

# U.S. SENATE

## JACK CONWAY

**Party:** Democrat

**Born:** July 5, 1969

**Residence:** Louisville

**Occupation:** Kentucky attorney general

**Web site:** Jackconway.org



## RAND PAUL

**Party:** Republican

**Born:** Jan. 7, 1963

**Residence:** Bowling Green

**Occupation:** Eye surgeon

**Web site:** Randpaul2010.com



# THE ISSUES

CANDIDATES WERE ASKED TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION IN 45 WORDS OR FEWER

Taxpayers suffer when government wastes money on special-interest giveaways. I will oppose earmarks for special interests. Unlike Rand Paul, I will fight for resources to create jobs and protect Kentucky families and make sure we receive our fair share.

I will support Kentucky's priorities in the context of a balanced budget and the regular committee process. I do not think earmarks should be slipped into bills at the last minute and without consideration of the merits of the projects.

### EARMARKS

**Will you place "earmarks" for specific projects in the federal budget? Why or why not?**

Abortion should be as rare as possible but safe and legal. I support a woman's right to make her own health choices in consultation with her family, doctor and religious advisor. I oppose partial-birth abortion and support parental notification laws.

I am 100 percent pro-life and oppose all abortions.

### ABORTION

**In what instances do you think abortion should be legal?**

Immigration reform must be tough, fair and practical — starting with stronger borders. As A.G., I know the federal government ignored these responsibilities. Illegal immigrants must go to the back of the line and pay fines and taxes. Rand Paul's answer is an underground electric fence.

First, our borders must be secured. An open border not only allows the free flow of illegal immigrants and drugs into the United States, but it also poses a national security threat. Illegal immigrants caught in the United States must be deported.

### IMMIGRATION

**Do you favor removing illegal immigrants from the United States? If so, how would you do it?**

No. My opponent's ugly opposition to fundamental provisions of the 1964 Civil Rights Act — prohibiting discrimination by private businesses — has no place in our society. He thinks Social Security, Medicare, the Civil Rights Act, ADA and minimum wage are unconstitutional. He is wrong.

Discrimination is wrong, and I do not think private businesses, individuals or the government should discriminate.

### CIVIL RIGHTS

**Should private businesses be allowed to refuse service to minorities?**

I support Defense Secretary Robert Gates' suggested cuts to reduce DOD waste. We should listen to the Pentagon when it says spending, such as for the "Business Transformation Agency," is wasted. Rand Paul's budget would endanger national security, hacking military spending by \$287 billion.

I would close unnecessary overseas bases and return troops stationed there to bases like Fort Knox and Fort Campbell in the United States.

### DEFENSE

**Name one specific cut you would make to the Department of Defense budget.**

No. Social Security is fully solvent through 2037. Medicare state anti-fraud units could save \$100 billion. I'll work with both parties on the programs' long-term solvency, but not on seniors' backs. Rand Paul's \$2,000 Medicare deductible isn't an option for Kentucky seniors. He's wrong.

I oppose cuts in Social Security and Medicare benefits for seniors and those nearing retirement. Changes to restore the solvency of these programs must only apply to younger workers who have time to prepare. The alternative is a system that takes care of no one.

### ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS

**To keep Social Security and Medicare solvent, would you raise payroll taxes, reduce benefits or increase the required retirement age?**

My first bill will empower Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices, saving taxpayers \$200 billion. I will promote Medicare fraud units in each state to reduce costs while maintaining benefits. Rand Paul believes Kentucky seniors should pay a \$2,000 Medicare deductible. He's wrong.

Repeal Obamacare and start over with market-based reforms that increase consumer choice and competition, and reduce government mandates and takeovers. As a doctor I have had firsthand experience with the vast problems facing health care in America and will bring that experience to the debate.

### HEALTH CARE

**Name one change you will propose to improve health care in the United States.**

Government must live within its means. My proposals would cut \$430 billion of debt. Hard decisions must be made now, while a constitutional amendment would take years. My opponent would slash the average Social Security checks by \$400 and create a \$2,000 Medicare deductible.

Yes, I will introduce a bill to add a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and force politicians to balance the budget by law, like we have to do in Kentucky.

### BALANCED BUDGET

**Would you support or oppose an amendment that requires a balanced federal budget?**

One-third of the stimulus successfully went to middle-class tax cuts. One-third kept police, firefighters and teachers on the job. The remaining money should've been used on shovel-ready infrastructure projects. The administration failed to focus on this important job-creation tool.

The stimulus was a failure. We still have 10 percent unemployment, record debt and deficits, and Washington is still spending at unprecedented levels. Government does not create jobs, and we need to get government out of the way so businesses can create jobs.

### ECONOMY

**Was the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, commonly called the stimulus plan, a success or a failure?**

Smart use of federal resources in local schools builds our new scientists, entrepreneurs and leaders. Title I helps ensure all children receive an education and a shot at success in life. Rand Paul will eliminate the Education Department, Pell grants and low-interest college loans.

We need more local control over education, not more Washington control. We need to keep more money in Kentucky rather than sending it to Washington to only get some of it back. I will support Kentucky's needs in the context of a balanced budget.

### EDUCATION

**Should the federal government continue funding programs under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, which is designed to improve academic achievement of the disadvantaged?**

We must mine coal responsibly but not let EPA or other bureaucrats create new laws. This is Congress's job. Congress must fulfill its duty, study the impact of this action and instruct the agencies what steps to take on nationwide permits.

I oppose all of President Obama's anti-coal policies. The Obama administration's change to this rule in June penalizes Kentucky coal and puts our mines at a disadvantage to western coal mines. This rule should be reinstated to protect Kentucky coal jobs.

### COAL

**Should the Army Corps of Engineers' Nationwide Permit 21 rule, which allows coal mines to make minor impacts on streams and watersheds without the heavier scrutiny of an individual permit, be reinstated?**

The agriculture safety net saves farmers from sometimes dire conditions in weather, market prices and input costs. My opponent favors eliminating the USDA and the farm bill, 75 percent of which goes to nutritional programs for 500,000 low-income Kentucky children. Rand Paul's wrong for Kentucky.

I support Kentucky's farmers and want them to do what they do best — farm. I will evaluate each program within the context of a balanced budget and compliance with our trade agreements, while keeping the needs of Kentucky's farmers in mind.

### AGRICULTURE

**Should direct subsidy payments to farmers, which were envisioned to be temporary under the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act, continue indefinitely? If not, when should they end?**

Support. As attorney general during the largest drug bust in Kentucky history and a supporter of Operation UNITE, I favor attacking illegal drug sales. Rand Paul opposes federal resources for Operation UNITE and drug enforcement because he thinks drugs are not "a real pressing issue."

As a father of three teenage boys and a physician, I understand and share the concerns about the drug problem in the commonwealth. I believe we need to encourage more local and non-governmental solutions to drug abuse.

### DRUG ABUSE

**Do you support or oppose spending federal funds to establish a nationwide system to track prescriptions for controlled substances, such as OxyContin?**

I will always support our brave troops — regardless of the operation — and call for a clear mission and quick coming. Eliminating terrorists in Afghanistan will make the U.S. safer. But victory requires a strong Afghani government and regional cooperation.

We were justified in going into Afghanistan after 9/11. Now that we have been there for nearly a decade, Afghanistan need to bear more of the burden and responsibility for their own country. However, the exact timing and troop levels are up to the president.

### AFGHANISTAN

**Do you think the current U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan is justified?**