

Q & A

Stephen Lee Olsen (D)
1ST 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. In general, what are the two major issues facing the United States and your specific House district today, and how would you address them?

The greatest long-term threat America faces is not terrorism or any external threat but the looming fiscal crisis. If we do nothing about our addiction to foreign oil, we will be fighting a war in the Middle East again 15 years from now – but this time fighting the Chinese for the last drop of oil out of the sand.

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

Deficit spending is a tax, and it is dishonest for Republicans to claim taxes have been cut when we have had massive increases in the grandchild tax. We must do what Congress and the president did in the mid-1990s: make the tough choices on spending cuts and revenue increases to balance the budget.

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

I supported President Bush getting tough with Saddam sufficient to contain him. The instability in the region, the intense hatred toward America in the Muslim world, the belliger-

ence of Iran, and the weakening of the world coalition against terrorism are all outcomes of the Iraq war.

4. In your opinion, what should the U.S. now do in the Iraq war?

We should continue to support the government of Iraq long term. But it's now time for Iraqis to take over the direct role of patrolling their streets and defending their country, and time for the Iraqi government to make the hard compromises to ensure peace between the different ethnic groups.

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 the power shift.

Congress will take steps to break the stranglehold of powerful special interest lobbyists on Capitol Hill. A real plan, rather than one using fantasy math, will be developed to balance the budget and deal with the looming fiscal crisis. Congress will force the administration to refocus America's war on terror.

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

It would be nice to be able to eliminate the estate tax and have lower rates on capital gains, but the Republican Congress has dug such a deep hole with their reckless borrow-and-spend policies the last six years that this is probably not feasible.

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

– **Stem cell research.** I am in favor of federal funding of research on embryonic stem cells as long as it is tightly regulated and only uses excess embryos from fertility clinics that would be destroyed anyway (basically the same position as Sen. Hatch).

– **Cloning of human cells.** I am strongly opposed to any experimentation with cloning of human cells.

– **Abortion.** My views are identical with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I have stated in my campaign that I believe a miracle would occur if Americans worked to-

gether to solve the root cause of abortions – unwanted pregnancies. This would not only stop almost all abortions but solve a host of other problems in society.

– **Capital punishment.** I support capital punishment in rare circumstances. The states should collaborate to come up with better guidelines of when it should be administered.

– **Same-sex marriage.** The civil rights of all Americans must be protected – but I oppose changing the traditional legal definition of marriage to accomplish that important goal.

8. Specifically say how you would "solve" the immigration problem in the short and long term, what programs would you begin, what would you do with the current 11 million estimated illegal immigrants now in the United States?

I favor the comprehensive, bipartisan approach developed by the Western Governors' Association (www.westgov.org).

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

I will reach out to anyone, on both sides of the aisle, to find solutions to America's problems.

Responses to questions from Republican candidate Rob Bishop:

1. If elected, would you vote for Nancy Pelosi for speaker of the House? Why or why not?

First, I will examine the nominees for speaker and vote for the person who best represents our Utah values. Whichever Democrat becomes speaker can count on me being a maverick that stands for Utah values first.

2. What do you mean when you say on your Web site that "society does need a method of providing legal protection for consenting adults who want to create nontraditional living arrangements"?

Allow adults who live together but are ineligible to marry in Utah, such as a grandmother and her granddaughter, or a pair of widows, to sign a contract legally establishing their relationship and granting such things as hospital visitation rights and survivor's rights to property.