

Republicans sprint for the Senate


Call them the "six-pack" — they're the Republicans who want to unseat Jim Sasser. Then there's the GOP bid to oppose Jim Cooper for Al Gore's old seat. Here's what they have to say on the issues:

Compiled by Jennifer Peebles; graphic by Diane Nottingham

Questions

Candidates seeking Sen. Sasser's seat

Candidates for open seat



Buddy Benedict



Byron Bush



Robert Corker



Bill Frist



Harold Sterling



Steve Wilson



John Baker



Fred Thompson

Do you support term limits?
How many terms?

I support term limits. Two terms.

Absolutely! If it's good enough for governors and presidents, it's good enough for members of Congress. The abuse of power makes mockery to the one-man, one-vote principle. Twelve years for House and Senate is enough.

I am unambiguously in support of term limits. The fact is that we need fresh ideas. If elected, I will pledge to serve a maximum of 12 years in Congress.

I do support term limits for members of Congress — two six-year terms for senators or six two-year terms for members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Twelve years is ample time for a person as a member of either.

I support a 12-year maximum on the House and Senate and eliminating Congress' exemption from the laws it passes. Legislators should have to live under the laws they have passed.

I have signed a pledge for U.S. term limits to co-sponsor legislation limiting senators to 12 years and representatives to six years. I will not serve more than 12 years in the U.S. Senate.

Yes, I support term limits. Two full terms maximum in the Senate (12 years) and 6 terms in Congress (12 years).

Yes. Two terms for the U.S. Senate. I have pledged to limit myself to two full terms.

What is your position on abortion?
What exemptions do you favor?



I am opposed to abortion as a form of birth control. I do not support federal funding for abortions. I believe that it is a matter that should be decided by the woman and her family in consultation with professionals in health care, psychology and the church.

Pro-life! While I want to eliminate all abortions, the likelihood of that happening is small. Pro-lifers must articulate an argument to appeal to those in the middle if we expect to pass any legislation.

I am personally opposed to abortion. I view it as a personal issue, not a government issue. I oppose federal funding of abortion, oppose FICA and support parental consent and waiting-period legislation.

I am personally opposed to abortion except that in the cases of rape, incest, and in circumstances where the woman's life is at risk, I believe that abortion is an option that a woman should have.

I do not support legalized abortion. I do not support public funding for abortion. Only a truly barbaric country would cavalierly destroy its children or make killing babies a part of common public policy.

I believe that human life is a gift from God and that it begins at conception. This right should be protected by the U.S. Constitution, except when necessary to save the life of the mother.

I am pro-life. There are no exceptions to protecting the lives of our unborn children.

I do not believe abortions should be financed with taxpayers' money. I support the state's right to impose reasonable restrictions such as parental notification. The ultimate decision on abortion should be left with the woman and not the government.

What government programs would you cut?
Are there any programs you would actively pursue welfare reform? However, Social Security is a moral obligation of our government.



I believe defense spending has been cut enough. I want to reduce congressional perks, committees and staff. I would cut entitlement spending and actively pursue welfare reform. However, Social Security is a moral obligation of our government.

"What" you can't cut can't be answered until you answer "how" you cut. A balanced budget amendment and a line-item veto for the president is a must. Only then will Congress be disciplined.

With regard to defense spending, post-Cold War U.S. foreign policy should be reassessed to reduce overall levels of foreign aid spending and focus our foreign aid only on those countries making the transition to free-market economic systems.

Except social security, all government programs including welfare should be reviewed, prioritized and funded according to priority and availability of funds.

The defense budget is dangerously low and I do not support any further reductions. All other areas of the federal government should be on the table. I will fight for a five-year "sunset law" which requires each agency to be intensely scrutinized.

Abolish welfare and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Build defense back up to the pre-Clinton level.

I would favor an across-the-board tax cut of 5-10% on all programs with the exception of the military. If cuts are not possible, then a freeze on any additional increases until the deficit is eliminated.

Stop highway demonstration projects, halt federal highway matching grants, prohibit SSI payments to non-citizens and addicts, cut congressional budget 25%, pay 50% stop buying park lands for 5 years, cut federal overhead by 10%.

Do you support universal health care delivery?
What reform that is market based and not a system?



The government should not be in the health care delivery. We need reform that is market based and not a system.

I support universal access, not universal government mandates on business which amount to a job tax.

I support universal access. I think we should have the government rather than the problems, turning the problems over to the government.

I do not support a government-mandated universal health care plan. I support universal access to health care.

Health care should be accessible to everyone, but Clinton's government-mandated program is not the solution. Conservative groups

No, I will work to reduce government interference in the health care industry. Government policy should encourage medical savings.

No, I do not support any national health care plan. Democratic proposals are unconstitutional, unworkable and

I do not support the federal government mandated universal health care proposals. I support universal access to health care.

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