WePEG1787™

We the People's Principles of Effective Governing

THE CANDIDATE MEASURING STICK

GROUP 1: WHAT ARE THE LAWS OF NATURE?

GP1 — We Discover Nature's Laws; We Don't Make Them

The laws of nature are facts about how the world and people work. Politicians, judges, voters, and Godly Civics cannot invent them. We must study them and change our understanding when the evidence shows we were wrong.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP2 — Government Cannot Escape the Laws of Nature

Government must deal with real human behavior, limited resources, choices, and consequences just like everyone else. Passing a law does not put government above those realities.

Score 0–10: __*8*__ Comments: *We might not always have a Law of Nature*_

GP3 — Passing a Law Cannot Erase Its Consequences

Government can tax, spend, regulate, reward, and punish. Those choices change what people do, but they cannot make the real costs and consequences disappear.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP4 — Test Governing Ideas Against Real Life

Before calling an idea a law of nature, ask: Does it work in different places and times? Can we see what causes what? Does the evidence support it? What evidence goes against it? No one gets to declare an idea true just by saying so.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP5 — When We Get Nature's Laws Wrong, Correct Our Thinking

Nature does not change just because we misunderstand it. When facts and experience prove our explanation wrong, we must change our explanation.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GROUP 2: WHAT IS TRUE?

GP6 — Government Must Tell the Truth

Government doesn't get to decide what is true. Laws, rules, and government decisions must be based on facts. When the facts prove government wrong, government must correct its mistakes.

Score 0–10: __*9*__ Comments: _*Security may require a few exceptions* _

GP7 — Government Must Back Up Its Claims

When government makes a claim to justify a law, spending, or a decision that affects our lives, it must have evidence to support that claim. We should be able to examine the evidence.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP8 — Government Must Prove What Works

Just because government takes action doesn't mean that action caused the result. Government must show evidence that its actions actually worked, rather than simply claiming credit.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP9 — Government Must Keep Important Records

Government must keep the records and evidence behind important decisions long enough for people to check what happened, question mistakes, and hold officials responsible.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP10 — Government Must Let Its Evidence Be Checked

Government must allow its important claims and decisions to be checked by people who have a legitimate reason to examine them, while protecting privacy, security, and confidential information.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GROUP 3: WHAT ARE RIGHTS?

GP11 — Freedom Comes Before Government

We are born with freedom. Government does not give it to us. If government wants to limit our freedom, it must have the legal power, a good reason, and clear limits.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP12 — Everyone Deserves the Same Freedom

The freedom one person has belongs to others too. Government should not take away someone's lawful freedom just because it dislikes their beliefs, groups, or choices.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP13 — Our Rights Do Not Come From Government

Government should protect our basic rights, not pretend it created them. Saying "*We have the right*!" is not enough. We must be able to explain where a claimed right comes from, whom it protects, its limits, and how it respects other people's rights. Unsupported claims are simply "Megaphone Rights"; they have no substance.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP14 — Government Must Treat Everyone Fairly

Every person has equal human worth. Government must apply its laws fairly. It should not give special treatment because of someone's power, connections, political group, or position.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP15 — Government Must Respect Private Property

Government must protect property people lawfully own. It should not take, control, or seriously harm that property without legal authority, fair procedures, and protection of the owner's rights.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP16 — People Must Be Free to Join—or Not Join

People should be free to join, support, or leave lawful groups—or choose not to join. Government needs a lawful reason before it can force people to join or punish them for staying out.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP17 — People Should Be Free to Buy and Sell

People should usually be free to buy, sell, trade, or make agreements with willing partners. Government should limit lawful deals only when it has the legal power and a sound reason.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GROUP 4: ECONOMICS

GP18 — Judge Economic Plans by Results

Good intentions do not guarantee good results. Candidates should explain what an economic plan is supposed to achieve, what it will cost, what facts support it, and how we will know whether it worked.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP19 — People Need Freedom to Work and Build

People should have broad freedom to own property, work, start businesses, create things, invest, and trade lawfully. These freedoms help people build prosperity.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP20 — Protect Fair Competition

People should have a fair chance to start and grow a business. Government should examine monopolies and unfair advantages, whether they come from big companies or special government favors.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP21 — Every Economic Rule Changes People's Choices

Taxes, benefits, subsidies, penalties, and rules encourage some choices and discourage others. Before adopting them, government should consider what people will do differently—including things no one intended.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP22 — Judge Government Aid by Whether It Helps

Spending money is not proof that a problem was solved. Government should check whether its aid actually helped, and whether it created new problems or long-term dependence.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP23 — Taxes Change More Than Government Revenue

Taxes can change where people work, save, shop, invest, and live. Government should consider these effects instead of counting only how much money a tax might collect.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP24 — Nothing Government Gives Is Free

Government benefits must be paid for somehow—through taxes, borrowing, fees, rules, or other costs. The cost may fall on someone else or on future generations, but it does not disappear.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP25 — Every Choice Has a Cost

When government chooses one plan, we give up something else. We should count not only the benefits we can see, but also the money, time, and opportunities that people lose.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP26 — Look for Unexpected Results

A government plan can create problems no one intended. Major policies should consider those risks in advance and check afterward for unexpected results.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP27 — Money Spent Is Not the Same as Success

A program is not successful just because government spent money, hired workers, or held meetings. The real question is whether it achieved the promised result.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP28 — Compare Other Ways to Solve the Problem

Before spending large amounts, government should compare realistic options—including families, charities, businesses, local or state government, or doing nothing when appropriate—and explain which is likely to work best for the full cost.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP29 — Public Money Belongs to the People

Government must use public money responsibly. Wasteful, outdated, duplicate, or favoritism-driven programs should be fixed or ended rather than funded forever.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP30 — Show Us the Real Financial Picture

People should be able to understand how much government collects, spends, owns, and owes—including debt, future bills, and promises it has made.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP31 — Borrowing Today Means Paying Tomorrow

Borrowing does not erase a bill. Government should explain why it needs to borrow, how repayment will work, and who will bear the future cost.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP32 — Taxes Must Be Clear and Fair

People should understand how taxes work and what standard of fairness a candidate supports. Tax rates, deductions, and special breaks should be open to inspection and justified—not hidden favors.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP33 — Government Should Set Fair Rules, Not Pick Winners

Government should not use taxes, contracts, grants, or regulations mainly to give favored businesses or groups an advantage over others.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP34 — Government Workers and Agencies Have Interests Too

Officials, agencies, contractors, and interest groups respond to rewards and pressure just like other people. Government needs oversight, clear records, and proof of results before power or funding continues.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GROUP 5: WHEN DOES GOVERNMENT ACT?

GP35 — Families Come Before Government

Families existed before government and usually carry the main responsibility for raising and caring for children. Government should respect that role rather than taking it over simply because it can.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP36 — Put Each Responsibility Where It Belongs

Before government takes on a job, ask whether it belongs with individuals, families, community groups, local government, a state, or the federal government. Government should not take over a responsibility without good reason.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP37 — Government Must Have the Legal Power to Act

Even when a problem needs government action, officials must have lawful authority to act in that place and on that issue. Being able to do something does not mean they have the right to do it.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP38 — Government Power Must Match the Job

When government is given a job, it needs enough power to do it—but not more power than the job requires.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP39 — The More Power Government Has, the More It Must Answer to Citizens

When government decisions can greatly affect our freedom, rights, property, or choices, we need clear limits, ways to hold officials responsible, and ways to correct mistakes or abuses.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GROUP 6: WHAT WILL THE CANDIDATE DO?

GP40 — Tell Us Exactly What Government Plans to Do

Before taking action, government should explain what it will do, who will do it, what legal power allows it, and what will change for the people affected.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP41 — Tell Us What Success Will Look Like

Before starting an important program or policy, government should say what results it expects so people can later compare the promise with what happened.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP42 — Tell Us the Full Cost and Who Pays

Government proposals should explain the major money costs, other sacrifices, available alternatives, and who will pay or give something up.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP43 — Ask How a New Rule Will Change Behavior

Before passing a law, tax, benefit, or penalty, government should ask how people and organizations are likely to change their choices because of it.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP44 — Be Extra Careful With Decisions We Cannot Undo

The harder a government action is to reverse, the more carefully officials should check their authority, evidence, costs, alternatives, and risks before acting.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GROUP 7: WHAT WAS THE RESULT?

GP45 — Measure What Actually Happened

Judge major government actions by their real results—including unexpected harm—not just good intentions, hard work, money spent, or political speeches.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP46 — Compare the Promise With the Result

Government should compare what it said would happen with what really happened. It should explain important differences rather than changing the definition of success afterward.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP47 — Good Results Do Not Excuse Broken Rights

Even if a policy gets a good result, government still must respect people's rights and stay within its lawful powers.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GROUP 8: WHAT MUST BE CORRECTED?

GP48 — When Government Is Wrong, It Must Reconsider

When reliable evidence shows that an important government claim or action was wrong, officials should review it and make a lawful correction when possible.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP49 — People Must Be Able to Challenge Government Decisions

People seriously affected by government decisions should have a lawful way to question the facts, authority, or fairness of those decisions and ask for a review or correction.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP50 — Important Government Decisions Need Independent Review

When government action can seriously affect rights, freedom, property, or public money, someone sufficiently independent should be able to review it when appropriate.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GP51 — Even Government Watchdogs Must Answer for Their Mistakes

Courts, inspectors, agencies, and other officials who review government must also follow the law, respect limits, and be open to correction.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

GROUP 9: ELECTION PRINCIPLES

Elections are how We the People choose who gets government power. Every eligible voter must be able to vote lawfully, and the result must be accurate and open to checking.

Score each election practice on its own. A low score can mean you disagree with the suggested method, even if you support secure elections. Candidates may explain a better method in their comments.

EP1 — Election Rules Must Serve Voters, Not Parties

Election rules should give lawful voters a fair chance and count votes accurately—not help a party, candidate, official, or special interest.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP2 — Every Eligible Voter Gets One Lawful Vote

Every eligible voter should be able to cast one lawful vote in each race they can vote in. The system should stop duplicate or illegal votes without blocking eligible voters.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP3 — Keep Voter Lists Accurate

Election offices should verify who is eligible and keep registration records up to date. They must protect privacy and allow proper independent checks.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP4 — Keep Ballots Safe and Votes Secret

Ballots must be protected when they are issued, returned, stored, counted, and kept afterward. No one should be able to discover how a person voted from those controls.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP5 — Keep a Record of Who Handled Ballots

Election offices should record who handled ballots and important election materials, when, where, and why, so missing or altered materials can be investigated.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP6 — Let Election Processes Be Checked

Important election steps should be open to observation or independent checking while still protecting voter privacy and security.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP7 — Voting Technology Must Be Checkable

Qualified independent reviewers and authorized officials must be able to verify how voting equipment and software work. A vendor's secrecy should not prevent checks needed to trust the results.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP8 — Keep Evidence of Every Vote

Voting systems should preserve reliable records of voter choices so an independent review can check the reported results.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP9 — Check Election Results Independently

After an election, an independent audit should test whether the reported outcome matches lawful ballots—not simply repeat the same count using the same unchecked system.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP10 — Resolve Election Disputes Fairly and Promptly

Election complaints need lawful procedures, reliable evidence, and a fair hearing soon enough for mistakes to be corrected.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP11 — Election Officials Must Answer for Their Work

Officials should have clear duties, records, oversight, and consequences for deliberate wrongdoing or reckless failure.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP12 — Make Voting Accessible and Secure

Eligible people should have a reasonable way to vote, while the system protects eligibility, ballots, secrecy, records, and accurate counting.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP13 — Election Rules Must Be Politically Fair

Election rules should not be written, changed, funded, or enforced mainly to help or hurt a political party, candidate, group, or class of lawful voters.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP14 — Use a Reliable Way to Confirm Voter Identity

Election offices should confirm voters' identities without creating unnecessary obstacles for eligible voters.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP15 — Check Eligibility Before Accepting a Ballot

Use reliable records and lawful procedures to confirm citizenship and other voting requirements, with a way for eligible voters to fix errors.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP16 — Regularly Update Voter Lists Without Removing Eligible Voters

Check for deaths, moves, duplicate records, and errors, but protect eligible voters against improper removal.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP17 — Keep Paper Records Voters Can Check

Each vote should have a lasting paper record voters can verify, so results can be recounted and audited without relying only on software.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP18 — Account for Every Ballot Without Revealing Votes

Election offices should track ballots issued, returned, spoiled, replaced, counted, rejected, and stored while keeping each vote secret.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP19 — Seal, Track, and Record Ballot Transfers

Use sealed containers, written logs, and responsible handoffs so missing ballots or unexplained access can be detected.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP20 — Allow Qualified Election Observers

Qualified observers should be able to watch important election steps without disrupting voting or compromising privacy and security.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP21 — Let the Public See How Votes Are Counted

Counting and official vote checks should be as open to observation as practical, without letting observers interfere.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP22 — Audit Results Before It Is Too Late to Fix Them

Use sufficiently independent evidence to check results before deadlines make meaningful corrections impossible.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP23 — Allow Independent Checks of Voting Machines and Software

Qualified reviewers should be able to inspect the equipment and software that matter for accurate, secure elections, even when vendors claim trade secrets.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP24 — Avoid Unneeded Internet or Network Connections

Voting systems should avoid unnecessary network connections. When connections are needed, their purpose, security, records, and checks should be documented.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP25 — Secure Ballot Drop Boxes and Ballot Collection

Ballots collected away from polling places must be tracked, protected, and delivered on time without making lawful voting needlessly difficult.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP26 — Make Voting and Mail-Ballot Deadlines Clear

The law should clearly say when voting begins and ends and when mailed ballots are due, with reasonable access and consistent treatment.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP27 — Set Clear Rules for Election Challenges

Before an election, voters, candidates, and officials should know how to raise a challenge, what proof is needed, when to act, and what corrections are possible.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

EP28 — Punish Deliberate Election Wrongdoing

Intentional fraud, ballot tampering, unlawful access, destroyed records, and false reports should face meaningful, fair, enforceable penalties.

Score 0–10: __*10*__ Comments: _____

PRINCIPLE → CANDIDATE DISCLOSURE → CITIZEN JUDGMENT

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