

RedState Candidate Survey

**Tom Rooney (R-FL)
Congressional Candidate (FL-16)**

1. Please state your position on Abortion Policy, and explain why you hold it.

I am Pro-Life. As a former Constitutional Law Professor at the United States Military Academy at West Point (2002-2004), I believe the 14th Amendment of the Constitution was too liberally interpreted in Roe v. Wade. Life is an enumerated right under the Constitution.

2. Please state your position on Iraq and the War on Terror, and explain why you hold it.

We will return our troops from Iraq in victory. That is, under General Petraeus' leadership, the Coalition and Iraqi forces will be able to stabilize the country enough for the Iraqi government to establish itself sooner rather than later. Our troops have done an outstanding job. As a former Captain on active duty in the U.S. Army from 2000-2004, I served with, and taught many soldiers, who are either currently serving or have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. I commend them for keeping America safe since the attacks of 9/11.

The Global War on Terror will only be won if the enemy understands they cannot achieve their goals. Any strategy employed to defeat the enemy in this war must include an overwhelming force. Accordingly, I support increasing the size of the Army by at least two Combat Divisions. Part of the strategy in this struggle should also include a re-examination of the Rules of Engagement in insurgency warfare and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. As a signatory of the Geneva Convention and a country based on the Rule of Law, I do not believe the United States should stoop to the level of the terrorist. However, there is enough room for consideration of "adjusting fire" when faced with a non-conventional enemy.

3. Please state your position on National Security, and explain why you hold it.

As a former state and federal prosecutor, I believe without security, there is no freedom. At every level, the government's preeminent responsibility is to protect its citizenry. At the federal level, improving our intelligence capability, securing the borders, curbing gang organization, and reauthorizing the FISA legislation are all examples of what can be done in the short term to keep Americans safe and free.

4. Please state your position on Tax Policy, and explain why you hold it.

Low taxes allow for more freedom. I signed the Americans for Tax Reform Taxpayer Protection Pledge on 3/15/07. The more taxation and regulation the government imposes, the less free markets can thrive. Reauthorizing the Bush tax cuts is essential to help small businesses and families keep more money in their pockets. A simplified tax code would also help people avoid the complexities of the IRS.

5. Please state your position on Immigration Policy, and explain why you hold it.

We are a country based on the Rule of Law. Ignoring our laws only encourages more illegal behavior. Additionally, we jeopardize the foundations of the Republic. Only when the existing laws are enforced can we then entertain some kind of worker program. Amnesty (or probation) is not an option in my opinion because it makes a mockery of the thousands of immigrants who enter this country legally each year. Guest workers should get no preferential treatment in obtaining their citizenship.

6. Please state your position on Health Care Policy, and explain why you hold it.

Under the current system, there needs at least to be serious medical malpractice reform to defeat defensive medical practices. Also, we should allow small business to pool their resources in Associate Health Plans to provide adequate, affordable, and competitive health care options. Moving forward, I would support legislation that allows individuals to buy tax deductible health care plans nationwide rather than through the government or employers.

7. Please state your position on Pork and Earmark Reform, and explain why you hold it.

I signed the Citizens Against Government Waste Earmark Reform Pledge on 3/21/08 because I believe Congress has a responsibility to act in a responsible, efficient manner. In doing so, I support more transparency and accountability in government spending. As Congressman, my charge is to represent the people of the 16th District of Florida, not special interests. My Democratic opponent has made a practice of promising millions of dollars in pork at a time where the focus should be on balancing the budget.

8. Please state your position on Same-Sex Marriage, and explain why you hold it.

I am against same sex marriage. I believe marriage should be reserved for a man and a woman.

9. Please state your position on the Environment and Energy Policy, and explain why you hold it.

We must be good stewards of the environment for the benefit of future generations. We must also provide them a sound energy policy that not only explores alternative forms of energy but also continues safe domestic exploration of our natural resources. We should also expand and improve our use of Nuclear Energy. Collectively, this policy will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and ultimately help drive down costs.

10. Please state your position on Federalism, and explain why you hold it.

I believe the Constitution as written espouses federalism. Local governments are more qualified to handle issues like education and local law enforcement. The Congress should concentrate on those powers specifically provided for under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. I believe the Commerce Clause should be more strictly interpreted by the courts.