

Pirate's Presidential Campaign In-Class Debate

Instructions:

- You should dress appropriately and look presentable and serious!
- You may research information to answer all of these questions and bring whatever notes you would like to the podium.
- These are not the only questions you may be asked. Make sure you are familiar with your information you should not be reading straight from a piece of paper.

Please give an opening statement. (30 seconds) – Introduce yourself and explain why you want to be elected as President of the United States of America.

Good afternoon, my name is Christina Mandato and I am running to be your President. If I am elected, my administration and I plan to serve the people of the United States in the best way possible. Decisions regarding our foreign affairs, economy, and education will be strategically thought out in order to choose the best and most effective solution. By making small budget cuts, we can save millions of dollars that could be put towards getting our country out of debt. Also, one of our main priorities is to keep Americans both home and overseas safe when it comes to our foreign affairs. To conclude, by eliminating standardized testing, our students will be less stressed and will focus more on preparing for their future. If I am elected to be your President, I will be dedicated to make our country a stronger and safer nation.

Economy

Q: In 2001, our National Defense Budget was \$280 billion dollars. After the attacks on September 11th, we have seen our defense budget continue to grow. Our National Defense budget is currently over \$623 billion dollars. Do you plan to increase, decrease or maintain this budget? Make sure to explain your reasoning.

We have decided that it is in our country's best interest to maintain the National Defense budget because in recent years there have been more terror attacks, not as drastic as 9/11, but still pretty damaging to our country. Our national defense budget is the highest out of all of the discretionary spending topics because safety is our government's number one priority. Not only with this budget are we protecting our people, but we are creating jobs. The Department of Defense is the nation's largest employer with over 1.4 million men and women on active duty, 718,000 civilian personnel, and another 1.1 million who serve in the National Guard and Reserve forces. If we were to cut the budget of the National Defense we wouldn't only be putting our safety in jeopardy, but peoples jobs and paychecks. A part of this budget also goes towards health insurance and life insurance for military personnel. Additionally there are benefits given to those deployed in the military, as well as their family back home. This money the families receive help pay for housing and other bills. It would be a bad idea to cut from this budget because husbands, wives, and significant others back home rely on this check to provide for their family, since mostly likely they spend their days at home with taking care of their kids. These are just some of the reasons why we have decided to keep the budget of the National Defense the same because it does a lot more than just keep our country safe, it helps the people who are out there in the world fighting for our country as well.

Q: What programs (you must identify **SPECIFIC** programs) do you intend to cut from our National Budget to decrease our deficit? Explain.

To decrease our deficit, our National Budget need to cut programs, while others need to decrease their spending. My administration has discussed to decrease the budget for HIV research and place that money into our cancer research. Also, we have settled on cutting \$1 billion from the total International Affairs budget and another \$5 billion from the Community and Regional Development budgets. The Border and Transportation Security also needs to decrease by \$3 billion. The borders that we share with Canada are not as much as a threat to the borders that we share with Mexico. According to forbes.com, more than 31 million American visited Mexico in 2016. The State Department data showed that there were reports of 75 American homicide victims there. Murder, armed robbery, carjacking, kidnapping, extortion, and sexual assault are some of the things are common on our Mexican border. Former President Barack Obama and current President Donald Trump both stated that they wanted to cut the Impact Aid Support Payments for Federal Property, who has a current budget of \$67 million. This program reimbursed revenues from tax-exempt federal properties in their districts. To go further, many of the programs in our government are duplicates of bigger programs. These programs include the Minority Business Development Agency who has a budget of \$32 million and the Office of Education who has a budget of \$115 million. Many of our programs are dedicated to research grants and programs. Some of these programs include the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy, which is an alternative energy research program who has a budget of \$382 million and the National Endowment for the Arts, which only encourages participation in the arts with a budget of \$152 million. We believe that is would the best decision to decrease their spending because if we resolve our debt, we can focus

more on new technology. The money that we end up cutting from certain programs would be spent towards things that are a necessity to our country at this time. We need this money to resolve our national debt.

Foreign Policy

Q. Many of the campaign teams have addressed that they would intervene in foreign affairs if the United States was threatened. What is your definition of a threat and how would you respond accordingly? A dictionary definition of a threat is a statement of an intention to inflict pain, injury, damage, or other hostile action on someone in retribution for something done or not done. If the United States was threatened, we would only intervene if it was completely necessary. For example, North Korea has threatened us a numerous amount of times with nuclear weapons. This would be considered a threat because, if we were to be attacked, there would be serious damage and grief. As citizens, this is a horrific thing to think about. As a nation, we should feel united, but at this moment in time, that is not the case. If I was elected, I would work with my team to come up with a plan to ease tensions with North Korea. We would try to amend relationships, but Kim Jong Un cannot be fully trusted. Also, I believe that terrorist group ISIS is a huge threat to the United States. Since the 9/11 attacks, security measures have become stricter. Terrorist groups like ISIS need to be stopped before another catastrophe occurs. We do know that stopping these groups will be hard, but we will do everything in our power to put an end to our war on terrorism.

Q. On January 2, 2018, President Trump tweeted the following: "North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un just stated that the "Nuclear Button is on his desk at all times." Will someone from his depleted and food starved regime please inform him that I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!" Do you believe a statement like this from the President of the United States is a sign of strength or is it damaging to the safety and security of the United States? Explain. We believe that a statement like this from President Trump is damaging to the safety and security of the United States since we do not have the best relationship with North Korea and their leader this might increase tensions between our two countries. Since the North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is unpredictable he might feel that in order to get President Trump to stop saying such things he should launch nuclear weapons at the United States. If elected as President I would never say something that could put our country into potential danger. The safety and security of our country and its citizens is our number one priority and I will be willing to take the necessary precautions in order to keep everyone safe. Additionally, I would like to take steps towards building a new, strong, and most importantly trustful relationship between our country and North Korea. By doing this we would be able to start including North Korea in some world affairs once we can establish a relationship with specific boundaries.

Q. For many Americans, foreign affairs are not a topic they are knowledgeable. Do you believe that awareness of foreign policy issues is important for Americans? Why or why not? How do you plan to increase American engagement in foreign policy issues? Explain.

It is true, for many Americans, foreign affairs are not a topic they have any knowledge in. We do believe awareness of foreign policy issues is important for Americans. Our plan to increase engagement in our current policies is to create classes in our high schools so that younger generations would be educated in what is happening around them. If we asked any teenager today, they wouldn't know what is going on with North Korea, ISIS, or any other topic. They only will pay attention to the things that are on their phones or tv screens. Children should be educated and have background knowledge on each of our foreign affairs.

Q: President Trump is frequently accused of not acting "Presidential." Define what it means to be President of the United States? How do you believe the President should conduct himself? Explain with specific examples. I strongly believe that President Trump should really refrain from using all social media. By using these social media networks, twitter for example, it shows him in a less professional light. What if Trump happens to tweet something that could potentially put us in a dangerous situation? As Americans, we are already living in constant fear because of our war on terrorism. We shouldn't have to worry about our President saying the wrong thing on social media. For example, on January 2nd 2018 President Donald Trump tweeted something that regarded Kim Jong Un. The tweet was "North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un just stated that the 'Nuclear Button is on his desk at all times.' Will someone from his depleted and food starved regime please inform him that I too have a Nuclear Button, but is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my button works!". By stating this on social media, he could potentially put in harm's way. I believe that if you're President of the United States or any country for that matter, social media should not be permitted. By not using these networks, it would create a more professional image of the President and the country overall.

Education

Q. New York state recently passed the Excelsior Scholarship. Under this program 940,000 families in New York

making under \$125,000 a year will have the opportunity for free college tuition at a state university. Does your campaign team support the Excelsior Scholarship? Explain why or why not. Our campaign team supports the Excelsior Scholarship. This program, along with other student financial aid programs, allows students to attend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition-free. To apply for this scholarship, you must be a resident of New York State, be a U.S. citizen, have a combined federal adjusted gross income of \$110,000 or less, be in a non-default status on a student loan made under New York State or federal education loan programs or on the repayment of any New York State award, and more. According to the New York Times, the state anticipated that 23,000 people would benefit from this program, sharing \$87 million in funding. Instead, 75,000 people applied. This meant that the program that was specifically designed to help make higher education more affordable and accessible, roughly two-thirds of those applied would not get help. With the money that we would from other unnecessary programs, we could put some of the money towards more funding for this program.

Q. American public schools are in many ways more economically and racially divided than ever before with radically different performance outcomes. How do we ensure that all of America's students have access to quality education. Be specific.

American public schools are very economically and racially divided with performance outcomes. To ensure that all of America's students have the access to quality education, we have to figure out how to keep kids motivated and focus on what schools are doing to keep their kids intrigued. Many kids dropout of school due to too many missed days of school, pregnancy, being arrested, behavioral issues, failing grades over a long period of time, and working to support members of their family. Our school system does not offer enough resources. We plan to create programs that will help these students to still receive an education. These programs will have our general education classes and classes to help prepare these students for their future. For example, one program we would create would be a college seminar. High school students would have the chance to get help regarding their college essay, applications, activity sheet, etc. Also, our schools should offer more classes that the students enjoy and classes that will help them in their future. We should allow our students to have more responsibility and more freedom when picking their classes. Our education system is very different. Some parts of the United States have excellent outcomes and they are preparing their students in so many ways, while other parts are struggling to educate their kids. We have to find a solution to this. We have to start by making sure all of our kids are safe. Then we have to build on the classroom aspects. We have to make sure our curriculum is comprehensible for all students and that our teachers are performing. Teacher evaluations would not be scheduled visits. If they are scheduled, they will know to be on their "best behavior." If it was unexpected, the teacher would show their real personality. The American public schools are economically and racially divided with their performance outcomes. We need to fix this.

Q: How does your campaign team plan to make America's schools safer and more secure? Be specific with your plan

My campaign team and I plan to increase security in our schools. We must teach and train our teachers how to react in case of an emergency. They must know when to alert authorities and how to keep all students out of harm's way in case of an emergency. We also believe that we should attempt to get security cameras that will link to the local law enforcements so they can watch the hallways and outside the schools just in case of any suspicious behavior. Each school should also have at least one or two main entrances, would have 1 or 2 security guards at all times. If there were to be a lockdown, the school should be reporting it immediately to parents and any kid who may be coming to back to the building so they know to stay away. Each doors should be alarmed and if a door is being left open for a long period of time there should be an alarm that goes off to the security guards. Our schools should also perform more lockdown drills, some known and some a surprise so it is realistic. Along with new security measures, our schools should have an environment where the students are not afraid to come talk to a teacher or report something to an authority. Kids know what is expected of them, but they must know it is okay to report anything they see. We should also be there for students. If we see a kid going through a rough patch we should talk to them and make sure they are okay and not going to harm others or themselves. We would be more open to any ideas the students and teachers may have. With their input, we could create an environment that would benefit everyone at these schools. The amount of school shootings in this past year have made children afraid to step into their school building. Our administration plans to make schools a safer place to be in.

Conclusion Questions:

Q. Throughout this project you have participated in a variety of activities from research to presentations. You have improved your knowledge of content and have improved a variety of skills that you will need for your future. What is the thing that you have learned the most from this project? This project has opened my eyes to so much. I feel enlightened and more cautious. The amount of terrorist attacks and mass school shootings happening so much recently has made me

upset. Talking about these topics really stood out to me because violent acts such as these should not be happening. The amount of innocent children, staff and bystanders losing their lives to careless acts of pure evil is completely unacceptable. The fact that we all live in fear each day has become a major issue and needs to change. During this project I learned about these tragic events such as the many school shootings and acts of terror. 9/11 was a huge topic discussed in my class. I learned about it all in more depth giving me a greater understanding of what happened. It makes me sick to think about the many people who lost their lives due to Al Qaeda. Going to the museum was such a fantastic opportunity. In the museum I felt a handful of emotions. It made me feel angry, and sad but also a bit inspired. I was inspired by the courageous firemen, police officers, and innocent men and women who lost their lives or gave up their live to save others. Their bravery inspired me to be a better person and it made me realize how we shouldn't take life for granted. This entire project helped me to become a more knowledgeable and better person overall.