

The questions here reflect current issues you are likely to face during a coming term in office and ask each candidate to provide, in their own words, their thoughts and opinions regarding a significant number of topics and questions. We appreciate your time and effort in responding to our questionnaire.

- How would you describe the proper role of government?

The proper role of the federal government, in all three branches, is to support and uphold the Constitution of the United States. Period.

2) How would you describe your role as a Republican elected official in our constitutionally defined form of government?

If elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, my primary role would be to reflect the views of the people who elected me. After all, the House is the PEOPLE'S House. In so doing, I would be constrained to introduce, support or oppose Congressional legislation as a representative of the people of Wyoming, always and forever with a clear understanding of the Constitution and the body of law.

3) Describe your core values.

As they pertain to my duties as an elected official, they are a deep and abiding faith in our Constitution, a love for the State of Wyoming, independence of thought, acceptance of every human being as my equal, a sense of history, loyalty to democratic principles and an aversion to tyranny.

4) Where do you place yourself on the political, ideological spectrum?

I am asked this question frequently as I campaign, and I always answer that I resist political labels of any kind. Since I graduated from Rawlins High School, I will however accept being called an Outlaw.

5) There is a nationwide push that has now come to Wyoming for the creation/expansion of protected classes in the form of additional anti-discrimination laws. Considering that Article 1, Section's 2 and 3 of Wyoming's Constitution respectively state:

“In their inherent right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, all members of the human race are equal.” and, “Since equality in the enjoyment of natural and civil rights is only made sure through political equality, the laws of this state affecting the political rights and privileges of its citizens shall be without distinction of race, color, sex, or any circumstance or condition whatsoever other than individual incompetency, or unworthiness duly ascertained by a court of competent jurisdiction.”

What, if anything, should Wyoming do in this arena?

Please note that the Wyoming Constitution does not read "...created equal", as does the Declaration of Independence, but rather "...ARE equal". In Wyoming, that is the self-evident truth. Wyoming's Constitution is one of the most egalitarian and humane among all the states. Human rights are firmly protected under our Constitution, and any infringement or violation of them is unconstitutional. Thus, if we uphold our constitution, and prosecute firmly any violation of its precepts, then no further legislation or regulation is necessary. Its incumbent on us as a state to live up to our Constitution as it applies to all of our citizens. That is what Wyoming should do in this arena.

6) What are your thoughts about funding and cultivating Wyoming's K-12 education?

This is primarily a question for a candidate for Governor or for the Wyoming Legislature, and they really have their work cut out for them. If elected to Congress, I would certainly support and assist however I could their work in this area. I'm a firm believer, just as was Thomas Jefferson, in public education as a cornerstone of democracy. The federal government should, within its means, support the states in making sure that our young citizens are effectively educated, but that primary responsibility is with the individual states.

7) Are you familiar with, and do you generally support or oppose, the Wyoming Education Association's position statements and legislative platform?

Again, this is an area of the state government's responsibility and I would, as a Congressman, defer to the State of Wyoming in matters of education legislation.

8) What is your position on federal management of public lands in Wyoming?

Roughly half of Wyoming's land mass is owned by the federal government, and land use decisions on federal lands have real impacts on life and livelihoods here. As such, citizen government in Wyoming at all levels should have real and tangible influence on federal decisions. Wyoming's Governor particularly should have a very strong voice at this table. Recognizing that federal land is owned by all American citizens, this can be accomplished by reversing the current trend to centralize decision-making in D.C. Recent efforts such as the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative offer real promise in getting this done. Unfortunately, this promise can be thwarted when bureaucrats or politicians short-circuit these efforts for political gain.

What is NOT feasible or even possible without amending the Constitution of Wyoming in two different articles, is the transfer of federal lands to state ownership. I draw your attention to Article 18, section 1 and Article 21, section 26 of our Constitution. This movement is a Sagebrush Rebellion redux pipe-dream and diverts our attention from the real work of solidifying and improving the power-sharing and profit-sharing on federal lands within our borders.

9) What is your view on the Federal debts/deficits and Wyoming's budget gap between proposed spending and revenue as they impact on our nation and state, and how will you address them as an elected official. What do you think about raising taxes to meet our state's projected budget shortfall?

I will only address the federal side of this question and, again, defer to the good folks in Wyoming state government to deal with the daunting issue of state deficits and spending.

There is simply no more critical issue to the federal government than the \$21 trillion worth of red ink on our books, and the \$ trillion-plus deficit in each budget cycle. Our debt is currently 125% of GDP, the first time since the end of WWII that our debt has exceeded our GDP. In a couple of budget cycles, if nothing is done, our interest or carrying cost on our national debt will be \$1 trillion. That represents a trillion dollars that are unavailable to our defence, our infrastructure, or our people. It will instead go to our

creditors, such as China, to service our debt. This is dangerous and unacceptable, and I'll repeat myself....there is no more critical issue to the nation.

The only solution available is to cut spending in ALL areas of the federal government. Every sector of American life will feel the pain, but there is no other solution other than to dig ourselves further into debt and punt the problem to future generations. That, to me, is unacceptable. If we are to avoid the fate of the former Soviet Union which spent itself out of existence, we must immediately begin cutting our debt and NOT passing deficit budgets. Everyone, from the military to localities to individuals will feel the pinch, and perhaps the pain will be enough to convince us a people never to get ourselves into this position again. End of sermon.

10) Do you support or oppose an income tax for Wyoming? Why?

Again, this question is outside the purview of a Member of Congress and I will defer the question to Wyoming State Government.

11) Do you support continued state funding to cities, towns, and counties?

Please see my answer to #10 above

12) When it comes to the state budget, what are your priorities? For example, Transportation, Education, University of Wyoming, Community Colleges, Agriculture, Department of Health, Game & Fish, etc.?

Again, a question for State of Wyoming officials.

13) In what instance(s) should the federal, state, or local government restrict the right to carry arms?

Speaking to the federal side of this question, my answer would be only in the most narrow of instances, such as felony convictions, adjudicated mental incompetence, and ownership of purely military weapons such as crew served weapons, anti-armor ordnance etc. My thinking on this issue is influenced quite a bit by Justice Antonin Scalia's majority opinion in *Heller v. D.C.* I'll paraphrase here, "This decision affirms the individuals to keep and bear arms. However, this decision does not mean that every individual has the right to own any type of firearm under every circumstance." It seems to me that Justice Scalia (and he was NOT a tide-pod eating snowflake by any stretch) adequately frames the debate we are having about the Second Amendment.

14) For many years now, federal bureaucratic and regulatory actions are often initiated against Wyoming residents for issues related to what have been standard agricultural or energy production practices for decades, but now deemed recently as incompatible with federal policy by administrative edict. How would you as an elected official respond to instances of federal overreach?

Federal regulations are not, in and of themselves, evil or counter-productive. Keep in mind that, before the EPA regulations promulgated under the Clean Air Act in 1970, there was no coal patch in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming. It was the regulatory requirement for reduction in sulfur emissions under this act, that more than anything stimulated the production of low-sulfur Powder River Basin coal. But, having said that, federal regulation can, and often are, unnecessary, onerous and not based on real-world wisdom. In those instances, as an elected representative, I would not hesitate to lean on the regulatory agency and work with Wyoming citizens to remind them of that real world that we live in. I might refer you to my answer to question #8 above. When I served as natural resource staff to both Governors Ed Herschler and Mike Sullivan, this is exactly the kind of work that I did.

15) Have you reviewed the 2018 Platform and Resolutions developed at convention by the Wyoming Republican Party?

Not yet.

16) It is the rare Republican who agrees with our Platform 100%. Article 1, Paragraph 3 of the *2018 Bylaws of the Wyoming Republican Party* defines the role of the Republican Party as:

3. *Role*

1. The role of the Wyoming Republican Party is: to recruit citizens to join the Republican Party; to establish the Platform of the Wyoming Republican Party; to achieve the election of Republican candidates who substantially uphold the platform of the Wyoming Republican Party and to conduct the business of the Wyoming Republican Party.

What is your definition of the word “substantially”? Are there planks in the 2018 Platform with which you oppose to a level of non-support in legislation? Will you identify those during your campaign if asked by constituents?

The term "substantially" can be defined as anywhere from 51% to 100%. I have not studied the planks in the 2018 Platform, but I have no doubt that, as a lifelong Republican, I can substantially support them. The fundamental values of the Republican Party; limited government, fiscal conservatism, individual liberty and responsibility, fierce adherence to democracy and a belief that Barry Goldwater was an under-appreciated genius are all very dear to me. Where the party and I may differ will be in those recent, hot-button, culture war issues like who uses which restroom and who bakes a cake for whom...issues that I consider to be diversions from our real job of reducing our national debt and restoring the U.S. Congress to a co-equal position with the Executive Branch. When the party and I disagree, you have my solemn vow that our disagreement will be cordial, civil, based equally on a true intellectual disagreement on an individual topic but recognition of a broad agreement on what is good for Wyoming and the United States.

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Candidate: \_\_\_Rod Miller

Office Running for: U.S. House of Representatives, Wyoming At-Large

Candidate’s Signature Rod Miller                      Date: 6/25/18

**NOTE:** Your submission via e-mail (alldta@gmail.com) will serve as a signature, or if you chose to send the hard copy back, please sign and return to:

CTW2018 C/O Taylor Allred

PO Box 182

Cokeville, WY 83114