

**SOME QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION
BY CANDIDATES AND CONCERNED VOTERS**

1. Beyond what are commonly referred to as “family values,” what principal moral values and concerns would you bring to the broader spectrum of public policy debate?
2. How might we insure that “faith-based initiatives” to provide some social services will be employed in a constructive and constitutional way, without undermining vital programs that need public financial support?
3. Recognizing that science has to do with empirical investigation of process rather than inference as to the ultimate origin of life, what is your position on the teaching in public school science departments of “intelligent design” as opposed to, or as an alternative to, or along with the scientific theory of evolution?
4. What changes should be made in the Social Security system to insure that, at the very least, future benefits will not fall below their present level (adjusted for future economic conditions)?
5. What should be done to extend adequate medical insurance to those millions of people, including a million Virginians, who now lack this basic requirement for health maintenance?
6. How should recent tax cuts be reformed: (1) to redress the fact that the chief beneficiaries of the cuts are the nation’s wealthiest families, and (2) to overcome the huge deficits that have resulted from these cuts and from the immense costs of our military operations?
7. What policy changes and initiatives are needed to address effectively the fact that so great a number of our citizens live below the official poverty level?
8. In what ways might more good, affordable housing be made available to low-income families and persons transitioning from welfare to work?
9. In what kinds of situations is military power an appropriate means to achieve the democratic and humanitarian ends that we profess? To what extent should non-belligerent means be pursued instead of or prior to any military option?
10. Under what possible circumstances might our government be justified in not telling us the truth, or the full truth, about government policies or actions?
11. Under what circumstances would patriotism or other moral commitments require us not to support government policies or actions?

12. What is your position regarding the proposed amendment to the Virginia Constitution banning same-sex marriage and civil unions intended to secure benefits approximating those of marriage?

13. In view of such pressing concerns as the inevitable depletion of fossil fuel resources in coming decades and the continuing likelihood of devastating tropical storms, what revisions of national priorities and initiatives now seem essential?