

# OCCUPY THE CANDIDATES

UNAPPROVED DRAFT ONLY Revision 0.2 -- Ray Lutz

STATUS: NOT APPROVED. THIS DOCUMENT HAS TOO MANY QUESTIONS AND NEEDS TO BE REDUCED IN LENGTH. Current length is 43 questions. Target should be about 20 questions. (but this is up for discussion too.)

The Occupy Wall Street movement has made great progress in exposing many issues concerning the economic and social injustice that exists in this country. The movement is designed to work outside the existing political system, with the acknowledgment that the system itself is hopelessly broken. Yet, that system continues to operate, and without any input from the Occupy Wall Street movement, it will continue to elect candidates who are clearly in the pockets of mega corporations that are the evil puppetmasters of our recent economic meltdown and architects of the inequitable wealth distribution that exists.

Many Occupy sites have agreed to avoid direct endorsement of candidates and maintain political autonomy. With that in place, the occupy movement can still rate candidates based on their positions on issues of interest to that movement, and thus to suggest to voters who will be the lesser of evils to elect. Subjecting the candidates to questionnaires about these issues also educates them on what is important to the many supporters of the Occupy movement.

Let there be no mistake. Voting for candidates is almost worthless. Any successful candidates will have been through a “pay to play” campaign financing system based on legalized bribery, subjecting all candidates to the same corrupting influences, and thus all candidates are beholden to those sources of money rather than to the public. But voting is not entirely worthless, particularly in local nonpartisan races that do not require such large sums of money and are concerned with local issues.

Therefore, these questionnaires are put before you, the candidate, so we can learn your positions on issues that we believe are of critical concern in our country.

## ***Part 1: Money in Politics; Election Policy***

Core to the problems that exist is the massive amount of money involved in nearly every political campaign, particularly now that the Citizens United Supreme Court ruling has started to allow unlimited spending by corporations as long as it is not directly coordinated by the candidate.

This is a critical issue because if this is not solved, then other fixes are temporary at best, because candidates will still be subjected to big monied interests and will then undo any other corrections over time.

<b>1.1</b>	<b>Publicly Financed Elections.</b> Do you support a change from unlimited private spending on elections to publicly financed elections for viable candidates?	<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Free Media.</b> The major media outlets use the public airwaves for radio and television for almost nothing, but then require that candidates pay a king's ransom to get on those airwaves. Do you support free time on radio and television for viable candidates?	<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose

1.3	<b>Mandatory Debates.</b> Today, debates are rare and instead the public is forced to make their decisions based on 30-second soundbites and attack ads. Do you support mandatory debates for all races, carried on broadcast media in the applicable district?	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
1.4	<b>Reverse Citizen's United Ruling.</b> The Supreme Court ruling on the Citizen's United case has opened the floodgates for corporate money influencing elections with no upper bound on spending. The basis for this terrible ruling is a) the concept of "Corporate Personhood," that is, the concept that corporations have the same rights as natural persons, including First Amendment freedom of speech rights, and b) that spending money is protected speech. Do you support a constitutional amendment to firmly establish that money is not speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights?	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
1.5	<b>Avoidance of Corporate PAC Funds.</b> Do you reject all funds from corporate PACs in your campaign?	[ ] Yes [ ] No
1.6	<b>Shorter Campaign Period.</b> Elections have become not much more than a media scam, with the massive amounts of money going into the pockets of the media moguls. The campaigns are longer and frequently consist of a contrived horserace to keep the public interested while wringing as much money as possible from the campaigns. Do you support a shorter campaigning period of perhaps three months for each election instead of several years, as they do now?	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
1.7	<b>Ban anonymous political influence.</b> All contributors to campaigns, if public financing is not enacted, must be disclosed clearly and completely. Eliminate money laundering PACs and require direct funding by contributors.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
1.8	<b>Clamp down on Lobbyists.</b> The number of lobbyists in Washington D.C. far exceeds the number of legislators by a significant factor. They have far more access to our representatives than other members of the public, and must be severely curtailed.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
1.9	<b>Instant Registration.</b> The voter registration system has been contrived to limit participation in our elections as much as possible, and results in voter roll purges, etc. to reduce the number of people who can vote. Do you support instant voter registration on the day of the election?	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose

## **Part 2: Tame the Financial Sector**

The financial industry was largely at fault for the creation of the recession of 2008. Over the years, the industry has systematically pushed for less and less regulation, allowing banks to become gamblers on wall street.

2.1	<b>Stop Banker Speculation.</b> Reinststitute the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933, originally enacted to limit commercial bank securities activities and affiliations between commercial banks and securities firms. Unfortunately, this act was repealed in 1999, but its provisions were largely gutted over the years by	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
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	constant erosion of its provisions. Specifically, sections 20 and 32 would be reenacted, which prohibits commercial banks from engaging in “the issue, flotation, underwriting, public sale, or distribution” of securities, and prohibits commercial banks from “having an officer or director in common with a company engaged primarily in the business of purchasing, selling, or negotiating securities.”	
2.2	<b>Regulate Derivatives.</b> Although the derivatives market has been cited for involvement in the recent economic meltdown, they remain today largely unregulated. Do you support tighter regulation of these financial instruments, bringing these trades into the open market and bring them under the oversight of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission?	<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
2.3	<b>Abolish or Severely Reduce the Authority of the Federal Reserve Bank.</b> The Federal Reserve Bank is a private bank and not a governmental agency, yet the custom is to have the federal government borrow, with interest, for any and all funds it uses. The Federal Reserve Banking System is not “Federal,” has no “Reserves” and is not a “system.” They are actually a privately owned central bank with no reserves. They create money and then loan it to our government, thus creating an endless cycle of national debt. Do you support: > Abolishing or severely reducing the authority of the Federal Reserve Bank > Pay off the current US debt with debt-free U.S. Notes without interest to be paid to the Federal Reserve. > Abolish Fractional Reserve Banking > Repeal the “Federal Reserve Act of 1913” and the “National Banking Act of 1864” and hand the power to create money back to the Dept. of the Treasury > Withdraw the U.S. from the IMF, the BIS and the World Bank.	<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
2.4	<b>Break up "Too big to fail" corporations.</b> Any corporation that is "too big to fail" is no longer subject to their own errors and mistakes and must be reduced in size so they can be allowed to fail and thereby avoid any future bailouts. Do you support legislation to identify such firms and then within a year, reorganize them into smaller entities that are no longer so large that they cannot be allowed to naturally fail?	<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
2.5	<b>Wall Street Transaction Fees.</b> The typical security today is held for only 11 seconds, subject to rapid trading by computers that can make a fraction of a cent on millions of trades and thereby squeeze money from the system, but also add to the volatility of the markets, allowing them to swing wildly from one minute to the next. Adding a small transaction fee can put a damper on these swings and also raise needed revenue for operation of our government. Do you support the imposition of a transaction fee on trades in U.S. markets?	<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
2.6	<b>Treat Capital Gains as Income.</b> Money that is made by investing and doing no work is taxed at a lower rate than money that is earned by workers using their own labor. The justification for this difference is that taxing such investments will discourage investors from investing. However, there is no evidence that this is indeed true. Do you support erasing the special treatment of capital gains and treating this as income to be taxed at the same rate as a worker earning their money from their own labor?	<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
2.7	<b>Free Electronic Currency.</b> Do you support a government-issued debit card	<input type="checkbox"/> Support

	with no transaction fees whatsoever, since by our constitution, our government has the sole authority to "coin money"?	[ ] Oppose
<b>2.8</b>	<b>Eliminate Offshore Tax Havens.</b> Do you support the elimination of laws that allow offshore tax havens, and do you support a minimum tax on corporations that do business in the U.S. but have their headquarters in other countries?	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose

### **Part 3: Tame the War Machine**

Currently, 60% of discretionary budget is spent on wars and the "military industrial complex." We have two wars ongoing which are providing little if any value, yet are costing us some \$40 billion a week or more, and impacting the military forces in terms of fatalities, injuries, PTSD, etc. plus hundreds of bases world wide.

<b>3.1</b>	<b>Take the Profit out of War.</b> War is an unfortunate reality sometimes but our recent scuffles are more about a profit motive than keeping our country safe. Do you support the elimination, as much as practicable, of the profit motive from the Military Industrial Complex? Changes should include: > Companies that get war contracts, particularly if those companies operate in-theater, must be nonprofit and strictly regulated. > Any company that receives more than 50% of its revenue from the government or from companies that receive greater than 50% of their revenue from the government, must be nonprofit, not traded on wall street, and must not contribute to candidates or campaigns.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
<b>3.2</b>	<b>End the Wars.</b> Immediately pull out from the wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
<b>3.3</b>	<b>End the use of Private Mercenary Contractors.</b> The use of profit-based military contractors must be stopped because they have a conflict of interest, in that they will earn more money if animosity is increased.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose

### **Part 4. Sustainable Energy Development; Environmental Protection**

Coupled with the prior section, we need to address the creation of a new sustainable energy infrastructure. Companies that are redirected from the war machine to use their resources for sustainable energy development.

<b>4.1</b>	<b>Increase Investment into Sustainable Energy Development.</b> Invest heavily in renewable energy infrastructure to stop buying expensive foreign energy, put people to work, and save billions on power we currently buy from other places but could be generating for free. We have plenty to do, and it is just a matter of realizing that the govt must invest in this category in a similar way that it would invest in a war.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Value Based Economy.</b> All energy infrastructure projects add value, and should be paid without corresponding debt.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose

4.3	<b>Systematically decommission nuclear reactors.</b> Nuclear energy is not renewable, is not "green", generates far too much deadly waste, and is far too dangerous to be continued. No further nuclear licenses should be granted all all nuclear power stations should be systematically decommissioned. Money normally spent on nuclear energy can be turned to the renewable energy infrastructure development which provides three jobs for every one in the nuclear sector.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
4.4	<b>Increase Regulatory Power of the Environmental Protection Agency.</b> Empower the EPA and other environmental regulators, to shut down corporations, businesses, and any other entities that intentionally or recklessly damage the environment and criminally prosecute those in charge. No corporate veil should protect any employee, officer, or director who is directly or indirectly engaged in the reckless decimation of the planet for profit.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
4.5	<b>Cap and Trade.</b> Do you support the market-based approach to reducing the amount of pollution being emitted by polluters normally referred to as "cap and trade"?	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
4.6	<b>Ban Deep Water Drilling.</b> As exemplified by the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico with he Deep Water Horizon in 2010, it is clear that profit-based corporations will cut corners and compromise safety for the sake of quick profits. Therefore, all deep water oil drilling should be banned off the coast of the United States, and in other places by companies that sell their products in the U.S. Market.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
4.7	<b>Re-establish Environments.</b> Do you support reestablishing wetlands and the natural flow of river systems?	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
4.8	<b>Net Metering.</b> Do you support unlimited "Net Metering", i.e. the payment to energy producers when they produce more energy than they use? For example, if a homeowner has rooftop solar, and generates more than enough energy for his annual use, then the utility will pay the homeowner for the excess energy produced. (Note: State Assembly Bill AB2514 will eliminate net metering and must be stopped.)	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose

## **Part 5. Social Justice**

5.1	<b>Safety Net.</b> Provide an adequate safety net for seniors and workers who have fallen out of favor by our capitalistic system. Reverse attempts to gut both social security and medicare. Eliminate the income cap for payments to social security.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
5.2	<b>End Capital Punishment.</b> Capital punishment is expensive and irreversible, and should not be a course of action for a civilized nation.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
5.3	<b>Single-Payer Healthcare.</b> The recently approved health reform act	[ ] Support

	"Obamacare" was largely a giveaway to the for-profit health insurance industry. Move to single-payer health insurance (medicare for all) and impose outcome-based compensation for care providers.	[ ] Oppose
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Legalize all cannabis products.</b> We spend far too much time and effort in our failed war against marijuana. All cannabis products, including industrial hemp and recreational cannabis products should be made legal, placed in the open market, and allow vendors to settle their differences in court rather than using the point of the gun. Release prisoners who were guilty of prior "war on drugs" failed regulations.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
<b>5.5</b>	<b>Break up Media Empires.</b> Turn back the clock on the scale of ownership of stations and outlets by mega corporate media empires.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
<b>5.6</b>	<b>Reduce Unsafe Abortions.</b> No one likes the idea of abortions due to unwanted pregnancies. Therefore, to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies and therefore abortions, free and/or low cost contraceptives must be available, along with comprehensive family planning resources. Countries (like in Europe) that offer safe and legal abortions have lower abortion rates than countries (like those in Africa) where abortions are generally illegal. Therefore, it is important that abortions remain legal and woman can have the choice of a safe, legal abortion rather than an unsafe or self-inflicted abortion.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
<b>5.7</b>	<b>Free College Education.</b> In Mexico, anyone who can successfully attend college gets that education for free, paid for through gasoline taxes. Our students are more than \$1 trillion in debt from education loans and have fewer employment prospects due to the financial collapse directly caused by the unbridled and unregulated greed of Wall Street. Ensuring a higher education, particularly in the fields of science, engineering, technology, green energy and mathematics, is no longer a luxury for the few and must now be viewed as a national security issue.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
<b>5.8</b>	<b>Reduce Interest on Student Loans.</b> Banks receive virtually interest free loans from the Federal Reserve Bank and then charge upwards of 6% interest to our students for profit. Because education is the only way to ensure our future success as a nation, interest on student debts must be immediately reduced to 2% or less and repayments deferred for periods of unemployment. Employers should receive a student loan repayment tax deduction for paying off the loans of their employees. Outright grants should be provided to those students who pursue and obtain degrees in the sciences, green energy, mathematics, technology and engineering.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
<b>5.9</b>	<b>Immigration reform with a path to citizenship.</b> It is rarely understood that there is no legal path to citizenship, and therefore illegal immigration is rampant. Although immigration has decreased in recent years, we still do not have a legal path to citizenship that anyone can follow to immigrate to this country. This must be fixed.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
<b>5.10</b>	<b>No Internet Censorship.</b> The Internet and its related technologies foster free	[ ] Support

	speech, innovation, and a global human consciousness. It is the only source of information not controlled by a small group of corporations that own all other media outlets. We believe that the Internet and its related technologies are the joint property of humanity, and as such, it must not be censored or regulated in any manner without the consent of the people who utilize and contribute to its vitality.	[ ] Oppose
<b>5.11</b>	<b>End Expansion of the Prison Industrial Complex.</b> As with the military industrial complex, the profit motive must not exist in the operations of prisons or we will be inundated with an overwhelming prisoner population, like what we have today.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
<b>5.12</b>	<b>Maximum Income.</b> There is no need for people to become bazillionaires. The wealth of any person must not exceed a maximal value, or if it exceeds that value, then be taxed at 100%. No one should need to make more than \$1 million per year, when research states that happiness does not increase for incomes greater than \$65K per years.	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose

## 6. Local Issues: San Diego

Candidates who are running for offices in the San Diego area, such as San Diego City Council and Mayor of the City of San Diego, should answer the following questions:

<b>6.1</b>	<b>Amend the Encroachment Law.</b> San Diego Municipal code 54.0110 was originally written to stop permanent encroachment by structures onto city property, and was originally envisioned to stop dumpster enclosures from being built in alleyways. More recently, the law as been applied for any object set on city property, including placing a tomato plant on the ground, sitting at a table to register voters, or letting a protest sign touch the ground. Interestingly enough, doing similar actions on private property in public-accessible areas has specific exemptions for lawful picketing and peaceful political activities. Do you support amending SDMC 54.0110 to include the same explicit exemptions that exist for private property?	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Support of Occupations as a form of Speech.</b> The first amendment of our constitution states that <i>Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.</i> Do you agree that the recent "Occupy Wall Street" encampments around the country and the world were a form of speech, and free assembly, and therefore should have been allowed to persist?	[ ] Support [ ] Oppose
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Arrests to Stifle First Amendment Rights.</b> The City of San Diego arrested many of the Occupy San Diego protestors without having sufficient basis for those arrests, and in over 80% of the cases, no charges were filed, but a threat remained that such filing could occur during the next year. Do you commit to	

	investigating this behavior and putting a stop to this form of abridgment of the public's freedom to assemble and speak?	
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