

Q&A

Lavar Christensen (R)

2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



The following survey has been edited due to space constraints. For the complete survey, go to www.deseretnews.com and click on the election link in the left-hand column.

1. National security/winning the war on terror:

I will not support retreat in the war against terror and abandoning Iraq's fragile new democracy.

2. Whether the Democrats in Washington will gain majority control of Congress:

When we consider the war, the need for new oil development and refineries in our country, taxes, the economy and the important moral issues of our time, the national Democrat agenda is not the direction Utah wants to go.

2. Would you, over the next two years in office, ever vote for a tax increase?

No. We do not tax too little in this country – we spend too much. Government is always tempted to guarantee the income it desires by taking more from the people in higher taxes. However, as a conservative Republican, I believe that lower taxes and less government build a strong economy.

3. Before the United States invaded Iraq, did you favor or oppose the U.S. taking new military action in the country?

I supported then and I support now the action taken to liberate Iraq.

4. In your opinion, what should the United States now do in the Iraqi war?

Finish the job and be victorious. Complete the liberation of the Iraqi people and achieve our stated mission of "Enduring Iraqi Freedom." Equip and protect our troops and support the new freely elected government in Iraq.

5. Should Democrats take control of the U.S. House after the November elections, predict three things that will happen over the next two years because of power shift.

- Abandonment of Iraq and the surrender of that vital region and all that we have worked for.
- High gas prices and dangerous dependence on foreign oil.
- Declining moral standards – the Democrats in Washington support same-sex marriage and other changes in our society, which weaken our moral heritage.

6. Considering that the U.S. budget will be in deficit again, do you favor or oppose making the current tax cuts permanent?

Much of the deficit comes from government trying to . . . fund everything when what they do is far beyond the intent of our Constitution. I absolutely favor making the tax cuts permanent. The Democrats want and are waiting anxiously for those tax cuts to expire in 2010.

7. Please give your specific stands on the following issues, which some term as moral issues:

- **Stem cell research.** I support President Bush's veto of the stem cell research legislation. Any desired medical and research benefits can be accomplished within existing approved lines without total disregard of the sanctity of procreation.
- **Cloning of human cells.** The same applies to human cloning.
- **Abortion.** I strongly oppose abortion. It is only justified to save the mother's life and in cases of incest and forcible rape.
- **Capital punishment.** I support capital punishment in those extreme cases where justice demands as set forth in our laws.
- **Same sex marriage.** I oppose same-sex marriage. I support the federal Defense of

Marriage Act and the proposed federal marriage amendment that parallels ours, which I sponsored as a member of the 2004 Utah Legislature.

8. Specifically say how you would "solve" the immigration problem in the short and long term.

We must secure the borders and stop the flow of illegal immigrants. We must also address the hopeless backlog of applications for legal entry and citizenship. Employers must respect the law, and local law, enforcement must have full authority to enforce federal immigration laws.

9. What is the one area where you see a real difference between you and your major party opponent?

The incumbent wants the Democrats in Washington to have majority control of Congress. I do not. It does not put Utah first to make Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco speaker of the House and set in motion a dangerous shift in the direction of our country.

Responses to questions from Democratic candidate Jim Matheson:

1. Should the state of Utah enter into a federal milk marketing order?

This is a complex issue and is still unfolding. I will work with the Utah dairy industry, Farm Bureau and Utah consumers to make sure all concerns are fully and fairly addressed. This includes greater freedom in the process to present amendments to any proposed order before action is taken.

2. Should all pension plan sponsors have the same amortization period for unfunded pension liabilities?

When pension systems are established and promised to employees, they must be fairly and honestly funded and administered. I support the reforms in the Pension Reform Act and the relief extended to the airlines.

Also, among the greatest threats to retaining lifetime earnings is the hated death tax. The Republicans want to repeal that tax, but the Democrats in Washington do not.