

Public Office Questionnaire

Candidate: Chris Wood

Office: Co. Assessor

1. Why do you want this office?

With 23 years experience as an employee and now Assessor it is my duty to bring accountability and Uniformity to this office. With much work my staff and I have not only worked hard on that front but we have also brought credibility to the office.

I'm asking for your support to keep up the good fight.

2. Is one of your goals to decrease spending as State and Fed Gov are in DEBT? If so how?

As a private citizen I have contacted our State and Federal representatives.

3. What do you think about Gov Regulations? Do you think, when taking money from Gov, gives them the right to invade your freedom?

I honestly believe that if when you take any assistance on a State level, ie welfare, you are accountable. If the Federal Government bails out business and then rewrites the rules---NO!!!

4. If you need to reduce spending or employees where would you start?

The Assessor's office is not staffed or funded at this time to follow State mandates now. In the last budget year we lost the Chief Appraiser position and see no possible increase in funding in for the following year.

5. How would you make your policy and expenditures known to the public?

It is all available now due to Public Disclosure.

6. As an elected official how would you address the public with concerns on changes in the budget, or changes that effect the needs of the public?

As the Assessor using uniformity to follow State Statutes and making public any changes to State programs.

7. As you work with other in committee, is it easy for you to handle disagreements? If so what is your approach?

On a local level there are no committee appointments. In past experience, always keep an open mind and listen to both sides. That way compromises can be made and both sides are made to feel whole.

8. How would you stand your ground on issues when outnumbered?

Always stand your ground.. Outnumbered is not the issue.

9. What is your opinion on States Rights? For or Against?

For: The Constitution explains States Rights. Always remember and follow the Constitution.

10. How does it work for counties today?

As an Elected Official on a County level you must always follow State Statutes.

Public Office Questionnaire
Candidate: Evan Southwick
Office: Co. Assessor

1. Why do you want this office?

I have held the position of the Asotin County Deputy Assessor. This position provided me the insight and knowledge it takes to effectively run the office. I have the knowledge it will take to effectively resolve the issues that are currently plaguing the Assessor's office.

I have a tremendous amount of current Assessment Experience and Education. I have completed many Assessment specific courses through the Washington State Department of Revenue. My current education and knowledge is extremely significant in order to improve office efficiency and accountability.

I am a standout when it comes to Professional Leadership. The Assessor's office has many challenges that need to be addressed. I will work diligently to bring the Assessor's office into the 21st century and back to full working capacity without incurring additional costs.

I believe the government has enough figureheads. We the citizens of Asotin County need an Assessor willing to put in a full days work. I pledge to be a full time working Assessor serving the public in the highest capacity.

If you would like to learn more about me please visit - voteSouthwick.com

2. Is one of your goals to decrease spending as State and FED Gov are in debt? If so, HOW?

Yes, the budget for the Assessor's office has been cut back. An appraiser position within the office has also been eliminated. This being said, I will be able to utilize my direct knowledge of the Assessment office and property appraisals to enhance output and meet State standards. I will promote reduced spending through streamlined efficiencies.

3. What do you think about Gov Regulations? Do you think, when taking money from Gov, gives them the right to invade your freedoms?

We need to encourage Government accountability to keep our freedoms. I don't believe accepting government money should give them the right to invade our freedoms.

4. If you need to reduce spending or employees where would you start?

I would start by prioritizing Assessment Office needs and wants. Eliminate the wants first and reduce the needs in order of priority.

5. How would you make your policy and expenditures known to the public?

I will make the Assessor's office budget available to the public through the Assessment office website. This would include policy and expenditures.

6. As an elected official how would you address the public with concerns on changes in the budget, or changes that affect the needs of the public?

As an elected official, I believe it's very important to keep the public informed about changes. I will address concerns through the use of public notice.

7. As you work with others in committee, is it easy for you to handle disagreements? If so what is your approach?

Through experience, I have found that open and honest communication is the key to resolving disagreements.

8. How would you stand your ground on issues when outnumbered?

I believe in being educated on the issues at hand. I would make certain that I provide the most current and credible information related to the issue. I would stand firm on my fact findings.

9. What is your opinion on States Rights? For or Against?

I am concerned! I believe we must save State Rights to ensure our Freedoms. Our best hope is the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which says: The states are entitled to all rights not specifically delegated to the federal government.

Public Office Questionnaire
Candidate: Leah Springer
Office: Court Clerk

1. Why do you want this office?

I enjoyed working in this office as a Deputy Court Clerk. I was able to combine my experience in law enforcement with my clerical skills to become an efficient deputy clerk. I know that my ability to multi-task and adapt to continuing changes will make me a productive county clerk.

2. Is one of your goals to decrease spending? If so, HOW?

The Clerk's office has very little in its budget. This office has already adapted to spending very little.

3. As Fed Gov leans more into local Politics, how will your office handle Fed Regulations?

No matter what party preference an individual may be, it has no affect on running the Clerk's Office. All of the Clerk's Offices throughout Washington State follow the same rules and regulations.

4. How would you make your policy and expenditures known to the public?

Again, there is little spending in the Clerk's Office, and that information is available by visiting the Asotin County Website.

5. As an elected official how would you address the public with concerns on changes in the budget, or changes that affect the needs of the public?

If and when there are changes that affect the needs of the public, I will notify through any local media and make myself available to answer any of the public's questions.

6. As you work with others in committee, is it easy for you to handle disagreements?

Yes

7. How would you stand your ground on issues when outnumbered?

Researching an issue and providing facts for the individuals that disagree would power me to stand my ground when outnumbered.

8. What is your opinion on States Rights? For or Against?

For - Our founding fathers set up a government that gave the states the right to govern themselves.

9. How do States Rights work for Us Today?

The 10th amendment of the US Constitution gives residents of each state the right to govern themselves according to their morals and beliefs.

Public Office Questionnaire

Candidate: Alice White

Office: Cty. Comm

1. I want this office for the following reasons:
 - a. To be a voice for all citizens
 - b. To bring fiscal responsibility back to County government
 - c. To have more public input before ordinance or laws are put on the books which adversely affect everyone.
 - d. to reduce sale tax and work to keep taxes low
2. One of my goals is to decrease spending here in our County by assessing each program and expenditure for excessive costs. Look for ways to do more with less. It can be accomplished.
3. I believe that government regulations are too restrictive. Money from the government comes with strings. Grants are only viable for a short period of time then recipients must come up with funds to continue whatever program the grants were to help. This cycle brings about debt.
4. The first place I would look to reduce spending would be the expenditure sheet. Follow agencies and/or program to evaluate if they are still filling a need or could private enterprise do the job. If cuts could not be made in the expenditure column and the program is viable I would then look at the employee ration to work that is needed to accomplished the purpose of the program/agency.
5. I intend to be a full time working commissioner. I will not hold any other job and will have set hours at the Court house. Doing this will allow me to be out in the community meeting with groups/individuals who have question regarding the running of the County. I will hold more public meetings at times conducive with work schedule of the public. My home phone, address and e-mail address with not be changed. The number where I may be reached at the court house will also be made known.

6. If elected as Commissioner for the 3rd District I will listen to each and every concern the public may have. Commissioners do not have all answers. There are a lot of good practical ideas which our citizens have which can enhance the running of county Government. I will never vote on any issue without full disclosure of its intent and community feedback.
7. When working with others in our committee it may not always be easy to handle disagreements, but I will be civil and listen to other sides of issues. Being able to articulate my point of view in a calm and precise manner I believe all conversations can be open and civil.
8. When others disagree with me on issue I will stand firm for what I truly believe. Being outnumbered does not mean my stand is incorrect or should not be heard.

I am for States rights and they must be protected. The 10th Amendment of the Constitution has it correct. Powers not delegated to the United State by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Alice White

Public Office Questionnaire

Candidate: Jim Jeffords

Office: Cty. Comm

1. Why do you want this office?

I would like to serve as a County Commissioner so I can use my skills and abilities I've either been blessed with or have learned and acquired over the years to make a positive impact in Asotin County.

2. Is one of your goals to decrease spending as State and FED Gov are in DEBT? If so, HOW?

I want to be as efficient as possible in working with the county budget and use the tax payer's money wisely. Yes, the State and Federal governments are in the red. My goal is to work within the constraints of the budget and be a good steward with the limited resources we have. I am fiscally conservative.

3. What do you think about Gov Regulations? Do you think, when taking money from Gov, gives them the right to invade your freedoms?

Government regulations are a reality and have to be dealt with when accepting monies from the Federal or State governments. Do I like this (including the invasive strings that are attached?)... no not really. Unfortunately this is what we have to work with at this point in time.

4. If you need to reduce spending or employees where would you start?

Good question. If reductions are needed, do you reduce services or reduce employees providing those services? The needs of the county must be evaluated before any reductions occur, because in

both cases services are ultimately reduced. Perhaps the question should be... How do we get better at doing more with less?

5. How would you make your policy and expenditures known to the public?

Use the public notice and meeting format already in place through Asotin County. Also post the Commissions policy decisions, budget preparation and finalization on the county website for access by the citizens and other interested parties.

6. As an elected official how would you address the public with concerns on changes in the budget, or changes that affect the needs of the public?

Commissioners must listen to the citizens and use their input in the decision making process. Any changes made to an adopted budget or changes affecting needs (services) must be done in a straight forward manner.

7. As you work with others in committee, is it easy for you to handle disagreements? If so what is your approach?

Yes... I can handle disagreements; obviously that's a part of life. My approach is to present ideas or the reasoning for what I'm advocating. I also want to hear other points of view as well. In some cases we may have to be respectful and agree to disagree.

8. How would you stand your ground on issues when outnumbered?

If I am absolutely confident in my position, standing my ground is not difficult... regardless of the numbers. It is very important to keep the issues fact based and recognize the emotion that at times can come to the surface when people are passionate over their concern or concerns.

9. What is your opinion on States Rights? For or Against?

I believe in and support the 10th Amendment to the Constitution.

Public Office Questionnaire
Candidate: Darla McKay
Office: Co. Auditor

1. Why do you want this office?

For the past five years I have been working and training in all the various facets of the Auditor's Office. I have helped many couples get their Marriage Licenses, maybe I helped you with the renewal of your car tabs, or I might have helped you register to vote. I want to be Auditor so I can keep doing the job that I love and I have been trained for, and so I keep working with the Citizens of Asotin County, where I have been a life long resident.

2. Is one of your goals to decrease spending? If so, how?

At the present time I can't see anything more that can be cut in the spending in the Auditor's Office. The current Auditor has a very tight budget set, but if we see that changes need to be made in the future, they can be addressed. The biggest item in our budget is Salaries, and we are one of the lowest paid Counties in the region.

3. As Fed Gov leans more into local Politics, how will your office handle Fed Regulations?

The office currently does and will follow all laws and regulations that pertain.

4. How would you make your policy and expenditures known to the public?

They currently are available to the public and will continue to be.

5. As an elected official how would you address the public with concerns on changes in the budget, or changes that affect the needs of the public?

We will address them as they arise.

6. As you work with others in committee, is it easy for you to handle dis- agreements?

There are going to be disagreements when working with others, but you must work as team to get a resolution. I am a good team player, but will stand up for what I think is right.

7. How would you stand your ground on issues when outnumbered?

I don't have any problems standing my ground no matter how outnumbered I am, when I am passionate about something, but will concede for the good of the County.

8. What is your opinion on States Rights? For or Against?

I am for States Rights; it is my opinion that the Federal Government is too involved in State Government affairs.

9. How do States Rights work for us today?

In my opinion currently they aren't working the way they should be.

Asotin Co Sheriff Questionnaire Current Sherriff Ken Bancroft elected in 2006

1. Property Tax Liens are attached to properties. Do you think doing so without a court judgment of process of law is good practice?

A Washington State sheriff does not enforce tax liens on property. If law is in place allowing the county treasurer or county auditor to assess such a lien then the applicable county elected official should be able to impose such liens for the purpose stated by law. If checks and balances are not written into the law allowing liens then the people should approach the legislature to enact such checks and balances.

2. From viewing Americas' past experience with FEMA, do you think it is a good idea to have a local Emergency Team in place?

Asotin County has an Emergency Manager working at the county level. He works closely with the Sheriff and County Commissioners in his capacity. So, we do have a local Emergency Team in place already.

3. What is your position on the Sheriff First ACT introduced by Rep. Matt Shea and circulated as initiative I-1061? (This can be seen on thelcteaparty.com web page click on "blog.")

All law enforcement, regardless of the level, needs to keep the other agencies apprised of their involvement within the county. Investigations, by nature, are sensitive in that when too many people are involved the chance for information leaks increase. When this happens the suspect is often allowed to escape arrest if such is warranted. Advising local agencies prior to an arrest and soliciting their participation is a normal operational practice which allows the applicable local law enforcement agency to be aware of the activity within its jurisdiction. Because the Sheriff does not enforce federal law it is best that the federal agencies make the Sheriff aware of the investigation before arrests are made within the county.

4. How would you consider an order to disarm Citizens in Asotin Co. if ordered to by the FED Government?

Only if the Second Amendment of the Constitution was repealed and if the Washington State Constitution and state laws directed such a disarming. The Sheriff is bound to support and defend both the United States Constitution and the Washington State Constitution.

5. Do you think there is merit to STATES RIGHTS?

States rights already exist. In many ways Washington State law is more restrictive than federal law as is the Washington State Constitution. With our form of government we direct our legislative bodies as to how they should vote on issues. If they vote contrary to our wishes then we can vote them out of office to get a person in place that will follow the will of the people.

6. Your reason for wanting this position?

I believe strongly in the Constitution and laws of our country and state. I served in the U. S. Navy for 22 years to preserve our way of life. I have been in law enforcement from the time I retired from the military to present. I stand for equal and impartial enforcement of the law and strive to that end. I believe my background and experience has stood the citizens of Asotin County well for the past 4 years with me as the Sheriff of Asotin County. The citizens of Asotin County can count on professional and impartial law enforcement with my remaining in office. The Sheriff's office will continue to grow professionally under my guidance.

7. Do you think the State of WASH or Asotin Co, should harbor Illegal immigrants?

No.

8. Under the Constitution, the separation of Powers is very clear. Why is the Commerce Clause important in States Sovereignty?

I don't have an answer for that. Sorry.

Asotin Co Sheriff Questionnaire

Candidate: John Hilderbrand

1. Property Tax Liens are attached to properties. Do you think doing so without a court judgment of process of law is good practice?

A) It is the practice that is in place at the present time. A lien is a guarantee of payment on non-paid property taxes to the county if the property is sold before the taxes are paid. There must be a court action from a sitting judge before the county can act on the lien, then it becomes the duty of the sheriff to enforce the court's order. The sheriff's office is only collecting a debt owed to the county at the time of enforcing the court's order.

2. From viewing Americas' past experience with FEMA, do you think it is a good idea to have a local Emergency Team in place?

A) Yes, with that being said, this is where cooperation between all agencies valley wide, would be beneficial. We are already first line responders as FEMA still takes time to mobilize. Here we can provide a vital service to the citizens with inter-agency cooperation until the federal government steps in with additional resources and funding. Through my experience with the fire department, I am well versed in the implementation of the incident command system and unified command system. This is something that is usually lacking from the law enforcement community. The county needs to work hand in hand with all local agencies to be able to provide the best service possible should an event occur.

3. What is your position on the Sheriff First ACT introduced by Rep. Matt Shea and circulated as initiative I-1061? (This can be seen on thelcteparty.com web page click on BLOG.)

A) It would be well received from my position. This would open the lines of communication between the federal government and the local sheriff's department. It would be a good idea to have the outside agencies notify the sheriff's office of their presence and intentions. I believe we need to have more cooperation between local, county, state and federal agencies

to accomplish our goals of protecting the people of Asotin County and the rest of the nation.

4. How would you consider an order to disarm Citizens in Asotin Co. if ordered to by the FED Government?

A) I do not feel this will ever happen as the Constitution is clear on the right to bear arms. Should such an order be given by the federal government, it would be dismissed as an illegal order unless the constitution is ammended.

5. Do you think there is merit to STATES RIGHTS?

A) I do. There is a balance of power between the federal government and the states. The Constitution outlines what powers are to be given to the federal government. It allows the States and the people within those States to have the freedom to provide rules and conduct business within it's borders. It is because of this freedom the sheriff's department exists. The state government defines and gives authority to the sheriff. It is outlined in the RCW's. The state defines the scope and the duties..... I would hope there is merit in it!

6. Your reason for wanting this position?

A) I have 29 years of experience, and I feel I can lead the department in a positive direction. I want to work closely with other agencies, the commissioners and the citizens to produce an efficient, and productive department. I will implement a proactive approach within the organization and instill confidence back into the sheriff's department by listening to the complaints of the citizens. I am qualified for this position and committed to this community. I have volunteered 14 years of service through the fire department and raised my family here. I want to see Asotin County stay safe where other people can work, raise families and recreate.

7. Do you think the State of WASH or Asotin Co, should harbor Illegal immigrants?

A) No. There are legal ways to gain entry into the U.S. as well as Washington and Asotin County. The people that enter illegally make it harder for the people to enter the county legally. Illegal immigrants also put a strain on the local economy. This includes health and welfare as well as competing for local jobs. The word illegal makes it a violation of law. Laws are passed and it falls upon the sheriff's office to enforce, despite personal opinion.

8. Under the Constitution, the separation of Powers is very clear.
Why is the Commerce Clause important in States Sovereignty?

A) The founding fathers of the Constitution wanted the federal government to have limited powers with all other powers going to the States and it's people. The Commerce Clause is important because it lists what powers the federal government will have (i.e., power to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the various states).

Asotin Prosecuting Atty. Questionnaire Current Prosecutor Benjamin Nichols

1. Property Tax Liens are attached to properties. Do you think doing so without a court judgment of process of law is good practice?

As Prosecuting Attorney for Asotin County I have been involved in property tax lien actions. I believe that the current system used by our county is appropriate and allows due process to all concerned. Any effort to change the system and "short-cut" the property owner's rights would have to be watched closely.

2. From viewing America's past experience with FEMA, do you think it is a good idea to have a local Emergency Team in place?

I am a great believer in local control and local solutions for our problems. I know that Asotin County has many people and agencies that are regularly called upon in times of emergency. I support them and would be sorely disappointed to lose these resources in favor of state or federal programs without local input.

3. What is your position on the Sheriff First ACT introduced by Rep. Matt Shea and circulated as initiative I-1061? (This can be seen on thelcteparty.com web page click on "Blog.")

I have carefully reviewed the Sheriff First Act proposed by Representative Shea. I am afraid that, while I can see his concerns I am not certain that this is the solution.

4. How would you consider an order to disarm Citizens in Asotin Co. if ordered to by the FED Government?

As Prosecuting Attorney for Asotin County I am charged with enforcing state and local law. I do not have the authority (nor the desire) to enforce federal law. Should an order issue from the federal government to disarm citizens, without some state or local law requiring the same, I would not be called upon to enforce it.

5. Do you think there is merit to state's rights?

In my mind, the genius of our Constitutional form of government lies in its ability to separate power and balance competing interests. Just as our

system of checks and balances between the three branches of the federal government is absolutely necessary to maintain our country so is the recognition that the States and the individual citizens have rights and powers that cannot be assumed by the central government.

6. Your reason for wanting this position?

I have been honored to serve the residents of Asotin County for the past 16-years, first in the capacity of Deputy Prosecutor and then as Prosecuting Attorney. I have 17-years of courtroom experience and one of the highest conviction rates in the State of Washington. I have successfully prosecuted cases from high profile murder cases to oddly obscure cases.

I have worked diligently to hire and retain accomplished and professional support staff for the Asotin County Prosecutor's Office. I have sought and obtained grant funding and state funding to improve the quality of service to Asotin County with no additional cost to the residents. The Asotin County Prosecutor's Office is open to the public and as long as I remain in office, the citizens of Asotin County have had and will continue to have direct access to their prosecutor.

I have a strong working relationship with local and state law enforcement agencies. I am endorsed by law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys and civil practice attorneys in the area and across the state.

I live in Asotin County with my family and I am dedicated to the protection of our community. I do not take charging decisions lightly and always consider the balance of what is fair, ethical and financially feasible to the citizens, the victims and the defendants.

I would be honored to continue serving the residents of Asotin County.

7. Do you think the State of WASH or Asotin Co, should harbor Illegal immigrants?

I believe that the federal government should be responsible for setting and enforcing immigration policies and laws. When someone breaks the law in Asotin County it is my job to prosecute them without regard to their immigration status. If this means sending criminals to prison, deporting them, or both, that is what I have always done and will continue to do as long as I hold the job.

8. Under the Constitution, the separation of Powers is very clear.
Why is the Commerce Clause important in States Sovereignty?

I am aware of past excesses committed in the name of the federal government's power to create law under the authority of the Commerce Clause. I realize that the federal government has a duty and a place in the regulation of interstate commerce, but this should not be used as device to push the States or the individuals out of their respective roles in the field.

Asotin Prosecuting Atty. Questionnaire
Candidate: Richard Laws

1. Property Tax Liens are attached to properties. Do you think doing so without a court judgment of process of law is good practice?

A lien is not a judgment and doesn't serve to take property from anyone; it's a notice of claim that serves to tell the outside world that the lienholder claims a legal or financial interest in something. Executing on the lien, on the other hand, requires due process, which is at the very least notice and an opportunity to be heard. But the lien itself is a protection not only for the lienholder, but for prospective third party buyers who could otherwise wind up paying for something without knowing there's an outstanding debt attached.

2. From viewing Americas' past experience with FEMA, do you think it is a good idea to have a local Emergency Team in place?

I think a comprehensive disaster response plan, designed to get available city, county, and state resources into place quickly, is vital for the safety of our county's residents. Whether that response plan should include a designated emergency team, and how such a team would be organized and directed, are questions I will defer to the experts, the men and women who put their lives on the line to protect and rescue our residents.

3. What is your position on the Sheriff First ACT introduced by Rep. Matt Shea and circulated as initiative I-1061? (This can be seen on thelcteparty.com web page click on blog.)

I have concerns about this initiative. I understand there is a specific terrorism exception, but I also think this could have the unintended consequence of hampering federal law enforcement's ability to investigate corruption, illegal immigration, human trafficking, organized crime, and drug

smuggling. I would also need to know how this would impact local sheriff's offices in terms of paperwork and procedural hurdles. I think I understand the intent of the initiative, but if it takes away from county sheriffs' abilities to perform their job functions while simultaneously making it more difficult for federal authorities to investigate crime, I don't think I could support it.

4. How would you consider an order to disarm Citizens in Asotin Co. if ordered to by the FED Government?

I would consider that an illegal order contravening the Second Amendment. I would join any concerted effort of county prosecutors to resist the order, and I would urge our State Attorney General to take immediate action in a federal court to have the order set aside.

5. Do you think there is merit to States Rights?

The Tenth Amendment to the US Constitution guarantees that the powers not granted to the federal government are reserved to the state. That's one of the founding tenets of our federalist system of limited government, so it's not my opinion, it's an unalterable fact: the federal government should do its thing and leave the states to do theirs.

Our state government must be constantly diligent that the federal government does not infringe on the states' sovereignty. Federal funds to the states come with strings attached, and we must carefully scrutinize the consequences of accepting those funds, even if it means saying "no thank you" when the price is a diminishment of our authority.

6. Your reason for wanting this position?

I am running to restore competence, professionalism, and responsibility to the prosecutor's office. I am disheartened by the lack of demonstrated leadership and poor management of the resources in the prosecutor's office. This has been the case for far too long. The current prosecutor allows frivolous cases to advance to trial, which is poor stewardship of taxpayer money, and unfair to local constituents who must alter their schedules to sit on these farcical trials.

I am passionate about the Constitution and firmly believe that the rights enumerated are not discretionary. I have seen too many instances where our prosecutor and his deputies have casually disregarded the rights of defendants and citizens alike. This attitude is unacceptable and in violation of his oath as an attorney and as an elected prosecutor. I will not make this mistake, and neither will my staff.

I want to make the prosecutor's office work for the people, to ensure our safety and security, not waste money.

7. Do you think the State of WASH or Asotin Co, should harbor Illegal immigrants?

Absolutely not. If I am elected, illegal immigrants arrested or otherwise discovered within Asotin County will be held to account for any crimes they may have committed in our jurisdiction, then turned over to federal immigration authorities.

8. Under the Constitution, the separation of Powers is very clear. Why is the Commerce Clause important in States Sovereignty?

Congress' enumerated power over the regulation of interstate commerce granted by Article I, section 8 of the US Constitution has been the engine that drives much federal legislation. Over time, that power has been held to give Congress very broad authority to enact laws when the subject

matter touches even tangentially upon interstate commerce. And sometimes federal legislation comes into conflict with the laws a state may desire to put in place within its own borders. When that happens, the Supremacy Clause in Article VI says that federal laws trump those of a state.

There are some government regulations that are necessary to maintain our infrastructure, ensure uniform safety requirements in the workplace, and the manufacturing and distribution of products. If those requirements interfere with interstate commerce, the individual state governments may bring lawsuits to change the impact of the federal law.

Can the government set reasonable conditions on how you spend the money it gives you? Yes, whether you're an individual or a county office or a state government. States and localities have to abide by federal rule when accepting federal money. That is a decision that needs to be made anytime we take money from anyone – what strings are attached? Not all money is worth the cost.

Personally, I am not willing to give up my right to privacy, to bear arms, to free speech or any other fundamental right in order to get a free ride from the federal government. I think it is better to turn down a handout than risk losing even a small portion of my constitutionally protected freedoms.