. We need government regulation to level the playing field.</p>
Education - school vouchers	<p>School vouchers will give all parents the right to choose good schools for their children, not just those who can afford private schools. Parents (who pay the taxes that fund the schools) should decide how and where to educate their child.</p>	<p>School vouchers are untested experiments. We need to focus on more funding for existing public schools -to raise teacher salaries and reduce class size.</p>
the Environment	<p>Desire clean water, clean air and a clean planet, just like everyone else. However, extreme environmental policies destroy jobs and damage the economy.</p> <p>Changes in global temperatures are natural over long periods of time. So far, science has not shown that humans can affect permanent change to the earth’s temperature.</p>	<p>Conservatives don’t care about protecting the environment. Industrial growth harms the environment.</p> <p>Global warming is caused by an increased production of carbon dioxide. The U.S. is a major contributor to global warming because it produces 25% of the world’s carbon dioxide. The U.S. should enact laws to significantly reduce that amount.</p>

Gun control	The Second Amendment gives the individual the right to keep and bear arms. Gun control laws do not thwart criminals. You have a right to defend yourself against criminals. More guns mean less crime.	The Second Amendment gives no individual the right to own a gun, but allows the state to keep a militia (National Guard). Guns kill people. Guns kill children.
Health care	Free healthcare provided by the government (socialized medicine) means that everyone will get the same poor-quality healthcare. The rich will continue to pay for superior healthcare, while all others will receive poor-quality free healthcare from the government. Health care should remain privatized. Support Healthcare Spending Accounts.	Support universal government-supervised health care. There are millions of Americans who can't afford health insurance. They are being deprived of a basic right to healthcare.
Homeland security	Wary of parts of the Patriot Act	Oppose the Patriot Act
Immigration	Support legal immigration at current numbers, but do not support illegal immigration. Government should enforce immigration laws. Oppose President Bush's amnesty plan for illegal immigrants. Those who break the law by entering the U.S. illegally should not have the same rights as those who obey the law by entering legally.  If there were a decrease in cheap, illegal immigrant labor, employers would have to substitute higher-priced domestic employees, legal immigrants, or perhaps increase mechanization.	Support legal immigration and increasing the number of legal immigrants permitted to enter the U.S. each year. Support blanket amnesty for current illegal immigrants.  Believe that regardless of how they came to the U.S., illegal immigrants deserve: - U.S. government financial aid for college tuition. - visas for spouse/children to come to the U.S. Families shouldn't be separated.  Illegal immigrants do the jobs that Americans do not want to do.
Religion	The phrase "separation of church and state" is not in the Constitution. The First Amendment to the Constitution states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." This prevents the government from establishing a national church. However, it does not prevent God from being acknowledged in schools and government buildings.  Oppose the removal of symbols of Christian heritage from public and government spaces.  Government should not interfere with religion and religious freedom.	Support the separation of church and state. Religious expression has no place in government.  Support the removal of all references to God in public and government spaces.  Religion should not interfere with government.
Same-sex marriage	Marriage is between one man and one woman.  Opinions differ on support for the creation of a constitutional amendment establishing marriage as the union of one man and one woman.  Believe that requiring citizens to sanction same-sex relationships violates moral and religious beliefs of millions of Christians, Jews, Muslims and others who believe marriage is the union of a man and a woman.	Marriage should be legal for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender couples to ensure equal rights for all.  All individuals, regardless of their sex, have the right to marry.  Believe that prohibiting same-sex citizens from marrying denies them of their civil rights. Opinions differ on whether this issue is equal to civil rights for African Americans.
Social Security	The current Social Security system is in serious financial trouble. Changes are necessary because the U.S. will be unable to maintain the current system in the future. Support proposal to allow a portion of Social Security dollars withheld to be put into an account chosen by the individual, not the government.	Generally oppose change to the current Social Security system. Opinions vary on whether the current system is in financial trouble. Changing the current system will cause people to lose their Social Security benefits.  Support a cap on Social Security payments to the wealthy.
Taxes	Support lower taxes and a smaller government. Lower taxes create more incentive for people to work, save, invest, and engage in entrepreneurial endeavors. Money is best spent by those who earn it.	Support higher taxes and a larger government. High taxes enable the government to do good and create jobs. We need high taxes for social welfare programs, to provide for the poor. We can't afford to cut taxes.
United Nations	The UN has repeatedly failed in its essential mission: to preserve world peace. The wars, genocide and human rights abuses of the majority of its member states (and the UN's failure to stop them)	The United States has a moral and a legal obligation to support the United Nations (UN). The UN can be effective in promoting peace and human rights. The U.S. should not have acted in Iraq without UN approval. The U.S. should

(UN)	prove this point. History shows that the United States, not the UN, is the global force for spreading freedom, prosperity, tolerance and peace. The U.S. should never subvert its national interests to those of the UN.	submit its national interests to the greater good (as defined by the UN).
War in Iraq	<p>This was a preemptive strike to protect the U.S. All intelligence indicated that Saddam Hussein possessed and used weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) in the past and was prepared to use them again. He would not allow United Nations weapons inspectors to confirm his claim that he had destroyed his WMDs.</p> <p>A democracy can succeed in Iraq if the people are given the opportunity to create one. All people want to live in freedom.</p>	<p>This is Bush's war for oil. Saddam Hussein was no real threat. We have not found weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), so Saddam did not have any. President Bush lied about WMDs and the dangers posed by Saddam. We should have given the UN more time. We have alienated the rest of the world by our unilateral action ('go it alone' attitude).</p> <p>A democracy can't succeed in Iraq. Not everyone wants to live in a democracy.</p>
War on terror/terrorism	The world toward which the Militant Islamists strive cannot peacefully co-exist with the Western world. In the last decade, Militant Islamists have repeatedly attacked Americans and American interests here and abroad. The terrorists must be stopped and destroyed.	9/11 was caused by America's arrogant foreign policy. America needs to stop angering other countries. The threat posed by terrorism is exaggerated by President Bush for his own political advantage.
Welfare	Oppose long-term welfare. We need to provide opportunities to make it possible for poor and low-income workers to become self-reliant. It is far more compassionate and effective to encourage a person to become self-reliant, rather than keeping them dependent on the government for money.	Support welfare. We need welfare to provide for the poor. Conservatives oppose welfare because they are not compassionate toward the poor. We have welfare to bring fairness to American economic life. Without welfare, life below the poverty line would be intolerable.

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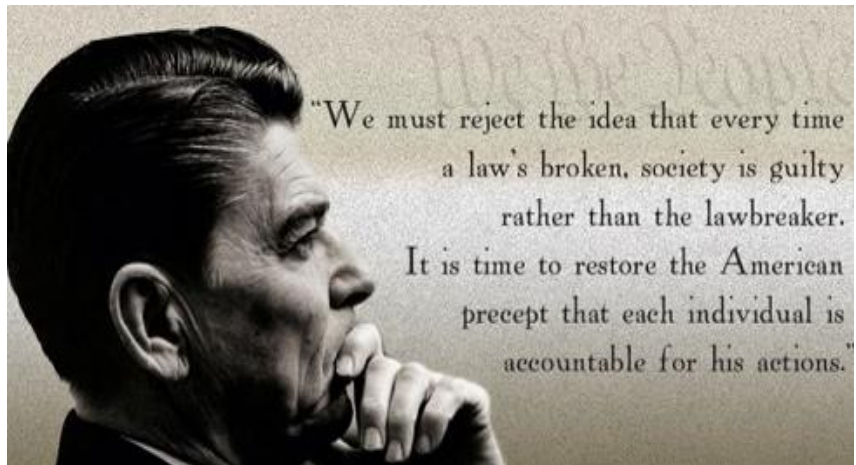
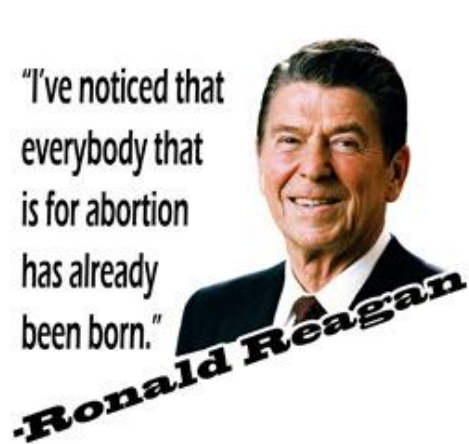
Let's get some things straight before I jump upon my Soap Box and tell you where I stand on the major issues facing the United States of America.

1. This is a free country – everyone is entitled to their opinions.
2. Not all Conservatives are Republicans and not all Liberals are Democrats.
3. I'm going to add a few important issues that are not on the list above.
4. At the end of this little exercise, we (including me) are going to find out if I'm a Conservative or a Moderate or a Liberal (not likely).

### 1. Abortion

I believe that human life begins at conception but I don't think we should bring a baby into the world that the mother doesn't want. Most of these people will live a miserable life and end up as a burden to society. So, I think having an abortion or not is up to the woman.

Rating: Moderate



### 2. Affirmative Action

I think people, regardless of race, should be admitted to schools and hired for jobs based on their ability. Affirmative Action served its purpose in years past but is not required any more.

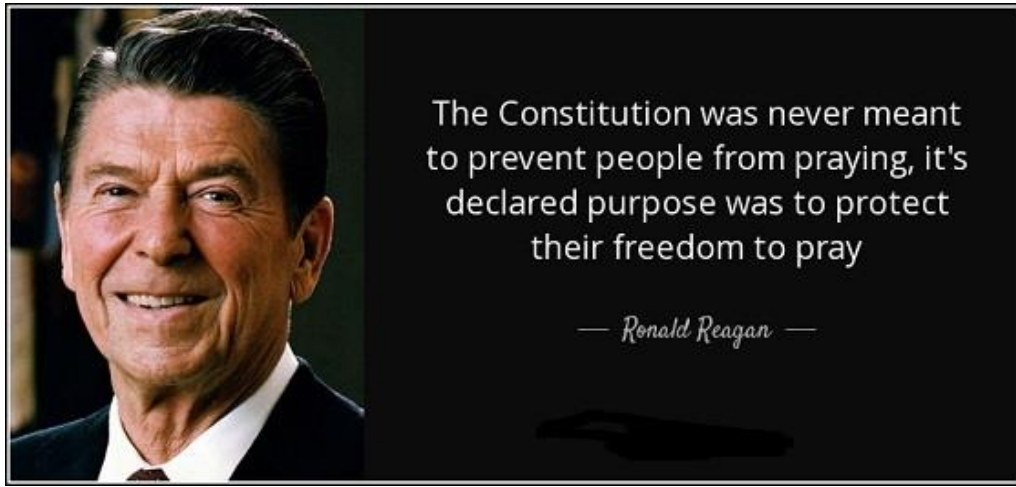
Rating: Conservative in general

### 3. Constitution

Some liberals want the Constitution of the United States re-written from scratch reflecting more modern times. I think the Constitution is one of the best written

documents ever and it has served this country well over the years. And by the way, there is a way to change the Constitution – the amendment process.

Rating: Very Conservative



#### **4. Cost of Living**

The high cost of living affects Hawaii more than any other state. Everybody says it's just the cost of living in paradise and there is nothing we can do about it. I disagree with this statement. I believe if Hawaii (or any other state) had better leadership, who had the guts to enact and enforce stricter fiscal policies, the cost of living would get better.

Rating: Conservative in general

#### **5. Crime**

The crime rate is very high in many cities across the United States. I support the police and think that they do a great job in catching the bad guys. However, in too many cases, the courts let the criminals go back on the streets. We need strong enforcement of the laws and a better court system. If we need more jails and prisons, build them – don't turn the crooks loose.

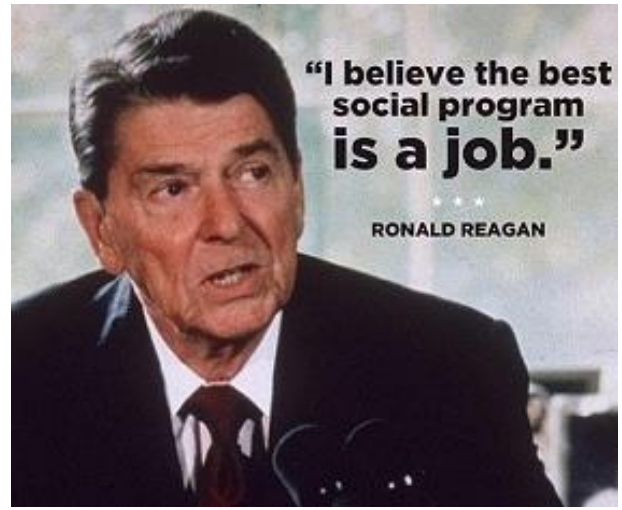
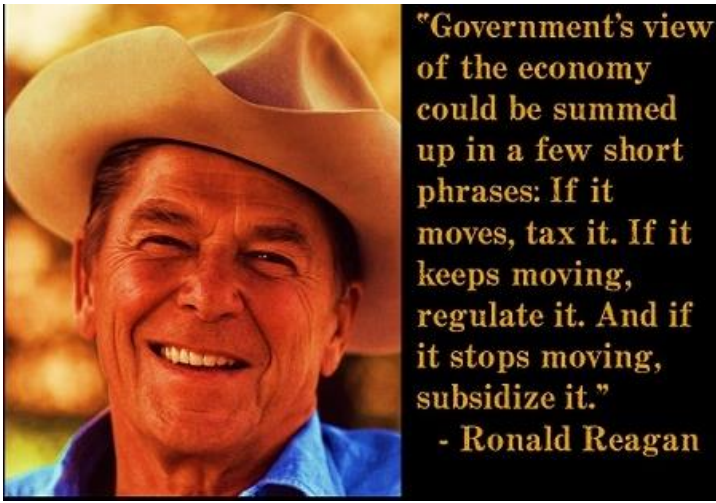
Rating: Very Conservative

#### **6. Death Penalty**

I'm in favor of the death penalty. Some people say that the death penalty is not a deterrent to crime. I say it is! No dead murderer has ever committed another crime. I also think that the risk of executing an innocent person is very small.



Rating: Very Conservative



### **7. Economy**

I'm in favor of the free market system. Too much government regulation always turns out bad. There are times, however, where the government needs to step in to protect the public interest.

Rating: Moderate

### **8. Education (School Vouchers)**

I'm against using tax payer money (school vouchers) to help students attend private schools. We need to focus on more funding for existing public schools, to raise teacher salaries and reduce class sizes. How about the government spending some money on air conditioners to cool the **HOT** classrooms in Hawaii?

Rating: Liberal in General

### **9. Environment (Global Warming)**

Liberals believe that global warming is caused by an increased production of carbon dioxide generated by countries and individuals. I believe that changes in global temperatures are natural over long periods of time. Did you know that there have been longer periods of cold freezing temperatures than the warm period we enjoy today? Also, did you know that one volcano eruption spits out more carbon dioxide than all of the humans on earth do in a year?

Rating: Very Conservative

## 10. Federal Debt

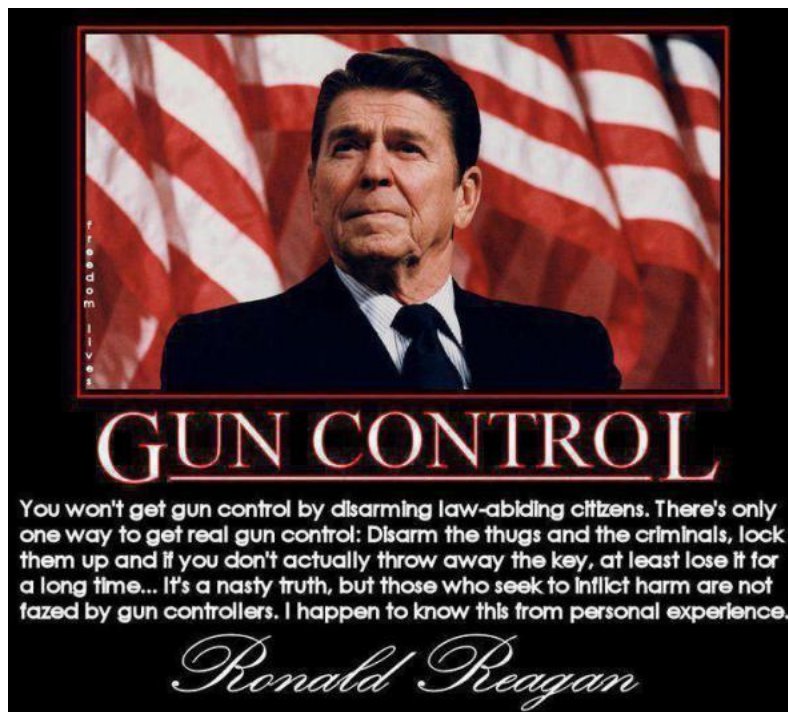
The U.S. Federal Debt at this exact moment (10:04AM 11/4/2015) is \$18,467,822,026,831. The Federal Government needs to stop spending more money than they receive in taxes and other revenue.

Rating: Conservative in General

## 11. Foreign Aid

The U.S. Federal Government sends approximately \$37,680,000,000 overseas to 186 countries for foreign aid every year. This is crazy! None of these countries are in debt as far as we are. I believe that the U.S. should stop all foreign aid immediately.

Rating: Very Conservative



## 12. Gun Control

The second amendment of the Constitution gives US citizens the right to keep and bear arms. We have the right to defend ourselves against criminals and other enemies. With that said, I don't think crazy people should own guns and I don't think the average person needs to have a machine gun. I think there should be background checks, a waiting period, and some rules on the type of guns sold to the public.

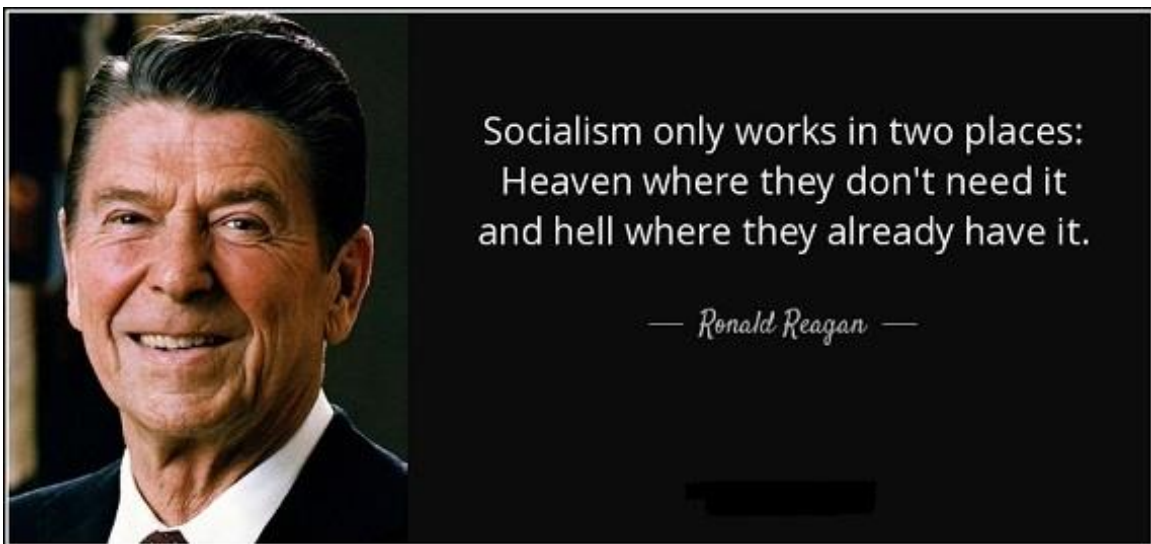


**Rating: Moderate**

### **13. Health Care**

**Once upon a time, Americans had control over their own health care decisions. That is no longer true today. Thanks to major changes in our health care laws, the health care landscape in America has been dramatically changed. Americans are now forced to participate in the officially-sanctioned health care system by purchasing health insurance. But Americans cannot just get any kind of health insurance policy that they want. Our health insurance choices are now tightly constrained by thousands of regulations. Not only that but doctors in America no longer have the freedom to treat patients however they see fit. Only “approved” treatments are permissible, and now the federal government is going to be telling doctors which of those “approved” treatments are “cost-effective” enough. As the new health care laws are fully implemented over the next decade, the American people are going to become truly horrified not only about how much their health insurance premiums are going up, but also about how much health freedom they have actually lost. I’m against Obamacare and other government healthcare programs (socialized medicine).**

**Rating: Conservative in General**



### **14. Homeland Security**

**The Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 (USA PATRIOT Act), signed into law on October 26, represents the U.S. government’s primary legislative response to**

the terrorist attacks of September 11. This law focuses mainly on reinforcing the arsenal of tools available to the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and federal prosecutors for identifying and disabling terrorist networks operating both within and outside the United States. I fully support profiling and the Patriot Act.

Rating: Very Conservative

### **15. Immigration**

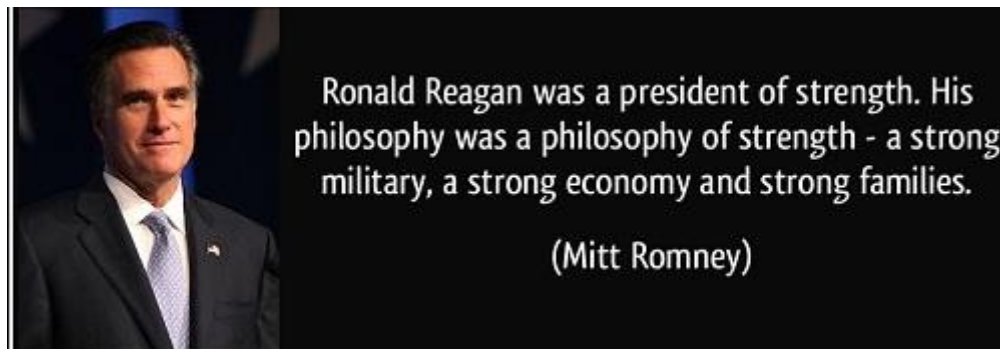
I support legal immigration at current numbers, but do not support illegal immigration. Our government should enforce the immigration laws on the books.

Rating: Conservative in General

### **16. Military**

I support a strong military to protect us and our many freedoms.

Rating: Very Conservative



### **17. Religion**

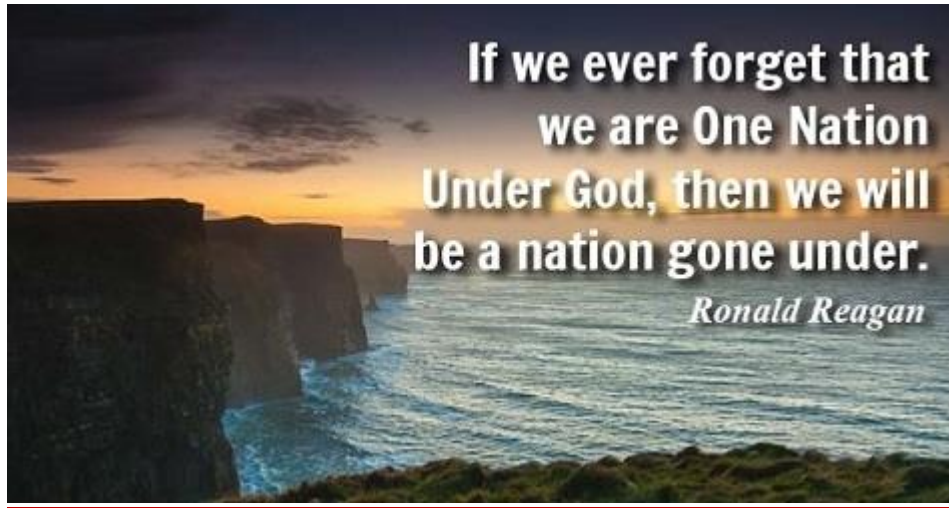
I think the government should not interfere with religion and religious freedom. I oppose the removal of symbols of Christian heritage from public and government property. I believe that prayer and God should be allowed in schools and government buildings. I also believe that the holiday Christmas should be called "Christmas" – not the holiday season or some other generic term.

Rating: Very Conservative

### **18. Same Sex Marriage**

I believe that marriage should be between one man and one woman. However, I can live with the same sex marriage laws and don't we should make a big deal out of it.

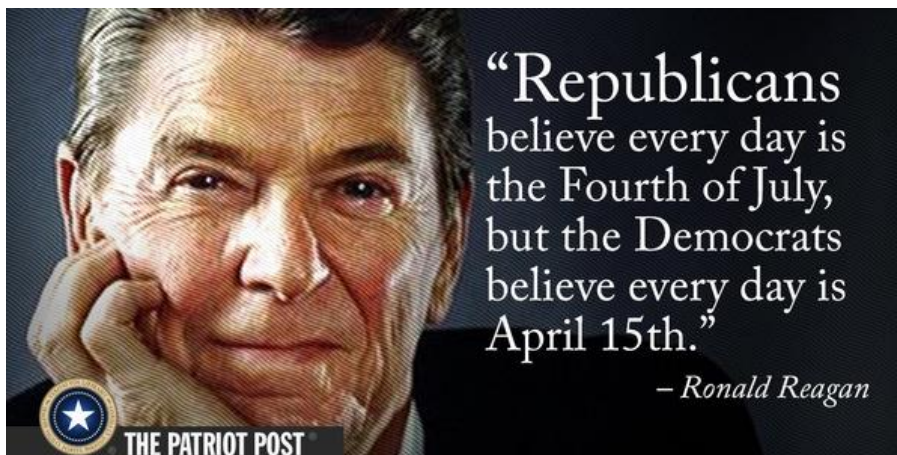
**Rating: Moderate**



**19. Social Security**

**I'm against major changes to Social Security. The American worker has earned the benefits they receive. However, some minor changes are necessary to maintain the current system it in the future. The required age limits to receive Social Security need to be increased. I support a cap on Social Security payments to the wealthy – a person making over a million dollars a year doesn't need a Social Security check. Stop the government from using money intended for Social Security for other purposes. And lastly, only working U.S. citizens who earned their Social Security should get the money.**

**Rating: Liberal in General**



## **20. Taxes**

**I support low flat-rate taxes and a smaller government. Lower taxes create more incentive for people to work, save, invest, and engage in entrepreneurial endeavors. Money is best spent by those who earn it.**

**Rating: Conservative in General**

## **21. United Nations (UN)**

**I believe that the United States, not the UN, is the global force for spreading freedom, prosperity, tolerance and peace. However, the UN has its place and can be effective in promoting peace and improving human rights.**

**Rating: Moderate**

## **22. War in Iraq**

**I agree that this was a preemptive strike to protect the U.S. All intelligence indicated that Saddam Hussein possessed and used weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) in the past and was prepared to use them on us. What I don't agree with is the U.S. trying to create a democracy in Iraq. Not every country is suited or wants to live in a democracy. I also think our military should have left Iraq after capturing Saddam Hussein. Yes, we should have declared victory and got the heck out.**

**Rating: Moderate**

## **23. War on Terrorism**

**I believe that militant Islamists have repeatedly attacked Americans and our interests here and abroad. These terrorists must be stopped and destroyed. The United States and Russia should support each other in order to wipeout the ISIS terrorists.**

**Rating: Conservative in General**



We should measure welfare's success by how many people leave welfare, not by how many are added.

(Ronald Reagan)

## 24. Welfare

I oppose welfare for able bodied men and women. I favor helping them get a job. We need to provide opportunities to make it possible for poor and low income workers to become self-reliant. It is far more compassionate and effective to encourage a person to become self-reliant, rather than keeping them dependent on the government for money.

**Rating: Conservative in General**

Okay, here's what we are going to do. Give yourself:

- 1 Point for each Very Conservative rating (8 x 1 = 8 points)
- 2 Points for each Conservative in General rating (8 x 2 = 16 points)
- 3 Points for each Moderate rating (6 x 3 = 18 points)
- 4 Points for each Liberal in General rating (2 x 4 = 8 points)
- 5 Points for each Very Liberal rating (0 x 5 = 0 points)

My totals are in parenthesis above. Add up your points and divide by 24.

$$8 + 16 + 18 + 8 + 0 = 50 \quad 50 / 24 = 2.1$$

1.0 – 1.5	=	Very Conservative
1.6 – 2.5	=	Conservative in General
2.6 – 3.5	=	Moderate
3.6 – 4.5	=	Liberal in General
4.6 – 5.0	=	Very Liberal

I am Conservative in General. Where do you stand?

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