

Jonathan Garrard – Constitution Party candidate for Utah’s 2nd Congressional District

With the national debt at over \$16 trillion, and no budget passed for the last three years, how do you propose bringing spending under control?

First and Foremost, we need to remove the automatic inflation of government budgets, which simply put means that last years budget will not get an automatic increase just because of the new budget year.

Second, the Federal Government has usurped many powers from other areas of Government beyond their Constitutional scope. . This includes States and Counties, etc., as well as Families and Individuals. We need to give the powers back that are beyond the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. This will drastically reduce the cost of operating the Federal Government.

Third, we need to return to the Constitution standard found in Article I, Section 8, Clause 5. This grants only to Congress the power “To coin Money [and] regulate the Value thereof”. It is unlawful for this to be delegated to any other group. This will work in conjunction with the first item, since a return to sound money will reduce inflation. To help facilitate this, these items need to be addressed:

- Return to the money system set forth in the Constitution;
- Repeal the Federal Reserve Act, and reform the current Federal Reserve banks to become clearing houses only; and
- Prohibit fractional reserve banking.

How do you propose to stimulate job growth in Utah and the nation?

When we follow the Constitution, we find that the role of Federal Government is clear and defined. As we return to the model found in the Constitution, we will have our Freedom returned to us as well as it being protected from the usurpation of it by the Government. This allows the Free Market to begin to function like it did in the early years of our Nation. It was the cause of the greatest prosperity known to the modern world. When we return to this system, we will find more entrepreneurs creating products, services, and jobs. As we remove the constricting tax policies currently in place, individuals can utilize those funds to expand the free market system. As we remove the jurisdiction of Federal government concerning natural resources, and place that right within the appropriate State or County, etc. we will allow Utah’s economy to grow according to the desire of the local citizens. As the tariff system is reincorporated into our Nation, the manufacturing and production sectors in our Nation will be able to compete with those outside of our Nation. This will cause these sectors to grow in our economy. The people employed by these sectors will now receive U.S. compensation and benefits, which will allow them to benefit the service sector. It’s a winning solution for our economy, across the whole nation.

The issue of public lands is a sensitive one in southern Utah. Do you support HB 148 and its language telling the federal government to transfer control of public lands to the state? Yes or No, and why?

I support the intention HB 148, which is to return to the State or People, lands which were never authorized for the Federal Government to administer. Within the bill, the dispersion of funds acquired by operating these lands still favors the Federal Government. 95% of revenue generated from these lands still goes to the Federal Government. The Constitution Party calls for a return to the states and to the people all lands which are held by the federal government without authorization by the Constitution. I would like to see a return to the state of the public lands, instead of just the return of the control.

On matters of foreign policy, facets of the public have both supported and decried military action in other nations, particularly the Middle East. Did you support military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan, and do you believe Iran to be a threat to the national security of the United States?

The United States is properly a free and sovereign republic which should strive to live in peace with all nations, without interfering in their internal affairs, and without permitting their interference in ours. The Constitution is clear that American Troops must serve under American Commanders, not those of the United Nations or other Countries. I am for following the Constitution in declaring war, by calling upon Congress to vote on this. I do not know all the classified information presented to our current Representatives, however I do feel strongly that a vote needs to happen by Congress concerning our recent military actions. With what has been presented to the Citizens of the U.S., I do not believe it warrants involvement in the Middle East.

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