

skimmerhat

skimmerhat

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OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION

June 17, 2012

Anthony Herman, Esq.
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Mr. Herman:

Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437f, this letter requests an advisory opinion on the permissibility of skimmerhat's proposed business plan under the Federal Campaign Election Act of 1971 ("the Act").¹

1. **Background**

Skimmerhat is an Internet service that seeks to match users to political candidates based on geographic location, ideological similarities, and single-issue positions.² Furthermore, it will provide an easy way to facilitate donations to these candidates. The company is currently owned and operated by three individuals, none of who are federal candidates.

Skimmerhat is based on the idea that as more people abandon the traditional structure of political parties -- a growing trend for more than a decade -- they unintentionally disenfranchise themselves from the political process. Because political parties play a unique role in the election process as clearinghouses of candidate information, citizens who are "independent" of parties have a difficult time finding candidates that match their personal values. Absent of political parties, there are few educational resources to inform and educate voters. Skimmerhat is designed to lower the barriers of entry for citizens to the political process. We believe that by providing an easy way for users to find candidates with whom they have shared values, we can engage small donors who previously have been sitting "on the sidelines" in the electoral process.

¹ Skimmerhat will be registered as a corporation in the state of Delaware. All references herein to "the company" refer to the organization skimmerhat, and its web presence, www.skimmerhat.com. Additionally, all references herein to "the site" refer to the website, www.skimmerhat.com.

² For the purposes of this Advisory Opinion Request, the term "user" refers to all visitors and registered members who utilize the features provided on the site.

All of the company's services are provided to users on a strictly non-partisan, issue-neutral basis. The company and its online assets are operated on a commercial basis only.

Skimmerhat's purpose is to provide tools for users to engage in the political process, and does not seek to influence federal elections in any way. In fact, skimmerhat has a vested commercial interest in seeking participation of users from all political parties and ideological backgrounds.

2. *Skimmerhat Business Model*

After matching users to candidates, users are directed to candidate pages. Each candidate page features information about that candidate as well as an electronic donation form, which provides a quick and easy way for users to make contributions to candidates. Skimmerhat will assess an 8 percent "processing and convenience" fee per transaction, which will cover credit card processing, as well as provide a profit to the company. *[Candidate Page - See Attachment A]*

3. *Connecting Users to Candidates*

Skimmerhat will provide three primary navigation options to connect users to candidates: geographic location, candidate matching quiz, and single-issue positions. Users are able to use one, or multiple options, in order to find candidates. Each option connects users with candidates in a completely non-partisan way. *[Home Page - See Attachment B]*

A. *Geographic Location*

One option available to users is a geographic map of the United States. Using the map, users can search down to the district level for registered federal candidates running for office. At the state level view, candidates are listed, along with their political party, as either "incumbents," or "challengers." At the district level, federal candidates in that district are again listed, along with their party, status as either a challenger or incumbent, and a photograph (if available). Also listed at this level is their "popularity" among members of the site.³ *[State Level - See Attachment C]*

B. *Candidate Matching Survey*

Another option available to users is a candidate matching survey, which poses a series of "yes/no" ideological questions to users. These answers are then compared to the positions of all federal candidates. The candidates are then displayed on the results page,

³ An up/down voting system on which to indicate favorability with candidates will be available to registered users of the site.

ranked from highest to lowest, based upon the matching percentage with the user.
[Matching - See Attachments D & E]

The binary nature of the questions is designed to simplify the matching process. Since skimmerhat will be manually inputting data responses for candidates using limited resources, it is a matter of necessity; however, skimmerhat intends to expand upon the matching in the future to cater for more nuanced answers. The questions are intentionally framed to yield a “yes/no” position on each issue. And, skimmerhat will be using publicly available information to discern the position of candidates on these issues. In cases where such information is not available, or the candidate’s position is too nuanced to accurately fit within a “yes/no” framework, the question will be left as “no opinion,” so as to not misrepresent a candidate’s position, which would undermine the integrity and effectiveness of our matching system.

C. Single-Issue Position

The third option available to users is matching candidates based on a single-issue position. Using skimmerhat’s list of political issues, users can find any candidate that matches the user’s position on that single issue. *[Ideology - See Attachment F]*

4. Candidate Pages

The objective of the navigation tools is to funnel users to candidate pages. Displayed on candidate pages will be a photo, biographical information, campaign finance information, recent updates, issue positions, and a donation page. Skimmerhat staff will curate candidate data using information available from the candidate’s official campaign site, public records (such as voting records), or other educational sources. Campaign finance data and other candidate information may be curated and displayed through the use of application programming interfaces (API)⁴ through trusted third-party resources.

Skimmerhat will provide candidates the option of assuming limited managerial control over basic biographical information, as well as setting positions on issues. Before gaining access to their pages, candidates or candidate committees must first be approved by skimmerhat to ensure they are legitimate representatives of the campaign. They must also agree to Terms of Service that explicitly prohibit the use of the skimmerhat platform to conduct fundraising outside of skimmerhat, or for any activity that can be reasonably deemed outside of that which enhances the quality and accuracy of candidate information available to users.⁵

Should skimmerhat find any such activity that violates its Terms of Service, candidates will be warned, and such activity or content removed from the website.

⁴ In layman terms, APIs are easy ways to share and display data across online platforms. They can take many different forms, depending on the context and functionality of their use.

⁵ The skimmerhat “Terms of Service” referenced here have not yet been drafted, and are mentioned as a concept that will be finalized before the launch of the site.

Skimmerhat will retain the right to reassume control over candidate pages should it deem necessary.

5. *Donations*

Skimmerhat will use an electronic donation form located on each candidate page to collect contributions from users who are legally eligible to donate to federal candidates.⁶ Contributions will be limited to \$2,500, the current individual contribution limit to federal candidates. Users will also be notified by language on the donation form that contributions in aggregate amounts in excess of \$2,500 per candidate, per election cycle, are not acceptable. The information requested on the donation form will include the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer. This information will be required for each contribution, regardless of amount. If any one of these fields is left blank, the contribution will not be accepted. These "best effort" requirements exceed those currently of any paper remittance. Additionally, donor information will be securely stored in the company's electronic logs for reporting and audit purposes.

The donation form will also include the following FEC disclaimer:

"Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year."

Before the donation is accepted, each user will be required to manually select in the affirmative a check box for the following attestation language:

By checking this box, I confirm that the following statements are true and accurate:

1. *This contribution is made from my own funds and not those of another.⁷*
2. *This contribution is not from the general treasury funds of a corporation, labor organization or national bank.⁸*
3. *I am not a Federal government contractor.⁹*

⁶ Skimmerhat will use our best efforts to screen, and reject, all contributions from foreign nationals, government contractors, national banks, and corporations organized by authority of any law of Congress. 2 U.S.C. §§ 441b, 441c, and 441e.

⁷ 11 CFR Part 110.4[b]

⁸ 11 CFR Part 114.2

⁹ 11 CFR Part 115

4. *I am not a foreign national who lacks permanent resident status in the United States.*¹⁰
5. *I am over the age of 18, and if not, I am a minor making this contribution of my own volition, and not at the request or direction of another individual.*

If this box is not checked, the contribution will not be accepted.

Users are prompted to select a donation amount from the gift array provided on the donation form, and are also given the option to donate another amount using an empty field. Upon selection of a contribution amount, the 8 percent skimmerhat "convenience fee" will be applied, in a separate field, additional to the contribution amount. The addition of this convenience fee will be assessed in a similar manner as that of a sales tax at the point of purchase for commercial goods. The total transaction amount is the contribution plus the 8 percent fee.

By assessing the convenience fee in this manner, it ensures the user's intended donation amount is passed to the candidate in full, while conspicuously passing the fee on to the user.

Once accepted by the user, donations will be routed to the company's merchant account, and the 8 percent fee per transaction will be directed to the company's business account. No funds will be comingled in the company's corporate treasury account. All disbursements of funds will be taken directly from the company's merchant account, and not from the company's corporate treasury account. [Donation Page - See Attachment F]

6. *Transfer of Funds to Candidates*

Contributions¹¹ made through the donation forms will be forwarded to candidate campaigns, and the 8 percent convenience charge -- assessed at the time of submission -- is routed into a separate treasury account. Along with the forwarded contributions, a transmittal report will be sent to the recipient candidate, to facilitate the candidate's reporting of campaign contributions.

Should a candidate reject or refuse the transfer of contributions to his campaign, skimmerhat will refund the contributions to the original donors, and disable the donation form on the candidate's page to prevent further contributions.

7. *Questions Presented*

¹⁰ 11CFR Part 110.4

¹¹ Skimmerhat utilizes no discretion as to the intended recipient of donations. All contributions made via the donation form on candidate pages are considered earmarked contributions for that specific candidate.

1. Under the proposed plan, can skimmerhat receive earmarked contributions from individuals and forward those contributions to federal candidates without committing an impermissible action under the Act?
2. Would skimmerhat's proposed processing and convenience fee of 8 percent count towards a user's individual contribution limit to a candidate?
3. Can skimmerhat provide factual information about candidates to its users?
4. Under the proposed plan, could candidates be granted limited access to manage their profiles without causing skimmerhat to provide a material service to the candidate, creating an impermissible action under the Act?
5. Can skimmerhat use Federal Election Commission data pertaining to candidate finance information that is either compiled directly by skimmerhat staff, or curated through APIs?
6. Under the proposed plan, is skimmerhat required to file any reports with the Federal Election Commission?

8. *Discussion*

Skimmerhat respectfully advocates their presented questions should be answered as follows:

1. *Under the proposed plan, can skimmerhat receive earmarked contributions from individuals and forward those contributions to federal candidates without committing an impermissible action under the Act?*

Based on the proposed plan, and previous Advisory Opinions addressing similar issues, skimmerhat believes its plan to collect and forward earmarked contributions does not result in an impermissible action under the Act.

In AO 2006-08 (Brooks),¹² the Commission held that The Corporation's plan to collect and forward contributions from individuals, at their direction, to Federal candidates was permissible under the Act. The Commission also came to the same conclusion in AO 2011-06 (Democracy Engine, LLC)¹³, regarding Democracy Engine, LLC's plan to provide individuals with the ability to make contributions to Federal political committees.

¹² In AO 2006-08, Brooks intended to form a not-yet-named corporation that would accept earmarked funds from subscribers, and forward those contributions to candidate committees, or non-profit organizations, at the request of subscribers.

¹³ In AO 2011-06, Democracy Engine, LLC is a for-profit limited liability company offering a web-based payment service that provides individuals ("subscribers") with the ability to make contributions to Federal political committees.

In AO 2006-08 (Brooks), the Commission ruled that The Corporation “would provide services to individual subscribers to assist them in making contributions, similar to corporations that provide delivery services, bill paying services, or check writing services.” The Commission also ruled that according to The Corporation’s stated plans, “individuals subscribers,” rather than candidates or candidate committees, “would compensate the Corporation as an incidental cost in making contributions.”

In AO 2011-06 (Democracy Engine), the Commission once again established this precedent, noting Democracy Engine, LLC’s plan was permissible because “the Vendor is not providing services or anything else of value to the Committee or any other recipient political committee” because “the Vendor plans to enter into agreements with each of its subscribers and to process contributions at the request of its subscribers from the Vendor’s own website.” The Commission held, once again, such services were “akin to delivery services, bill paying services, or check writing services for its subscribers.”

This distinction is important in determining whether a company that processes contributions to a political committee, or Federal candidate, is itself making a contribution to that political committee, or Federal candidate. As stated in AO 2011-06 (Democracy Engine), to make this determination, “the Commission has previously distinguished between companies that provide services to political committees and companies that provide services to subscribers.”

We believe the services outlined in skimmerhat’s plan are materially indistinguishable from those considered by the Commission in Advisory Opinions 2006-08 (Brooks) and 2011-06 (Democracy Engine).¹⁴

The mission and purpose of skimmerhat is to engage U.S. citizens in the election process. To fulfill its mission, skimmerhat plans to operate as a non-partisan commercial enterprise, providing services that facilitate donations to its users, at a cost to the user. A contract is formed between skimmerhat and the user immediately upon submission of a contribution through skimmerhat’s donation platform. At no point does skimmerhat seek to form a contract, or provide a service, to Federal candidates or candidate committees, “except possibly for the limited purpose of effectuating authorized clearinghouse transfers,” noted as a permissible exception in AO 2011-06 (Democracy Engine).

Furthermore, the Commission concluded in AO 2004-19 (DollarVote) that DollarVote’s plan to provide a similar service to that of skimmerhat’s was permissible because DollarVote satisfied both the “commercial vendor” exception to the prohibition on corporate facilitation of contribution at 11 CFR 114.2(f)(1), and the “commercial

¹⁴ In both Brooks and Democracy Engine, the vendors were for-profit corporations providing a service to its users in order to facilitate contributions earmarked for federal candidates at the request of the user. Skimmerhat’s proposed plan is likewise a for-profit corporation providing a service to its users in order to facilitate contributions earmarked for federal candidates at the request of the user.

fundraising firm” exception to the definition of “conduit or intermediary” in 11 CFR 110.6(b)(2).¹⁵

Skimmerhat believes it likewise fulfills both requirements.

To qualify under the “commercial vendor” exception at 11 CFR 114.2(f)(1), an entity must meet three thresholds: (1) its services are rendered for the usual and normal charge paid by authorized candidate committees; (2) it forwards earmarked contributions to candidates through separate merchant accounts; and (3) it provides adequate screening procedures to ensure it is not forwarding illegal contributions.

Although Skimmerhat’s plan is a novel concept, its processing and convenience fee of 8 percent is a usual and normal charge, and provides sufficient profit on each transaction to support the commercial entity. Secondly, it will be set up with a merchant account separate from its corporate treasury account, avoiding the comingling of funds, and avoiding an ineligible corporate contribution to a federal candidate. Finally, we believe our plans to provide screening to ensure against ineligible contributions should meet similar “safe harbor” standards established in AO 1999-22 (Aristotle), 2002-07 (Careau) and 2007-04 (Atlas).

We believe the proposed plan for skimmerhat also satisfies the more narrow exception for a “commercial fundraising firm” under the earmarking regulations in 11 CFR 110.6. Although the rules do not specifically define “commercial fundraising firm,” the Commission outlines two thresholds in AO 2004-19 (DollarVote) in determining if DollarVote functioned as a “commercial fundraising firm:” (1) The entity is retained by candidates to assist in raising funds for their campaign; and (2) If the entity exercises discretion that might influence which candidates would be recipients of the contributions, or the amounts that candidates would receive.

Because contributions made through skimmerhat come from individual donation forms specific to individual candidates, funds are clearly earmarked for their intended recipient. As such, skimmerhat exercises no discretion on either the recipient of the funds, nor the amount being contributed.¹⁶ The only restriction skimmerhat imposes is on the maximum amount which an individual can give, which is to ensure individuals do not exceed the individual contribution limit in federal candidates.

While skimmerhat is not retained by candidates to assist in raising funds for campaigns, skimmerhat is a “commercial vendor” retained by individuals to facilitate donations to campaigns. We apply the same logic used by in AO 2006-08 (Brooks), and argue “a commercial vendor should be exempt because a service is being paid by a lawful source, not necessarily on the basis of who is paying it.”

¹⁵ In AO 2004-19, DollarVote sought, and was granted, approval as a Virginia C corporation to provide certain nonpartisan commercial services to both citizens and candidates via a website, in which it accepted and forwarded contributions from individuals earmarked for candidates after meeting two exceptions.

¹⁶ In AO 2004-19, the Commission found “DollarVote would not retain such discretion under its proposed plan. Rather, the individual contributor makes all decisions regarding the contribution.”

Additionally, the act of transferring funds to the recipient candidate would not constitute a corporate in-kind contribution by skimmerhat. As the Commission found in AO 2011-19 (GivingSphere), “companies that process contributions as a service to the contributors...do not need to be compensated for these services by the recipient political committees because the companies are not providing any services or anything of value to the recipient political committees.”¹⁷

As such, we believe that skimmerhat should be allowed to receive and forward earmarked contributions from its users without committing an impermissible action under the Act.

2. *Would skimmerhat’s proposed processing and convenience fee of 8 percent count towards a donor’s individual’s contribution limit to a candidate?*

In skimmerhat’s proposed plans, the processing and convenience fee would be assessed at the point of transaction, and would be applied in addition to the user’s selected contribution amount. In forwarding the contribution to candidates, candidates would receive the full amount intended by the user, even after skimmerhat collects its fee. Accordingly, we believe the processing and convenience fee should be viewed as a user’s payment for services rendered by skimmerhat, and should not be counted towards a user’s individual contribution limit to a candidate.

3. *Can skimmerhat provide factual information about candidates to its users?*

Skimmerhat should be allowed to provide factual information about candidates to users. In AO 2011-19 (GivingSphere), the Commission ruled that GivingSphere could include factual information about candidates because GivingSphere “does not intend to create content that advocates for the election or defeat of any candidate, or that promotes, attacks, supports, or opposes any candidate, political party, or political committee.” The Commission also held that providing factual information was a corollary of GivingSphere’s service of helping its customers make a contribution.¹⁸ Skimmerhat believes it is doing the same.

4. *Under the proposed plan, could candidates be granted limited access to manage their profiles without causing skimmerhat to provide a material service to the candidate, creating an impermissible action under the Act?*

¹⁷ In AO 2011-19, the Commission held that since GivingSphere entered into a contract with its users, and not the recipient political committee, it provided a service only to its individual customers and provided nothing of value to political committees.

¹⁸ “The Commission has concluded, however, that GivingSphere may forward contributions to candidates and political committees as a service to its customers and provide its customers with a database that identifies the candidates and political committees to which they may choose to make contributions. GivingSphere’s proposal to include in its database basic factual information about these candidates and political committees to help its customers make their contribution decisions appears to be a corollary of this activity.” (AO 2011-19)

Skimmerhat believes that candidates should be allowed to manage and update their candidate profiles without causing skimmerhat to make an impermissible donation to federal candidates by providing a service to federal candidates. It is skimmerhat's belief that by allowing candidates to update biographic information, as well as their positions on individual issues, it would provide a service to users by increasing the accuracy of candidate information. Having the most accurate information possible increases the effectiveness of our matching process.

According to proposed rules from skimmerhat, no candidate would be allowed to solicit for donations outside of the skimmerhat.com platform. Additionally, candidates would be limited to updating only issues positions, and basic biographical data. Skimmerhat would regularly monitor candidate activity, and would take action should any candidate violate skimmerhat's Terms of Service. And, since there is no guarantee that the candidate's profile information will result in a donation, there is no service provided to the candidate in allowing them to manage their own profile.

5. *Can skimmerhat use Federal Election Commission data pertaining to candidate finance information, excluding individual contribution information, which is either compiled directly by skimmerhat staff, or curated through APIs?*

Skimmerhat should be allowed to use certain Federal Election Commission data pertaining to candidate finance information, whether compiled by skimmerhat staff, or curated through APIs. First established in AO 2004-24 (NGP Software), and then again in AO 2011-19 (GivingSphere), the Commission ruled that commercial use of FEC information regarding individual "contributors" would be prohibited under the Act; however, the sale and use of information regarding political committees would not be restricted. The Commission ruled that GivingSphere could use FEC information for commercial purposes because the data at issue concerned political committees, not individual contributors.¹⁹

In AO 2003-24 (NCTFK), the Commission stated that Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) section 438(a)(4) is "a broad prophylactic measure intended to protect the privacy of the contributors about whom information is disclosed in FEC public records." Skimmerhat respects that reasoning, and only seeks to use campaign finance data regarding federal candidate fundraising totals. Skimmerhat has no plan to use information regarding individual contributors to federal campaigns.

6. *Under the proposed plan, is skimmerhat required to file any reports with the Federal Election Commission?*

Under its proposed plan, skimmerhat does not believe it meets reporting obligations outlined in the Act and in the Commission's rulings.

¹⁹ "The information that GivingSphere seeks to use concerns political committees, rather than individual contributors. Thus, consistent with prior advisory opinions, GivingSphere may use the information as proposed." (AO 2011-19)

In AO 2011-19 (GivingSphere), the Commission ruled that GivingSphere would not be subject to reporting requirements under its proposed plan. Skimmerhat believes that its proposed plan is immaterially different to that of GivingSphere in regards to triggers for reporting requirements. Skimmerhat is neither a political committee, nor will it engage in independent expenditures on behalf of any candidate, or candidate committee. Additionally, skimmerhat is an Internet-based platform that does not utilize broadcast, cable, or satellite communication; therefore, it will not be participating in what U.S.C. 434(f)(3)(A)(i) defines as an electioneering communications.²⁰

Given that skimmerhat does not qualify as any person or entity that would be required to file reports with the Commission, it should not be required to do so.

We sincerely appreciate the Commission's time investigating the questions posed in this Advisory Opinion Request, and we await the Commission's rulings.

Sincerely,

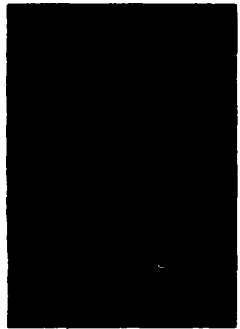
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Davis', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Davis
Co-Founder
skimmerhat.com
281 Summer Drive NE
Atlanta, GA 30328
(202) 731-0002

²⁰ 2 U.S.C. § 434(f)(3)(A)(i) "The term 'electioneering communication' means any broadcast, cable, or satellite communication which..."

Andrew Davis South Carolina, District - 1

[Bookmark this candidate](#)



Biographical Data

Full Name:

Party:

Born:

Spouse:

Children:

Religion:

Profession:

Education:

Military Service:

Current Political Office:

Previous Political Office:

[Donate](#)



Andrew's Campaign Finance

Cash on hand	\$ 22,000
Raised this cycle	\$ 34,000
Spent this cycle	\$ 15,000

Andrew's Updates

- Andrew updated his position on Keystone Pipeline
- Andrew added an event in Surfside Beach, SC

Andrew's Popularity

314 Total Votes

- ↑ 77% Positive
- ↓ 23% Negative

Additional Biographical Data:

Candidate Bio: Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Donec lacinia facilisis sapien, vel aliquet erat ullamcorper sit amet. Ut consectetur aliquam hendrerit. Suspendisse a massa libero.

Pellentesque ultricies lacus quis odio volutpat sed porta sem venenatis. Donec luctus elit interdum augue interdum a varius nibh commodo. Quisque tincidunt metus quis tellus tincidunt volutpat. Nam

congue. urna vitae faucibus ullamcorper, dolor leo elementum massa, et vestibulum lorem turpis eget enim. Nunc venenatis facilisis tempus. Suspendisse potenti. Nunc eleifend vestibulum mi sed placerat.

Andrew's Ideology



Environment

- Supports the Keystone Pipeline.
- Does not support government investment in Green Energy programs.



Budget

- Wants to reduce the size and scope of the Federal government.
- Supports eliminating waste and reforming government programs.



Regulation

- Supports the elimination of the EPA

[Donate to Andrew](#)

skimmerhat

Discussions

Candidate Matching

Ideology

... ..

... ..

"He that espouses parties, can hardly divorce himself from their fate; and more fall with their party than rise with it." *William Penn*

Browse by Ideology



Environment
Natural resource management and conservation.



Military
National defense, foreign policy, and arms spending.



Budget
The size and scope of government, spending and deficit reduction.

Candidate Matching



Discussions



Mick Roach

... ..


... ..





South Carolina



Trending State Issues

-  • Government spending on the Port of Charleston infrastructure project.

-  • Deep sea petroleum drilling off of the South Carolina coast.

-  • Should Intelligent Design be taught in science classrooms.

Senate (2)

Incumbents

House (6)

Name	Seat	Party	Date of Election
Lindsey Graham	1	Republican	
Jim DeMint	2	Republican	

Name	District	Party	Date of Election
Tim Scott	1	Republican	
Addison Wilson	2	Republican	
Jeff Duncan	3	Republican	
Trey Gowdy	4	Republican	
Mike Mulvaney	5	Republican	
James Clyburn	6	Democrat	

Senate (2)

Challengers

House (3)

Name	Seat	Party	Date of Election
Candidate A	1	Republican	
Candidate B	2	Republican	
Candidate C	3	Democrat	

Name	District	Party	Date of Election
Andrew Davis	1	Republican	
Candidate A	2	Republican	
Candidate B	3	Republican	

TAXES:

Do you believe that taxes should be raised to help reduce the national deficit?

Yes No Opinion No

SOCIAL WELFARE:

Do you believe that social programs, which offer taxpayer-subsidized support to the poor, are a responsibility of the government to provide?

Yes No Opinion No

CIVIL LIBERTIES:

Do you believe that the government has the responsibility to protect American citizens, even if it means reducing the amount of civil liberties we enjoy?

Yes No Opinion No

ECONOMICS:

Do you believe in the freer the market, the freer the people?

Yes No Opinion No

NATIONAL DEFENSE:

Do you believe that the federal government should maintain a pro-active foreign policy, using U.S. military for interventions in foreign countries to either protect the direct interests of the United States (even if not immediately threatened), or to help promote democracy?

Yes No Opinion No

ENVIRONMENT:

Do you believe we need stricter regulations as a way to protect the environment, and promote conservation?

Yes No Opinion No

PERSONAL FREEDOM:

Do you believe that government has a right to make laws in order to promote what they view to be a "moral" citizenry?

Yes No Opinion No

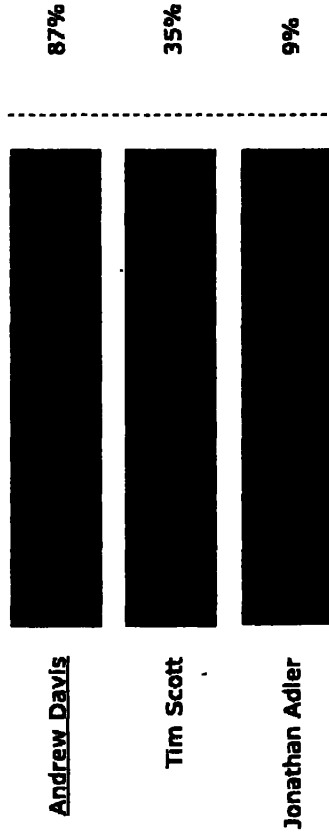
ABORTION:

Do you believe that abortion should be legal?

Yes No Opinion No

Calculate and Match

Your results



Candidate	Location	Incumbent / Challenger	Date of Election	Shares your Ideology on...
1 Andrew Davis (R)		Challenger	November 12, 2012	
2 Tim Scott (R)		Incumbent	November 12, 2012	
3 Jonathan Adler (I)		Challenger	November 12, 2012	

Craft your Ideology



Budget

The Budget of the United States Government is the President's proposal to the U.S. Congress which recommends funding levels for the next fiscal year, beginning October 1. Congressional decisions are governed by rules and legislation regarding the federal budget process. Budget committees set spending limits for the House and Senate committees and for Appropriations subcommittees, which then approve individual appropriations bills to allocate funding to various federal programs.

Where do you stand on budgetary issues?

- The federal government should increase spending in a recession to help stimulate the economy.

Yes No No Opinion

- Private financial institutions are too big to fail and federal dollars should be spent to prevent their bankruptcy.

Yes No No Opinion

- The Congress should pass a constitutional amendment to cap and balance the budget.

Yes No No Opinion

- The government should reduce spending in the defense sector.

Yes No No Opinion

- Medicare is unsustainable and requires reform.

Yes No No Opinion

Match me with candidates

Select as few, or as many ideological pillars as you like. Carefully craft your ideology by determining where you stand on the issues. When you've finished creating a unique ideological spectrum, find candidates that are similar to you.

The political landscape changes rapidly.

Submit new issues as they arise.

Add an issue under

Personal Information * Required Fields

First Name* [] Last Name* [] Email* []

Address* [] Home Phone []

[] Cell Phone []

City* [] State* [] Zip* []

Employment Information

Employer* [] Occupation* []

To comply with Federal law, contributors are required to provide their employment information. If you are retired, please enter N/A under Employer and Retired under Occupation; if a homemaker, please enter N/A - Homemaker; If self-employed, please enter "Self-Employed" under Employer and describe your line of work under Occupation.

Contribution Information

One-time Contribution Recurring Contribution

Amount*




\$5.00 \$10.00 \$25.00 \$50.00

\$100.00 \$500.00 \$1,000.00 \$2,500.00

Other Amount \$ []

8% Convenience/ Processing Fee \$ [8.00]

Payment Information

Card Number* []   

Card Expiration* [] []

Confirm Eligibility

*By checking this box, I confirm that the following statements are true and accurate:

- This contribution is made from my own funds and not those of another.
- This contribution is not from the general treasury funds of a corporation, labor organization or national bank.
- I am not a Federal government contractor.
- I am not a foreign national who lacks permanent resident status in the United States.
- I am over the age of 18, and if not, I am a minor making this contribution of my own volition, and not at the request or direction of another individual.
- This contribution is made on a personal credit card or debit card for which I have the legal obligation to pay, and is not made either on a corporate or business entity card.

Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 per election cycle.

We may accept contributions from individuals whose aggregate contributions are not in excess of \$2,500 per candidate, per election cycle.

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