



Robert  
Marshall

## Daily Chronicle questionnaire: Robert Marshall

**Election primary:** U.S. senate (Democrat)

**Age:** 66

**Bio:** Born and raised in Dayton, Ohio; graduated from Harvard Medical School; went into the army and was in Vietnam as a general medical officer; have lived in Illinois for the past 29 years; have worked in downstate hospitals from Kankakee to Metropolis to Rock Island and Watseka for the past 20 years; father of four children and have been married to Susan for almost 20 years; member of the United Church of Christ church.

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

The key components of health care reform should include elimination of the insurance industry's ability to deny people coverage on the basis of prior illnesses and to discontinue payments when bills start to pile up. I am in favor of a public option to reduce premiums for everyone throughout the country, and I would also like to reduce the Medicare age to 60. I am opposed to the 2.5 percent penalty or tax on people who cannot purchase health insurance. I do not believe that we should allow the federal government to hunt down every last person in the country who may not have health insurance.

### **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?**

I am opposed to this legislation since it would place enormous taxes, restrictions and regulations on the people of Illinois, especially farmers, truckers, the taxi cab industry and anyone using large amounts of fuel. This also would damage our coal, natural gas, and oil industries in southern Illinois. This legislation is especially damaging since much of the money collected from these taxes would not come back to our state to help us repair roads, bridges, etc. This is an extremely damaging and discriminatory piece of legislation against the people in the Midwest, especially Illinois. The problem with excessive carbon dioxide discharge can be handled with open market conditions. For example, the cost of energy is increasing and people are buying smaller cars and conserving in many ways. The free and open market system and people working on their own can solve these problems without further federal taxes and regulations.

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

The present legislation merely adds another layer of bureaucrats and lawyers and regulators upon all the layers of regulators that we already have in Washington. The problem with the banking crisis was that many people were asleep at the wheel, and we need to discipline those people rather than adding another layer of bureaucrats onto the older layer. In the future, we should not bail out troubled institutions and corporations. We should allow them to fail and go into the bankruptcy courts. These courts can sort out these problems while these industries continue to operate, just as United Airlines did in this state a few years ago. During bankruptcy, much of the business conducted by the New York banks and insurance companies could be partitioned out to people in the Midwest and other parts of the country who did not act in such greedy and irresponsible ways.

### **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 reform should be a high priority. I am opposed to blanket amnesty of illegal immigrants. We should continue to enforce our laws where possible and continue to reinforce our borders as much as possible. Many of the immigrants, however,

can never be processed, and I would favor increasing the work permit program in this country. If an immigrant has a legitimate job in this country and has not committed any serious crimes, he should be allowed to have a work permit and should be allowed to stay in this country as long as he has a job. If he quits or is fired from his job, he then would have a certain number of months to obtain a job. At that point, he would then be in this country illegally and would be subject to deportation.

### **What should the U.S. do in Afghanistan?**

We should withdraw our troops as soon as possible from Afghanistan. I would have them all home by Christmas 2010. All of our objectives have been achieved in Afghanistan, including a new regime, although this regime is not free of corruption. Afghanistan has had eight years of stability due to protection by our military, and this is as many years as we give our own president. I do not see why our soldiers should fight and die for anymore than eight years for their leaders. It is time that we withdraw all of our troops from this area. The problem with al-Qaida is a police problem, not a military problem.

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

Bailouts were discussed above under banking industry. I am opposed to any further bailouts. Bailouts reward the greedy and irresponsible, whereas having these corporations go into bankruptcy would result in disciplining these people rather than rewarding them.

### **What are your top priorities in the state?**

Increase jobs throughout the state. This could be done by 1.) Decreasing middle class tax rates. People earning up to \$200,000 should have a decrease in their income taxes. President Obama campaigned on this, and it is time that we actually carry it out. This stimulates the economy, creates jobs and increases revenue to all government entities. This was done in the 1960s and 1980s and it resulted in more jobs, decreased unemployment and increased revenue to the federal government; 2.) We should increase exports throughout the world, and in Illinois this means mainly farm products, but other products also should be exported more to create more jobs throughout Illinois; 3.) The present health care bills also create more jobs. They shore up jobs in the health care industry that already exist and create new jobs over the next 10 years.

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

We should reduce the budget deficit over a period of four years. The budget should be balanced at the end of four years. I am for a balanced budget amendment. After four years, we should begin to pay down our debt. We should balance the budget by decreasing our troops throughout the entire world, including Europe, Asia and the Mideast, drastically decreasing defense spending, and decreasing non-humanitarian foreign aid. Federal salaries, fringe benefits and retirement benefits also should be reduced.

### **What distinguishes you from the other candidates in this primary?**

I am much older and more mature than the other candidates. I am a physician, a father of four and a Vietnam veteran. I am the only veteran in the race, and I am very interested in veteran issues and foreign policy issues. It is time that we change our foreign policy to a more noninterventional, neutral approach throughout the world. We should withdraw from NATO and from all of the rest of the world and allow the rest of the world to solve their own problems. I am much more conservative on several issues than the other candidates, and this includes funding of abortion, gay marriage, taxation, balancing the budget, gun owner rights and concealed carry laws, and cap and trade legislation. I have been endorsed by National Taxpayers United of Illinois and I have pledged to vote against all tax increases if I am elected to the U.S. Senate.