



John
Arrington

Daily Chronicle questionnaire: John Arrington

Election primary: U.S. senate (Republican)

Age: Candidate did not provide

Bio: Candidate did not provide

What should be the key components of health care reform? Among the ideas being considered, what should not be part of health care reform?

For health care reform to be meaningful, it must give patients more direct control over their own health care decisions and dollars. Only 9 percent of Americans directly purchase their own health insurance, and prices of health care goods and services are rarely transparent. For effective health care without total government takeover, we need tort reform that caps medical malpractice suits at \$250,000. Second, states need to take more responsibility for cracking down on consumer waste. Last, we must allow individuals to purchase insurance across state lines. Embracing free-market principles is simply common sense: Leave decision-making between patients and their physicians.

What is your position on the cap-and-trade bill that passed the U.S. House this past summer? If you oppose the bill, what should Congress do, if anything, about carbon emissions and climate change?

The cap-and-trade bill is nothing more than a tax hike on American businesses during the worst economic times in recent history. We can address environmental issues in a bipartisan fashion without contracting our economy. We need to provide incentives, not punishing taxes, to stimulate cleaner production methods.

What kinds of new regulations of the banking industry do you support? What don't you support that is being proposed?

Candidate did not provide answer

Immigration reform has taken a back seat to other priorities of the Obama administration during his first year in office. Should immigration reform be more of a priority? What do you propose?

Immigration has taken a back seat because politicians on both sides of the aisle don't want to deal with such a complicated problem. Deporting all undocumented citizens is almost impossible. It would require a huge increase in government spending and would negatively impact the U.S. economy. Today, 60 percent of all construction jobs in the U.S. are held by undocumented aliens. We simply can't afford to bring the economy to a standstill while they're all sent home. We must have immigration reform without ineffective ICE raids that tear families apart and place children in detention centers for years. We need to expedite the process with innovative solutions, such as service-for-citizenship in the military.

What should the U.S. do in Afghanistan?

Simply put, America must stay on the offensive in the global war on terror. We cannot afford to embrace pull-out strategies that compromise our national security or the foundation of emerging democratic countries. Time lines are ineffective because they place arbitrary limits on military action before full assessments of on-the-ground situations. To restore security, the U.S. must win over Afghan civilians by reducing bystander casualties. This can be done by emphasizing ground troop deployment rather than risky aerial bombing methods. We must also support Pakistan in fighting terrorism, but make clear that America will not tolerate dual policies toward terrorists. By providing economic aid to grassroots organizations with strict monitoring of fund

dispersal, U.S. forces can expect increased support from Pakistani NGOs.

Did you support the government bailouts of the financial and auto industries? Why or why not?

I did not support those bailouts. Part of our free-market system inevitably involves letting businesses fail when they underperform. If we had adopted laissez-faire attitude rather than big government interventionist policies, I guarantee those institutions would have reformed their management practices and returned stronger than ever. Painful as this transition may have been, it would have been less of a burden on the American people than the increased deficit that we face today.

What are your top priorities in the state?

In my first term, I hope to bring 500 manufacturing companies back to Illinois. Providing a percentage of imports to American manufacturers would create a much-needed increase in employment because our domestic demand would require more jobs. While health care is an important priority, the Obama administration should not have placed it ahead of economic recovery. I also plan to introduce legislation that brings all weapons manufacturing back from outsourced, overseas neighbors who do not have America's interest at heart. As recent incidents show, our national security infrastructure is a sham, and if the Department of Defense continues to rely on other nations to manufacture for us, we may face serious consequences. This plan will also require more jobs to maintain a strong level of domestic production.

What should Congress do about the nation's growing budget deficit?

We cannot continue to spend money that we do not have. To counter the growing deficit, we must cut federal government out of the industries where it does not belong. The TARP Act, cap-and-trade bill, health care, and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act are all examples of the explosive increase at the federal level we see today. I will support any proposal to place a cap on our national debt so that future endeavors by this administration will require responsible fiscal policies rather than reckless spend-and-borrow tactics.

What distinguishes you from the other candidates in this primary?

My experience, plain and simple. As a two-term Harvey city councilman, I am one of the few candidates in this primary with significant elected experience. I was also the first federal candidate to sign the Contract with Illinois, a binding resolution that ensures my constituents may hold me accountable for my actions in Washington. I spent 18 years working with the pro-life movement and worked to reduce taxes on senior citizens living in Harvey. You will hear all of the Republican candidates advocating smaller government, less regulation, and lower taxes. But the fact of the matter is I am the only conservative elected official that has actually done these things.