

**A New Breed of Elephant:  
Conservative Outreach, Transcending Identity Politics,  
and Victory in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

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## Acknowledgments

I would like to thank a lot of people for making this book possible.

First is my best friend Cris, who put up with my constant whining about how much I hated writing this book and consistently read over my chapters and gave me feedback and did 90% of the work to design the cover. You are best friend anyone could ever ask for.

Second to my family, who also put up with my constant whining and odd sleep patterns during this project. You all have the patience of saints.

To my followers, on Tumblr especially, without whom this book would never have been possible to create.

To my tireless volunteer transcription team that took my rambling audio interviews with the subjects of this book and turned them into text, because we all know I don't have the patience for that task. Miranda, David, Tyler, and Grace, you all rock.

To Sasha, Katie, Nicole, and Cris (again). Thank you for reading my chapters and reassuring me that my writing is not, in fact, complete garbage. I would have chucked this whole thing in the trash long ago otherwise.

And last, but certainly not least, the conservatives who agreed to be interviewed for this book. I could not have hoped to write this book without your input. I hope that I have written a book that was worthy of the time and effort you contributed.

## Contents

Forward

Chapter One: Being a Minority Conservative

Chapter Two: What Does 'Conservative' Mean?

Chapter Three: Outreach

Reputation:

Media:

Messaging:

Community Organizing:

Interviews

Conclusion

Index

## Forward

*"Now I will believe that there are unicorns..."*  
--William Shakespeare; *The Tempest* (III.iii)

According to liberals this book and the people who made its creation possible (including myself) are all fictional creations of your deluded mind.

You see, according to liberals the world of Republicans and conservatives is composed entirely of old, white, straight, Christian men and their docile, subservient trophy wives who are, of course, permanently chained to a stove, barefoot and pregnant. And who would certainly never reach out to anyone different from themselves.

This view of the Republican Party simply isn't true. Conservatives of every race, gender, faith, and sexual orientation exist and we believe in conservative principles just as strongly as any stereotypical Republican does. We also really dislike being condescended to, told we are self-loathing or brainwashed, or swept under the rug so that liberals can conveniently accuse our entire political party of every -ism and -phobia in existence...plus a few that they just made up for fun.

The reason I decided to write this book is because I am one of those "rare" conservatives that upset the liberal fiction about the Republican Party.

As a gay female Republican I was once compared to a Unicorn by a fellow conservative. Most people think we don't exist and would express continued disbelief even if one trotted right up to them and kicked them in the ass.

The truth is that it isn't only gay Republicans who are met with that sort of disbelief and denial. Any and all conservatives who don't fit the liberal idea of the "WASP" Republican, whether they be gay, pagan, black, Native American, working in Hollywood, or a strong minded and independent women, their existence is all seen as equally impossible to a liberal.

Trust me, I've watched their denial in action.

Conservative principles are built on ideas not demographics, thus they appeal to anyone willing to listen and see the wisdom of the ideas we present. There's no need to exclude someone because of their gender, sexuality, or the color of their skin. We are, after all, the party of Reagan's 'big tent' and there's room for conservatives of every demographic under it.

When I started this book I did so with the intention to talk to a wide variety of "atypical" conservatives and find out what their conservative beliefs are, as well as finding out how being a minority conservative had effected their lives. That was all this book was meant to be, a general look at the variety and diversity that can be found in conservative voters (and part of the book still follows that theme), however as I read through interview after interview I found something even more thought provoking in their ideas on reaching voters in their communities.

So what started as a simple idea to raise awareness of the existence of minority conservatives (and get people to stop saying “but but you *can't* be Republican! You're gay/black/pagan/Jewish/Hispanic/Etc.!”), soon grew into a discussion of a more urgent topic that took over a large percentage of the book: Yes, we have minority conservatives, now how do we get *more*?

## Chapter One: Being a Minority Conservative

Being part of a community is a comforting thing. You feel like it's a family, maybe when you don't even have a family to begin with. For a gay teenager the gay community is a bright spot of acceptance and hope in a world where they are afraid of being different and where they can find people to talk to when they fear they can't talk to their own family, friends, or mentors. Most people have a community like this in their life, whether it's their church or their union or any other social group.

Unfortunately communities are not your family. There's no promise or expectation of unconditional love and support (which, ideally, you should have from family and friends). Instead there is an expectation that in exchange for being a part of that community, you will toe the line and fight for the cause, whatever that cause may be.

Take, for instance, the reaction when Caitlyn Jenner came out as both Transgender and Republican. One article at *The Advocate* discussed how it led to reactions from the LGBT community that ranged from people telling her that she wasn't "trans enough" (can anyone explain to me how your politics changes what level of Transgender you are? I'm pretty sure that's more of a black and white issue (odd for such a rainbow colored topic) than a broad spectrum). That she was a "traitor to the LGBT cause" and bullhorn toting liberal protestors that asked her "How dare you claim to represent us!"(1)(2)

Now maybe it's just common sense talking (or my innately conservative belief in individualism) but I (3) don't believe that any one person, gay or straight, male or female, Christian or Buddhist, is a representation of their entire community. The beliefs, ideas, good deeds, and mistakes of a single person should never be attributed to their whole "community", whatever community that may be.

My beliefs and opinion certainly don't (and shouldn't) speak for all women, all lesbians, or even all conservatives. Which is why I sought the opinions of so many other conservatives for this book.

But that is not how these minority communities work. They aren't built on individualism; rather they are built entirely on the concept of collectivism. Every individual is expected to work for the good of the collective, no matter whether they personally believe in what the collective has deemed their priority at that moment.

I remember the first time I inadvertently colored outside the lines of the priorities of the gay community. I was at dinner with a group from my local "gay-straight alliance", one of whom was my girlfriend at the time, when the conversation turned to the topic of gay marriage (this was years before the Supreme Court case that legalized gay marriage nationwide) and I expressed doubt that we were fighting for the right thing. "Why do we need the government to recognize marriage at all? Why should we be fighting to keep a system that requires us to ask permission from the government to get married at all?"

You could have heard a pin drop. Eyes were rolled, laughter was had, my girlfriend looked mildly horrified, and I dropped the topic of conversation for years because it wasn't worth losing the tenuous community connection I had made, just to argue a point I wasn't really sure of in the first place. In reality the only thing I really had in common with that group was the fact that we all dated people of the same sex. We liked some of the same TV shows I suppose. Listened to some of the same bands. But that had more to do with the fact that we were all in the same age range than it did with our sexuality. Regardless I was unwilling to speak out and lose that community connection.

I'm not the only one who has experienced that threat of ostracism. After I started the Proud Gay Conservative blog on Tumblr I started to get messages from numerous young conservatives, some of who were also gay, asking what they could do about the fact that their friends were treating them horribly for being conservative.

Every minority group in which there is an expectation that their demographic will vote for Democrats will have people in it that don't do what is expected, and every time they going to face censure from someone if they voice their dissent openly. Many of the interviews that are printed later in this book have stories of similar struggles and you can find more on any minority conservative blog.

It's not easy to be a vocal and public minority conservative. Whether you are gay, black, Hispanic, transgendered, or just working in a field where being a conservative is uncommon, you are going to face backlash. It's unfortunately a product of how conservatives have been stereotyped by the media, but you also need to put blame on the GOP's inability to create a new narrative about conservative values.

Reactions like this aren't even unique to America. There is, after all, a conservative political class in countries like Canada and Great Britain. There was an article in January of 2016 by James Campbell of *The Rebel*. In the opening the author stated "Coming out as gay in rural Scotland wasn't easy, but it was a walk in Stanley Park compared to coming out as a conservative in Vancouver."<sup>(5)</sup>

Campbell's description of the reactions to his conservatism remind me of my own experiences and those of others who have sent me messages talking about the distress they feel after being attacked by former "friends" just for speaking an alternative political view.

*Reactions from straight people were fairly hostile. For example, a German friend told me to "be more careful about what I think, let alone what I say" after I posted something about immigration that would have been totally inoffensive to any rational person. A relative told me that the libertarian group I joined on Facebook was a "cult" and that my family were "concerned for me." A few friends texted me to say they had removed me from Facebook.*

*Reactions from gay people were considerably more hostile.*

*I play and coach in a LGBT soccer league. After a game one night I was approached by one of the organizers, who warned me that other members were talking about my comments, "found my*



*views repellent" and that I was "making enemies." I asked him to specify which particular view was so offensive. Apparently it was an anti-Hillary article I posted. I had attacked the queen bee and the hive was responding.*

...

*Gay men accused me of having "internalized homophobia" for failing to celebrate with gusto the giant publicity stunt which was marriage equality -- a teaspoon of distraction in exchange for a bucket of freedom.*

*I was called a sociopath, a psychopath, "cisgendered," right-winger, retard, fascist, arrogant and dangerous. I was even anonymously threatened with violence.*

*I became self-doubting, paranoid, depressed and anxious. I left my fiancé and refused to socialize for months. I realized I had been ostracized, and I'm sure some of it was almost willingly on my part.*

*Eventually I emerged however, and more confident than before. The people who really loved me stuck around and those bonds are stronger than ever. I learned to trust my own mind and be honest with others. I had begun to attract new and wonderful people into my life.*

*Most surprisingly, since I've been more vocal about my opinions, I've discovered a handful of conservative and libertarian men in the Vancouver gay scene.*

And all of this is a product of the fact that we feel isolated because the media all tells us that we don't exist or that we shouldn't exist.

We can, as Campbell did, come out the other side of this gauntlet strong, more confident in our beliefs, and possessing a new circle of friends. But it's not easy.

From a personal and anecdotal angle I would argue that this is even harder for LGBT conservatives (6) than it is for many other groups because of how uncommon and unpublicized the concept of being a LGBT conservative is in the public sphere in comparison to the concept of black, female, or Latino conservatives (7), but most minority conservatives face an extent of this sort of treatment, either online or in real life.

One of the first steps toward changing the perception of our part that liberals have created is to make sure our party is one that makes minority conservatives feel welcome and lets them know they are accepted by us. The more of us that "come out of the closet", so to speak, the better. Not because we care that you are a minority, but because the right ideas cross all boundaries.

## Chapter Two: What Does 'Conservative' Mean?

*"If you believe in freedom, liberty, self-determination, free enterprise -- I don't care if you're a Muslim, Jewish, Agnostic, Christian, gay, straight, Latino, black, white, Irish, whatever. Join us."*

- Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

In later chapters we will touch on the need for a coherent and cohesive message of what we believe as conservatives. There's a reason the phrase "party line" exists and we don't really seem to have one. We have multiple distinct groups in our party, all of which are registered Republicans and all of which claim to be the "true" conservatives, and they all seem to have different opinions on what that means.

I don't want this book to seem dated, but nowhere has this phenomena been more prominent in my memory than the 2016 Presidential election. As I'm writing this we still have more candidates running than you can shake a stick at and they represent such a wide range of political theories and views that it makes you wonder how they can all be running in the same primary for the Republican Party. They run the full spectrum from John Kasich, eminently forgettable governor of Ohio, whose dreams for a more compassionate welfare-centered Republican Party would do Franklin Delanor proud, to Ted Cruz, the "outsider" candidate with the wife who works at Goldman Sachs who can't remember from one day to the next what his policies are unless the polls tell him, to Donald Trump, Miss Universe pageant owner and longtime Democratic donor who has enthralled the white supremacist vote so thoroughly that it's mildly fascinating to watch his campaign (although mostly horrifying), to Marco Rubio, Senator from Florida who has continued to be consistently for free market principles and a strong America and has gotten nothing but flack for it from Democrats and "true" conservatives alike.

2016 is (was, depending on when you are reading this) a make or break election for the Republican Party. A chance for them to make a solid stand for conservative values. Or maybe it was the death from which a new conservative party will rise. You tell me, I don't have a time machine.

Which, of course, means establishing what those values are.

Now of course I could personally tell you what I think conservative values are and you'd probably listen to me. I mean you shelled out the cash for this book so you must think I have something worth reading, but let's start with the ideas that all the other conservatives who contributed to this book had about what conservative values are.

I believe that conservative principles are those that were considered "classically liberal". The principles that our country was founded on. Namely freedom and liberty, small government, a federal government that abides by their enumerated powers and leaves the states to govern on other issues that aren't meant to be dealt with by the federal government, like welfare, marriage, and other issues.

- Meredith Walker (Author)

Hard work. Individual responsibility. Responsibility, in general. I think, and I know there was a big hubbub about it recently with Giuliani, but I really think conservatives love the country in a big way. I mean, I don't mean to say that liberals don't love the country. I'm sure a lot of them do, but I think we have very different ways of showing it.

I think it's very much about responsibility and individuality.

- Sara

Small government, strict adherent to the Constitution, and pretty much anything that is encompassed with that. Small government means less regulations on everything. It means that government is not running your life. It means that government is doing exactly what it's designed to do, protect your civil liberties and protect the country itself. Strict adherence to the Constitution means you support the Second Amendment. It means you do not restrict freedom of speech. It means that you make sure, well -- I was bored once, and wanted to do a fun post, just something short and sweet, I said, well, wait a minute. I was looking back through the Constitution. The Constitution isn't about our rights. It's a list of things the government is not allowed to do. That went off a slew of re-blogs. The idea of a perfect government doesn't exist. A government that is more interested in actually doing what it's supposed to do (instead of limiting my rights or trying to impose terrible regulations) is the closest we can get. A government that's held responsible to the people that elected them. That would be nice.

- Sasha Kaplan

Small government, free markets. Freedom of religion and speech, not having the right not to be offended. Following your own path, and self-protection as a human right.

- D. Taylor of Miami

Being responsible for your actions – your life

Thinking long term – aware of potential results long term

Realizing that morals/ethics matter at all times and are a reflection of yourself

Spirituality

Logic – reason at all times

Private Property rights first and foremost

Freedom, Liberty as long as they do not interfere with someone else's freedom/liberty.

The American Constitution is the final arbiter for our country and it is to be applied to current conditions but not re-interpreted to fit new beliefs.

- Cathy

Small government, personal freedom, and responsibility. I believe we all have natural rights to life, liberty, and property, and that the government should not infringe on those rights. I also believe that the government does not owe anyone free handouts; more privileged folk do not deserve to have their money taken and given to those who did not work.

- Kellan Monroe

Lower taxes, lower government spending, capitalism, etc.

- M.

Conservative principles... Obviously I think it's very important to protect all of our rights: first amendment, second amendment. Those are the things conservatives focus on, but I also think that we don't focus enough on the other ten Bill of Rights which is kind of like why I think I like Rand Paul right now: because he's doing a lot of ... focusing on the NSA spying, which I like, because our fourth amendment is being infringed upon so much these days that people just don't notice it anymore. And states' rights obviously, is a big one people just kind of forget about. They just don't care. Nobody cares. And pro-life. And small government, cutting taxes, and trying to carve out some future for the next generations that isn't handling all of this massive debt, which obviously there is, but you should do something.

- Piper H.

Less government control on people and businesses; Cutting spending to lower our deficits from all points of the budget, including the military; Charity by the individual and business being more used and promoted than welfare provided by the government; Personal responsibility.

- Sam

Definitely more for the balanced budget, smaller government, strong military, more traditional principles like... kind of more like the, "Keep to yourself and leave everybody else to lead their life the way that they will live their life, and vice versa."

- Sarah Armbruster

I think the largest one that separates conservatives and liberals is large government vs. small government. With that, I'm very small government, so small government, individual freedoms, free market and taxation - those are what I would consider to be the conservative principles.

- Shane Minear

When I think of conservative principles a few things come to mind: Hard work ethic, understanding that the only way to success is through sacrifice, and never having anything handed to you. At the end of the day, to me, it is the basic right of the pursuit of happiness without government interference.

- Thomas Hernandez

- Independence and economic-self-reliance
- Social and economic freedom – zero regulation except where it is necessary to protect liberty, safety
- Minimum regulation on food production, pharmtech, intoxicating substances
- Respect for individuals
- No prejudice (without government enforcement, i.e. in day-to-day matters)
- Right to life
- Forfeited by murderers
- One can do what one wants in one's bedroom
- Marriage should not be a government issue
- Bodily autonomy should not be a government issue

- Respect for corporations
  - Zero regulation
  - Discretion to discriminate by experience, education, and even race, sexuality in hiring
  - Discretion to refuse service to anyone
  - Policies
  - Income tax is theft
  - Regulation is not the government's responsibility
  - The above principles should be asserted internationally
  - Infrastructure development and administration of prisons should be privatized, as should emergency services
- Tyler

Small government, low taxes, take care of yourself and don't rely on the government safety net to support you your whole life; it's for emergencies. Free market, liberty, a celebration of our heritage (including guns and free speech). Options and choices.

- Beth D.

Capitalism, Limited Government, Personal Liberty and Natural Rights, Rule of Law over the mob rule, that government is there to protect rights and help provide a structure in which individuals can thrive, and that these values must be protected at home and abroad.

- Cris Pace

A strong, but small federal government and open free market of businesses and open ideas.

- Elizabeth Barlow

- Personal responsibility
  - Limited government
  - Free markets
  - Individual liberty
- Sydney

Individualism. Short and sweet the vast majority of conservatives are individualist.

- Equestrian Republican

I think conservative principles are the same as the principles of the American founders: small, limited government, and the freedom and equality of all people. I believe that this equality is an equality of opportunity, not result. Basically, the only roles the government should have in my life are to protect you from me, me from you, and us from them. Nothing more.

- Judah ben David

Conservatives believe that the state exists to protect the rights of its citizens. We believe in a small government that doesn't intervene where it isn't needed. We believe in empowering state and local governments to handle issues on a more tailored level than the federal government can.

We believe in freedom of expression, and that the government shouldn't regulate how any idea is expressed in the public sphere. This issue has come up lately in the context of religion.

We believe in the efficacy of the free market for delivery of goods and services. I know that many conservatives want to use the political arena to promote behaviors associated with their faiths, such as a prohibition on abortion. I think that most prochoice conservatives have diverged from a conservative principle on this issue. When I use the word "conservative," I think of conserving the spirit and tradition of the Constitution.

- Jane

Small government: Only the necessary laws and regulations to protect the everyday. Trying to legislatively hedge someone into a corner leads to inefficiency in all walks of life.

Overregulation leads to money spent when it doesn't need to be, and lost or unreachable opportunities that can help a person and a society advance.

Low Taxation/Free Market: The belief that people know how best to spend their money and that when they can have more of their money to spend, prosperity follows. Money, or lack of, can make or break companies. Letting bad businesses fail, letting immoral practices come to light and trusting the consumer to put their money where their beliefs are.

- Laura Jean

Everyone I interviewed had a chance to express what they felt were the core values of their political ideology and while they all said it in different ways, they all came to the same conclusions for the most part.

Conservatives believe in liberty.

You'll notice that social issues are barely a blip on their radar for the most part. Economic issues and those of national security and liberty are far more important issues. Not only are the majority of social issues, like the fight to ban abortion, a losing battle for our side, but the majority of them could be solved without laws based in religious justification or outright bans that raise complex questions on the topic of individual liberty.

So what are Conservative values?

We by no means agree on every topic, even in just these interviews. There were one or two people interviewed that expressed a wish to return to the gold standard for instance. I, and various other conservatives that I know, find that to be a completely preposterous position to hold, something that noted conservative economist Milton Friedman agreed with.

However, as the quote often attributed to Ronald Reagan (a name that evokes Conservatism in a way few others do) says, "The person who agrees with you 80 percent of the time is a friend and an ally – not a 20 percent traitor."

So we'll take Reagan's advice and talk about the 80% we do agree on and deal with the 20% later.

When we sum up core values from the above interviews, we get a pretty short list.

In no particular order:

- Small and limited government
- Checks & balances on the branches of government
- Government protection of natural rights (life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of Happiness), and civil rights in the Constitution
- Minimal regulation on business and individuals, only those needed to ensure protection of rights.
- Equality before the law (not equality of results)
- Individual liberty
- Rule of law, not mob rule (Democratic-Republic, not democracy)
- Strong military and strong foreign policy
- Free markets/Capitalism/Free trade
- Lower taxes/Simplifying tax code
- Reducing government spending by cutting and reforming government programs

These are the ideals that a conservative should be promoting. Obviously in politics there will always be give and take and the deals our side manages to make may not always fall 100% in line with these principles, because that's how compromise works, but they should always been in the background of every push we make politically.

Using these guidelines we can not only find the best way to promote ourselves to voters, but we can also judge our politicians based on whether they actually support these principles or not.

### **Small/Limited Government**

*Man is not free unless government is limited.*  
- Ronald Reagan

The fact that this is a conservative idea should not be difficult to explain. Our founders created a system of checks and balances and intentionally limited the power of the federal government by giving it specific enumerated powers and giving all other power to the states and the people.

One of the fundamental differences between liberal and conservative beliefs is the idea that government, both federal and state, should be as small an influence on the lives of individuals as possible.

*The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite.*  
– James Madison (Federalist No. 45)

## **Check & Balances on the Branches of Government**

*The regular distribution of power into distinct departments; the introduction of legislative balances and checks; the institution of courts composed of judges holding their offices during good behavior; the representation of the people in the legislature by deputies of their own election... They are means, and powerful means, by which the excellences of republican government may be retained and its imperfections lessened or avoided.*

- Alexander Hamilton (Federalist No. 9)

The Founding Fathers designed our government to prevent any one branch of the government from becoming overbearing and dictatorial. They did this by enacting a series of checks and balances that controlled the branches of government, preventing any one branch from becoming more powerful than the others and exerting more control over the country than they should. These checks and balances are necessary to have small government and freedom in our country.

First and foremost a conservative should always defend the constitutional powers of each branch, even when it comes to decisions that they may not always agree with, because a conservative recognizes there is nothing more dangerous than undermining the constitution for short term gains.

*Concentrated power has always been the enemy of liberty.*

- Ronald Reagan

## **Governments Protection of Natural Rights (Life, Liberty, Property, and the Pursuit of Happiness), and Civil Rights in the Constitution**

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

- Declaration of Independence

For conservatives, one of the main things that government is responsible for is the protection of our rights. These rights are laid out briefly in the Declaration of Independence, but things like the Bill of Rights are also within the spectrum of what they are protecting. Freedom of speech, gun ownership, unreasonable search and seizure, among others. These rights are those that would be referred to as “negative rights” and are rights that, as a friend described it in his book, you would still retain even if you were stranded on a desert island. While this is the job of the state governments as well, to some degree, it is the bulk of the reason the federal government exists. In theory what we should have is a legislature that passes laws to protect our rights, a judicial system that insures that all laws that are passed are constitutional (the Supreme Court) and allow the government to arbitrate violations of rights between citizens (lower courts).

This does not include the liberal fiction of the “positive” right, which includes things like the “right” to healthcare, housing, employment, or any other issue that requires someone else to provide for someone else.



*Protecting the rights of even the least individual among us is basically the only excuse the government has for even existing.*

- Ronald Reagan

### **Minimal Regulation on Business and Individuals (only those needed to ensure protection of rights)**

*Government exists to protect us from each other. Where government has gone beyond its limits is in deciding to protect us from ourselves.*

- Ronald Reagan

Conservatives aren't anarchists. We appreciate the fact that government is needed to protect our rights from being encroached upon by each other, just as the government has to be kept from encroaching on the rights of citizens through separation of powers and the constitution.

Some regulations on business and individuals are necessary to keep a civilization running. This is the primary reason we have laws and a court system, not for the government to abuse private citizen's freedom, but to ensure that a private business or citizen does not abuse the rights of any other citizen and has their own rights most effectively protected.

*Government is instituted to protect property of every sort; as well that which lies in the various rights of individuals, as that which the term particularly expresses. This being the end of government, that alone is a just government which impartially secures to every man whatever is his own.*

– James Madison (“Property”)

### **Equality Before the Law (Not Equality of Results)**

*Democracy and socialism have nothing in common but one word, equality. But notice the difference: while democracy seeks equality in liberty, socialism seeks equality in restraint and servitude.*

- Alexis de Tocqueville

Equality is a funny word and it can be used in many different ways, but the concept of equality has been one that conservatives have always stood for and the Founding Fathers believed in.

Equality before the law means that everyone, regardless of age or gender or race or any social factor, will be treated the same by the government when it comes to everything from contract law to criminal offenses. This is what conservatives believe in.

This is an extremely different concept from the version of equality that liberal Democrats and Progressive politicians push for. Equality of results is a concept that leads people to believe that they should all be equally wealthy or all get the same reward, regardless of their effort or personal success. This is where the idea of income equality or income redistribution comes from and also why your kid probably gets a “participant” trophy whether his team scored more points than the other or not.

*Equality, rightly understood, as our founding fathers understood it, leads to liberty and to the emancipation of creative differences. Wrongly understood, as it has been so tragically in our time, it leads first to conformity and then to despotism.*

- Barry Goldwater

## **Individual Liberty**

*Liberty must at all hazards be supported. We have a right to it, derived from our Maker. But if we had not, our fathers have earned and bought it for us, at the expense of their ease, their estates, their pleasure, and their blood.*

- John Adams

Individual liberty is the concept that each person is free to live their life in the way they wish, as long as that does not impact the freedom of any other individual. Our natural rights, as indicated by John Locke and the Declaration of Independence, include life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of Happiness. You have the right to those, as does every other individual born.

This is a concept that has its roots in the concepts of individualism (1) and its counterpart, collectivism (2). Essentially that your right to live as you see fit and not based on what is best for the collective, whether that collective is your race or your gender or your sexuality. You are under no obligation to make decisions based on what is best for everyone else around you and the government has no right to force you to live your life based on what is best for the collective either, as long as you are not violating anyone else's rights in the process of living.

*Government's first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives.*

- Ronald Reagan

## **Rule of Law Rather Than Mob Rule (Democratic-Republic)**

*We are now forming a Republican form of government. Real liberty is not found in the extremes of democracy, but in moderate governments. If we incline too much to democracy we shall soon shoot into a monarchy, or some other form of a dictatorship.*

- Alexander Hamilton

Many people these days seem to think that we live in a Democracy, an unfortunate misrepresentation that seems to be everywhere these days.

In fact, our country is a Democratic-Republic.

Democracies are not the best way to run a country. Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison (3), they all saw the dangers of a pure Democracy, which easily descends into mob rule.

A Democratic-Republic, however, takes all the best aspects of Democracy and alleviates many of the issues that come with it as well. Rather than ruling by simple majority, we elect representatives to work on our behalf in all branches of the government. This saves us from mob

rule, because representatives are in no way required to make decisions based on the opinions of the majority of their constituents, nor should they. As Edmund Burke said: “Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgment; and he betrays, instead of serving you, if he sacrifices it to your opinion.”(4)

When these representatives are conservative we hope that they will make the best decisions that they can to uphold conservative values and freedom, rather than simply voting in a popular way in order to keep their job in the next election.(5)

*A democracy is nothing more than mob rule, where fifty-one percent of the people may take away the rights of the other forty-nine.*

- Thomas Jefferson

### **Strong Military and Strong Foreign Policy**

*Liberals, it has been said, are generous with other peoples' money, except when it comes to questions of national survival when they prefer to be generous with other people's freedom and security.*

- William F. Buckley, Jr.

Another conservative belief, and one that separates us greatly from both libertarian and liberal sensibilities, is our belief in a strong military and a strong foreign policy when dealing with both allies and enemies alike.

It's not a matter of wanting to be the world's police, as some would call it, but simply a proactive defensive strategy. A free world is a better world for America to exist in, both defensively and economically, and when we have the opportunity to spread freedom and conservative principles (like those I'm outlining here) further in the world, conservatives should seek to do so. We can also do this through soft policies that involve trade deals, intelligence sharing, infrastructure building, and sending in advisors to work with countries so that we stop problems before they start.

A weak foreign policy and an unprepared military leave our country vulnerable and our allies equally vulnerable.

*Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream.*

*It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.*

- Ronald Reagan

### **Free Markets/Capitalism/Free Trade**

*Secondly, the Conservative has learned that the economic and spiritual aspects of man's nature are inextricably intertwined. He cannot be economically free, or even economically efficient, if he is enslaved politically; conversely, man's political freedom is illusory if he is dependent for his economic needs on the State.*

- Barry Goldwater

Capitalism and free markets are indisputably conservative values. They promote freedom, increased financial and political stability, and create a better world to live in. Capitalism has done more to raise people out of poverty than any government program (6) has done and it does it, almost completely, without government cost or intervention.

Free trade, as a partner to capitalism and free markets, does even more to spread freedom and conservative values throughout the world than even our strongest military or biggest UN Summit meeting could do, while also benefitting the American economy.

The only thing that the government needs to do to allow these values to flourish is to stay out of it. Government regulations both have a negative effect on business growth and also make it necessary for companies to lobby the government, creating a culture of bribery and corruption in our government, to reduce the regulations on their company or increase them on their competition. Instead of equality before the law we get a government that is picking winners and losers and creating losers through their own ridiculous regulations.

Our society does need some level of regulation in order to thrive. Protecting citizens and businesses from each other (and the government) through torts, property registration, rules of the road, contract law, and other various protections that work to protect the rights of everyone involved. Most of these systems need copious amounts of reform as they stand today, but they do need to exist in a conservative government.

Going any further than that, however, will only shoot our own economy down.

*Underlying most arguments against the free market is a lack of belief in freedom itself.*  
— Milton Friedman

### **Lower Taxes/Simplifying the Tax Code**

*I want the people of America to be able to work less for the government and more for themselves.*

*I want them to have the rewards of their own industry. This is the chief meaning of freedom.*

*Until we can reestablish a condition under which the earnings of the people can be kept by the people, we are bound to suffer a very severe and distinct curtailment of our liberty.*

- Calvin Coolidge

This is a concept that is so conservative that I'm not even sure why I have to expound on it here. Lowering taxes creates growth in our economy and increases freedom. The tax code as it stands is not only burdensome to individuals and businesses, but it's so confusing and complex that 90% of people cannot hope to do their taxes correctly on their own if they own a small business or have income any more complex than a 9 to 5 job that sends them their W2 at the end of the year. As a writer and editor the majority of my work is on a freelance basis, leading to a uniquely frustrating and confusing experience when filing taxes. I'm already getting anxious about doing my 2016 taxes with income from this book!

*The problem is not that people are taxed too little, the problem is that government spends too much.*

- Ronald Reagan

## **Reducing Government Spending by Cutting and Reforming Government Programs**

*No government ever voluntarily reduces itself in size. Government programs, once launched, never disappear. Actually, a government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal life we'll ever see on this earth!*

- Ronald Reagan

The best way to insure that we can lower taxes and increase freedom would be to greatly reduce the size and scope of the government. Cutting unnecessary government programs and projects and reforming even the most necessary to reduce waste and decrease regulations. We have altogether too many useless government agencies and programs that are poking their noses into areas that they have no need to be in the first place. Telling schools how to fix their lunches, telling banks who to give home loans to, forcing unnecessary EPA inspections on private homes and family farms, and rolling out page after page of utterly incomprehensible tax law.

Of course we have to smart about this. There are some agencies and programs that, regardless of how much we dislike them, aren't going to be cut entirely. The IRS being one of them. (7) The best we can hope for there is extreme reform, changes to a less complex tax law, and shrinking its size.

The EPA is another ridiculous department that has a core purpose that can't be entirely cut, but there is certainly room for reform and reduction in the size of the agency as well.

Other agencies though, we can just cut. The Department of Education, for instance, accomplishes nothing that the state level Departments of Education and the National Board of Governors can't do without them. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Transportation would also make my list of agencies that can go take a long walk off a short pier.

The size of government and the number of agencies just become an excuse to tax Americans at increasingly greater levels and regulate their lives more, as well as harm our economy through expensive regulations on businesses.

*I have little interest in streamlining government or in making it more efficient, for I mean to reduce its size. I do not undertake to promote welfare, for I propose to extend freedom. My aim is not to pass laws, but to repeal them. It is not to inaugurate new programs, but to cancel old ones that do violence to the Constitution, or that have failed their purpose, or that impose on the people an unwarranted financial burden. I will not attempt to discover whether legislation is "needed" before I have first determined whether it is constitutionally permissible. And if I should later be attacked for neglecting my constituents' "interests," I shall reply that I was informed that their main interest is liberty and that in that cause I am doing the very best I can.*

- Barry Goldwater

## Chapter Three: Outreach

*I agree English is the unifying language of our country. Everyone should learn to speak it and it's important. Somebody that didn't know English well is my grandfather. He came in the 1960s escaping Cuba and lived with us growing up, and my grandfather loved America. He understood what was so special about this country. He loved Ronald Reagan and would be proud of the fact we're here this evening. My grandfather instilled in me the belief I was blessed to live in one society where even I, the son of a bartender and maid, could aspire to have anything and be anything I was willing to work hard to achieve, but taught me that in Spanish because it was the language he was most comfortable in and he became a conservative even though he got news in Spanish. I believe that free enterprise and limited government is the best way to help people who are trying to achieve upward mobility and if they get their news in Spanish, I want them to hear directly from me, not from a translator at Univision.*

- Sen. Marco Rubio, R-FL

Before I started writing this section I was reading over my interview notes on the subject of outreach, trying to decide the best way to begin writing about this topic and I came to a startling conclusion...some Republicans are actually practicing quite a lot of the following ideas already. Not enough, obviously, since if they were all following them I wouldn't feel the need to write this book, but it was nice to know that I'm not alone in recognizing these problems. Members of Congress and even certain 2016 Presidential Candidates and RNC members are already taking new approaches to outreach and I hope that more will follow their example.

One evening in January of 2016 I was debating how many more hours I was going to put in on this book before heading to bed, when an interview with Reince Priebus, the current head of the Republican National Committee, came up on one of the Fox evening shows. He was talking about a new commercial that the RNC had recently released, which was working to show the diversity of the Republican Party. Not only was it an exact representation of something I had been talking about in the "messaging" portion of this chapter, but it was also an example of the "community organizing" section, as it was about Republican Leadership Initiative Fellows who were being taught to reach out to their own communities and speak to them about the Republican party.

My first reaction was a little bit of amused outrage.

"Oh right, so now I'm going to look like I'm trailing along behind Priebus, even though I've been working on the groundwork for this book for over a year. Great. Amazing."(1)

I then finished my glass of wine and realized I couldn't really be mad.

I admit that part of me was kind of hoping that no one else would have figured out this problem before I pointed it out to them, but honestly I'm just glad to know I'm not screaming into the void.

So Reince Priebus (2), along with Marco Rubio and Paul Ryan and many others, thank God you're on the same track as I am. It makes me feel a little more hopeful even if we do have a difficult task ahead.

Outreach to any minority group can be extremely difficult for conservatives. Not only do liberals have a corner on that market, but conservatism is an idea based in individualism and it can seem uncomfortably like pandering for us to try to key our advertising or conversation specifically to a certain demographic.

However there were several ideas that came up time after time in the interviews I conducted for this book. These are the best of those, the ones that will help us reach multiple demographics and were repeatedly brought up when I asked how they felt about the Republican outreach to their demographic.

The problem for conservatives can be simplified down into four core areas that we are extraordinarily bad at. Some of the information in the following chapters may seem a little repetitive (3), but that's the way marketing usually is and I am determined that by the end of this section the ideas here will be on the way to being second nature for you when you interact with voters.

1. Reputation
2. Media
3. Messaging
4. Community Organizing

## Reputation:

*Reputation is an idle and most false imposition, oft got without merit and lost without deserving.*  
- William Shakespeare; *Othello* (II.iii)

## Reputations Take Longer to Repair Than to Create

Conservatives have several hurdles to overcome on this level.

The first is that we've never showed much wisdom when it comes to choosing spokespeople for or party. The year I decided to write this book I was unable to attend CPAC, but the co-host of my podcast did attend and while she was there one of the speakers was none other than Phil Robertson, of Duck Dynasty fame. Not only was he given time to make a speech that was so horrendously old fashioned and constructed to be as politically incorrect as possible (we'll get into the topic of when being politically incorrect is helpful and when it is not later), but he was also given the "Free Speech" award over some contrived incident in which the station that hosts Duck Dynasty censured him for his commentary about gay people in an interview with GQ in 2013.

The defense of Phil Robertson at the time a horrid misinterpretation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment(1) and the award given to Robertson at one of the biggest conservative conferences of the year couldn't have been more effective at damaging the Republican Party's outreach to minority and libertarian voters if Robertson had actively been trying to sabotage us.

Personally I never actually cared about Phil equating gay people with bestiality or pedophilia. That's his own ignorance and stupidity talking and I haven't cared about other people's opinions since I was a teenager (and I certainly haven't let those opinions influence my voting decisions), but I most certainly did care that the Conservative Political Action Conference gave him the time and publicity to continue spreading his ridiculous statements, thus turning him into a standard bearer for conservatives throughout the country. At that point it doesn't matter that neither I nor 99% of the conservatives I know are actually taking him seriously or believing what he says, because when has the truth ever mattered to the media? All that matters is perception and the perception of CPAC 2015 was that Phil Robertson, in all his throwback, deliberately ignorant glory, is what conservatives look and sound like.

And that's what voters of every type will hear about, ad nauseam, by every media outlet from Rachel Maddow to every "news" show on Comedy Central.

Unfortunately CPAC is a private organization and the RNC has absolutely no control over what they do or who they invite to speak, but if CPAC is going to act as a mouthpiece for conservative beliefs it might benefit them to actually make sure they know what conservative values are and make sure they aren't inadvertently doing damage to our message through their choice of speakers.

Now, you might say, surely all of that was an aberration, surely we don't make the mistake of letting people like Phil be the face of our party all the time?



I sincerely wish that were the case, but it is not. Before Phil Robertson there was Ted Nugent and Todd Akin, after Robertson there is now Donald Trump and Ben Carson. There's always some politician or political celebrity ready to shoot their mouth off, either because they just don't think about the long term ramifications their words have (Akin and Carson) or because they are just too enamored with the cable news show invites and camera flashes that come along every time they open their mouth and let out a stream of "politically incorrect" language that will stir the pot and get them some good ratings (Nugent and Trump).

### **You're Not Politically Incorrect, You're Just An Ignorant Asshole**

Now let's discuss the topic of politically correct speech.

I think being politically correct is a load of dung. I stopped bothering with it around the same time I started forming complete sentences. Imagine me as Professor Snape, with better hair and a less dangerous job description. I once called my entire family idiots at Sunday dinner because I disagreed with the message they got from the pastor's sermon that morning.

I was 4.

When I was 22 I told a representative of the local "Womyn's" group at my college that I couldn't, in good conscience, attend a meeting on a college campus that was staffed by people that couldn't correctly spell a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade vocabulary word.

My mom used to tell me that the Bible said "if you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all". I'm fairly certain that phrase ranks right up there with "God helps those who help themselves" in the "things that are absolutely not in the Bible, but are good advice anyway" category.

Now to be honest that first bit of advice from my mom never really took hold, probably because I got my sharp tongue and judgmental attitude from my mother in the first place, so I didn't take her all that seriously on the topic of being polite.

However, in politics there is a lot of times where that adage is not only correct, but advisable to follow. There's a lot more room for nasty commentary from political pundits, on either side of the aisle, but for politicians it's a much safer bet to use caution in your language when discussing things like race, gender, or sexual orientation. Which are all extremely divisive subjects, especially for the conservative side. *Save your politically incorrect moments for serious issues that need to be discussed despite being sensitive subjects.*

Claiming the mantle of "politically incorrect" does not mean you can go around posting blatantly anti-Semitic graphics on your Facebook page, calling political opponents by rude names for female genitalia, or insinuating that a woman is on her period because she asked you a question you didn't like.

Being deliberately racist, misogynistic, or homophobic isn't being politically incorrect, it's just you showing off how ignorant you are.

Admittedly, there is a liberal narrative that calls anyone they disagree with - or any idea they don't like - sexist or racist or homophobic and that is a narrative that conservatives must reject, not only because it is a cheap attempt to discredit arguments they don't have a defense for, but also because their overuse of the terms waters down what they mean.

However, the fact that liberals have allowed the terms to get watered down until they are almost meaningless doesn't mean that those problems are gone entirely. They do still exist, both domestically and internationally. Ignoring these issues won't make them go away and it doesn't help up build credibility with minority voters either. And it's certainly not helpful to applaud these people and talk about how brave they are for being "politically incorrect." If someone says that all black people are lazy, they aren't being politically incorrect, they're and actual racist.

Conservatism is about the individual, it's about judging people on their actions and the content of their characters, not their race or gender or sexual orientation and racism/sexism/homophobia/etc. are systems of belief based on collectivism and therefore have no place in conservatism in the first place. So when someone that claims to be on our side acts in a collectivist manner against anyone it needs to be pointed out as the evil it is, not applauded for being "politically incorrect".

So to quote the Homeland Security adage: if you see something, say something. If you ignore and allow actual racism or sexism into our party it make it appear that you, as a conservative, tacitly approve of that sort of rhetoric and that does not make our political party or ideology a place where minorities feel welcomed.

It's not just bucking the system and being "politically incorrect" when someone says actual things of this nature. They're just being an asshole.

### **Conservatives Like MTV Too!**

One part of the reputation that conservatives have that hurts us most with young voters is the extraordinary ability our side has for coming off as moralizing old fuddy duddies that are all one step from standing on our lawns and shaking our canes as we shout about "You kids and your music!"

It's not surprising at this point, for me to tune into some conservative commentary program (I refuse to call the Fox News line up "news" anymore, when all they do is rehash the same story for 6 hours a night) in the evening and hear the host talking about some pop culture issue in a way that comes off as exactly what any young voter is used to hearing from their parents (and yes, I know what demographic FNC is angling for, but I'm here to talk about the demographic they **should** be trying to attract). Millennials are lazy, millennials are addicted to their cellphones, millennials listen to bad music, MTV is the devil, and pop musicians hate America.

Trust us, it's nothing we haven't heard before, Bill. (2) Furthermore, if we didn't care when our parents told us then having you tell us isn't likely to change our mind. All your diatribes do is remind young voters of their parents and remind them of the liberal stereotypes of conservatives that have told them all along that conservatism doesn't understand young voters and has nothing to offer them.

I'm not even inclined to disagree with some of the complaints. I think taking pictures of every meal you eat and checking in at every place you go is both obnoxious and unsafe. I completely agree that Miley Cyrus is annoying and Ariana Grande is kind of a twerp. I don't like twerking (couldn't do it even if I did like it) and I think Beyoncé and Kanye West are incredibly overrated as musicians. (3) There's just a world of difference between having those opinions and turning them into some sort of social commentary or political policy.

The only thing that we need to be doing with the current popular culture is figuring out the best way to use it to our advantage. There's very little chance that our culture is ever going to snap back to the 1950s (or 1850s, depending on what you are hoping for). Smart phones, candy crush, and pop music are here to stay, whether you like it or not. And if you have a problem with Beyoncé's politics (and there's plenty there to have a problem with) then try to keep your comments focused on that, not on how you felt about her dance moves at the Super Bowl halftime show.

Of course given my experience with trying to get my grandmother to not hate every radio station on my pre-sets, it may be just as much of a losing cause to try to drag pundits into the 21<sup>st</sup> century from the early 20<sup>th</sup>.

Which means that we need more young conservatives out there changing the reputation we have.

The next few chapters talk about how we change that reputation through media, community outreach, and changes in messaging.

So just to sum up:

1. Pick better spokespeople for our party.
2. Think before you speak and don't be an asshole for no good reason.
3. Stop making conservatives look like the old man shouting about "those kids and their music" while shaking his cane on the front lawn.

Media:

*Politics is downstream from culture. I want to change the cultural narrative.*

- Andrew Breitbart

## **Pop Culture Can Influence Political Culture**

I'm going to jump right into this chapter where I left off in the last one and tackle the issue of using pop culture and media to our benefit, rather than allowing our cultural illiteracy to destroy our chances with the youth vote.

Instead of mocking popular culture we need to tune into it. 90% of the summer blockbusters share a similar underpinning of conservative themes in their stories, but we are usually too busy getting upset about the politics of the actors in Hollywood to realize that the stories they are selling to viewers are riddled with opportunities to talk politics with the fans.

This is something that liberals understand and they regularly employ. One of my favorite political science classes in college was "World Politics and Film". Despite the fact that 90% of the films that we watched in the class were clearly picked because of they were liberal propaganda (*Grapes of Wrath*, *Salvador*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Night of the Living Dead*, etc.) it was an enlightening course. There can be many layers of themes in everything from music to movies. *Casablanca* isn't just a classic love story, it's also propaganda about America's involvement in World War II. *Night of the Living Dead* is about racism (if you believe my professor in college anyway). *Grapes of Wrath* is propaganda for FDR's welfare programs.

That particular class dealt with older films, but some of the biggest grossing blockbusters have political and philosophical themes running through them and, unlike the liberal propaganda that professor chose, a lot of it is conservative in nature. You just have to know what you're looking for and how to turn it to your advantage.

Some movies are simple. Take the latest blockbuster (as of this writing anyway), the newest installment of the *Star Wars* series. The discussions of oppressive government power almost write themselves when you look at the entirety of that franchise.

The Christopher Nolan *Batman* films were wildly popular and both *The Dark Knight* and *The Dark Knight Rises* contained nearly transparent discussions of the necessity of surveillance in the war on terror (*The Dark Knight*)(1) and the immorality of socialism and the evils of class warfare by the 99% on the 1% (*The Dark Knight Rises*).

The newest Superman movie, *Man of Steel*, has more than a few openings to discuss the concept of liberty and totalitarianism, as the entire origin story of Clark Kent in this film is that he was born outside the laws of Krypton and sent away, not just to save him from the destruction of his planet, but to also give him the chance to be free to live his life as he chose.

And before you think this is all ridiculous and no one would buy a discussion of politics based on Superhero films, let me remind you that liberals have attempted to use these films to their own

political benefit as well. They've tried to turn Batman into the poster boy for gun control (2) on more than one liberal site and Superman was labeled an "illegal immigrant" on many of the same sites as well. (3)

The number of films and TV shows lately that have cast environmentalists (either blatantly or more subtly) as the villains is also worth noting, though that is somewhat less exploitable. However, I feel the message of movies like *Kingsman* and *The Last Witch Hunter* or Netflix Originals like *Between* may eventually have long term negative effects on environmentalist propaganda to some degree. You can only depict the Al Gore's of the world as genocidal maniacs for so long before people start wonder if maybe the shows have a point.

This is all to say that Hollywood, even as liberal as it is, presents us with many opportunities to discuss conservative values using pop culture, rather than just mocking Hollywood liberals (though I can't deny I've done plenty of the latter as well).

### **The BuzzFeed Method**

We don't have to stop at just using the opportunities that Hollywood gives us to create discussion. Obviously we don't have the star power (yet) or the massive production companies to create million dollar summer blockbusters, but we do have creative and funny people in our movement.

Conservatives even have a handful of celebrities in Hollywood that are admitted conservatives or support conservative beliefs (and likely more who are too worried about being blackballed to admit it publicly) and we really need to leverage that as much as possible. The Democrats do this all the time, why shouldn't we?

Bono made a handful of headlines in 2013 by discussing his belief in capitalism while making a speech at Georgetown.

"Aid is just a stop-gap. Commerce and entrepreneurial capitalism takes more people out of poverty than aid -- of course, we know that. In dealing with poverty here and around the world, welfare and foreign aid are a Band-Aid. Free enterprise is a cure. Entrepreneurship is the surest way of development." (4)

Where were we on this?

Where we sleeping? Did we ignore it because, as Bono said "Rock star preaches capitalism—wow. Sometimes I hear myself and I just cannot believe it." (5)? Was it just too unbelievable to think that Bono might hold some conservative views?

Cris Pace, who has an interview later in this book, said "[W]hen Bono pointed out that the only way to solve the problems of Africa was through capitalism, the RNC, Boehner, McConnell, should all have invited him to major events to talk about the blessing of capitalism."

Democrats do this all the time! They bring out a seemingly endless stream of Hollywood liberals to discuss every topic from gun control to the welfare state and these people have influence over voters in most minority demographics.

We don't necessarily need to make commercials using celebrities to score political points off tragedies, like Democrats did with celebrities making videos about the Newtown shooting, but we can find the right way to use them to influence the culture.

As for making our own entertainment media, well I suppose a few people have given it a try. But as Yoda said, "do or do not, there is no try" and while every year we seem to get a handful of independently produced and highly transparently "conservative" films...

Most of them suck.

We got three installments of *Atlas Shrugged* and only one of them was any good at all (and that's only if you seriously stretch the definition of "good"), what was up with that?

Too often the films that are made by conservatives are on the heavy handed, poorly written, and badly produced side of things and it would be nice if we could get some decent conservative entertainment made at some point this century. These don't have to be TV shows picked up by networks or even Netflix, nor do they need huge red carpet premiers and giant budgets for special effects and A-list celebrities or even complex plots.

Buzzfeed has had an inordinate amount of social influence just through YouTube videos. I've fallen down the BuzzFeed YouTube rabbit hole on more occasions than I can count and I would gladly do the same with similar videos from a conservative source, but mostly we don't have them. There are a handful of YouTube channels out there that try to fill this need, but most are understaffed or abandoned. For instance the EconPop channel, one of my favorites just for the fact that they made a Keynes vs. Hayek rap battle video, hasn't had an update in ages and their series explaining economics through Hollywood films was a great idea.

YouTube or other sites can also be a great place to host a short web series, as opposed to 24 hour long episodes on the CW or some other network. I've been pulled into a number of really interesting series (and even considered writing my own, though I have no acting skills at all) in that medium in the last few years.

Make it funny, make it entertaining, and sprinkle in a significant amount of conservative commentary along the way and we have an opportunity to reach more people and refresh the way our political ideas are viewed.

It would also be a great place to showcase the diversity of our party, both through who is involved in the projects and what the stories and videos are about.

And speaking of YouTube, let's talk about social media for a second.

I get it, social media is all sorts of annoying. There's always some new app being released and it's hard to know which ones are the most effective at reaching people. However there is a social media world beyond Twitter and Facebook. Websites like Tumblr or apps like Snapchat and Vine can be effective tools as well and it would be nice to see campaigns and conservatives taking better advantage of these tools. I am, of course, a giant hypocrite in this regard, since I can't stand Snapchat and I haven't put up a new Vine (let alone a political one) in months, but I do take advantage of Tumblr and I've been pretty successful with it.

Social media is where you are going to find the young voters in every demographic. Social media isn't just fun time waster for conservatives, it's a necessity.

### **The Check Isn't in the Mail**

*"Money isn't the most important thing in the world, but it's reasonably close to oxygen on the 'gotta have it' scale.*

*- Zig Ziglar*

Of course the simple fact is that no one is going to work on projects like that regularly if it's just a hobby.

We can't just expect this deficit in conservative media to be made up by handfuls of wildly politically obsessed hobbyists. For one thing, most of aren't Remy from Reason.com (who, you know, probably gets paid for making those hysterical popular song parodies about politics) and those of us who are generally don't have the time or money to dedicate ourselves to making free content consistently. Unfortunately we have bills to pay and writing political commentary or making podcasts or YouTube series hasn't paid a single one of them for most of us.

The answer to this problem is obvious.

Hire these people!

We shouldn't expect people to use their skills to yank the GOP into the 21<sup>st</sup> century for free.

Finding the people to hire shouldn't even be that difficult. If you are doing all the outreach to minority voters that I recommend then you should not have a problem finding and recruiting young conservatives. These are people who understand social media and popular culture better because they live with it every day and among them you are surely going to find people who are also talented artists, musicians, or writers.

Invest in the future of conservatism or there will be no future for it at all.

### **The Main Stream Media Narrative**

One of the most difficult things for conservatives to deal with is the fact that the media has for so long been stacked against us. It's not just an uphill battle to get positive media attention

(especially traditional media), it's an uphill battle where the hill has been booby-trapped like a scene from the Saw franchise.

Added to that is that fact that in many cases it seems like conservative media and news are as responsible as anyone else for the poor image conservatives have. We don't have a handle on our own media presence, let alone the media narrative that Comedy Central, CNN, or MSNBC are crafting for us.

And that is where the issue of messaging comes in.

So what have we learned today?

1. Use pop culture as a way to spread conservative ideas.
2. Make your own media.
3. Invest in the future of conservatism or there will be no future at all.
4. Change our messaging so the media can't control the narrative about conservatism.



## Messaging:

*You know, I've spent my entire life time separating the Right from the kooks.*  
- William F. Buckley, Jr.

### **Stop Letting Idiots Dictate Our Message**

I've turned on the television more than once in the recent past only to be treated to a show that's being hosted by some conservative personality that ends up completely disappointing me with the way they handle their interviews and stories. Usually they are taking on a topic that is highly divisive and, because there's a never-ending scramble for ratings, the people being interviewed are more interested in shouting over each other than they are in finding any common ground and usually the conservative side of the argument isn't really bringing anything all that helpful to the table either, sometimes they aren't even bringing anything *conservative* to the table. They are usually populists and isolationist ones at that. Worst of all, whether their ideas are really conservative at all, they are now the next 24/7 news cycle representative of Conservatism, especially if they've said something completely outrageous.

And that's because we have no real coherent messaging laid out for what conservatives believe or, possibly even more importantly, what they **don't** believe.

The only people that can change the perception of conservatism. Stop whining about all the lies the "lame stream" media tells and start fixing the root of the problem, *our own messaging*.

Messaging is one of our most consistent problems and I'm not going to lie and say that it's a simple problem to fix. Getting a coherent and consistent message out of Republicans can be much like herding cats. It's the one extreme downside to being the party of freedom and individual liberty, because we are very wary of censoring the speech or rhetoric coming from members of our party.

Of course there's an alternate way to deal with this that doesn't involve controlling the language or rhetoric of our politicians and pundits and that is to lay out a clear message of what conservatives do and do not believe. The truth of the matter is just because someone is a registered Republican does not mean that they are conservative and even when someone is conservative on one or two issues that does not mean that they are always consistently conservative in every other belief they hold. So a strong message of what conservative values are is very important in order for us to be able to differentiate between what Republican/Conservative values and what views are singular to a particular subgroup of conservatives or even just a personal view held by a singular Republican politician.

There is nothing wrong with establishing a set of beliefs and refusing to let other people's opinions or values change them. I mean, sure, doing so has caused a few schisms and defenestrations (1) in churches and countries over the years, but sometimes that's necessary. The current Republican Party wasn't created without a few political schisms along the way.

You know that saying about how going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than sleeping in a barn makes you a cow? Well having an R next to your name (whether you're in congress or just a registered voter) doesn't make you a conservative either.

Inevitably a candidate or congressman or governor is going to screw up. They are going to say something stupid or spout off a personal opinion (the infamous "Todd Akin" moment comes to mind, though he's not the first or last to handle questions on abortions with about as much finesse as an angry dragon in Madame Tussaud's.) The unfortunate fact is that we are all human and we aren't all as quick on our feet to avoid gotcha questions as we'd like, but the important thing is to be quick enough to keep non-conservative opinions from tainting the entire core of conservative values.

So when a congressman, that on every other issue is as conservative as the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Reagan himself, says that gay people are immoral or having an abortion will send you straight to hell, we need to be ready and willing to say that while it's totally fine that they have their own opinions, that their beliefs have nothing to do with being politically conservative. The same thing goes for a politician that is a Republican, but inexplicably is cutting off free trade or thinks that Eminent Domain is "wonderful" (2) (because it's not like social issues are the only place where Republicans can, or have, strayed from conservatism). It's fine to differ from conservative values on some issues for whatever reason (even if you are completely wrong) but claiming those views are conservative...that's not okay.

And one further thing on the issue of criticizing candidates.

If a candidate is so abysmally bad and so utterly un-conservative that you can't see how they could be of any benefit to the Republican Party or conservative goals in the long run...cut them loose. It's better to lose a handful of an elections every few years than it is to fight to put someone who will do nothing but damage our party (and potentially our nation) and embarrass every person who has to spend the next 2-6 years repeating "no, I don't support what he/she said, because he/she **isn't** a conservative!" to everyone from their uncle at Thanksgiving to the anonymous morons who send them messages on social media.

### **Liberal? Conservative? What's the Difference?**

When I was in high school I took debate class (yeah, I know, shocking. A nerd that goes on to write about politics was into debate) and my teacher, despite being a bleeding heart liberal from what I could tell, gave me one extremely useful piece of advice that I still swear by. During debate practice one day he stopped me mid-sentence to yell at me for continuing to address my argument to the opposition rather than to him. His explanation?

"Don't look at him, look at me, I'm the one you're trying to convince. He's a moron, you'll never convince him that he's wrong, you have to convince *me* that you're right!"

I feel like this advice also translates into political messaging in many ways.

Let's face it, moron or not, we are not going to change the minds of the likes of Bernie Sanders or Hillary Clinton or George Soros. They are pretty much locked in. The same goes for their most diehard fans.

So the key isn't convincing diehard liberals that they are wrong. The key is presenting a viable message of how conservative and Republican views are different from liberal Democrat ideals and, most importantly, why our ideas are better. To do this you need to have clarity of beliefs, which we just discussed in the previous section.

There are obvious problems with the long-term (and often the short term) consequences of liberal progressive values and we need to express those in a way that will connect with voters. There are also clear advantages to conservative values. We've just allowed liberals to own the narrative of free stuff and zero accountability for so long that public opinion has become completely lopsided in favor of what Democrats can offer to minorities. As a result we now have to suffer through an uphill battle to change the popular view of conservative values and show how our beliefs are the ones that will really benefit everyone in the long run.

One would think that would be fairly easy. I mean how can freedom, individual liberty, low taxes, pro-business, and protection of human rights be something that people wouldn't want?

Unfortunately that's tied to another problem our party suffers from.

### **A Single Manly Tear is Worth a Thousand Statistics**

This next part is something that I have absolutely no understanding of how to fix and I won't pretend that I will. All I can do is point out the problem exists and hope someone has the answer.

Conservatives are excruciatingly bad at appealing to emotion. Paul Ryan is probably one of the **most** conservative men in congress at the time of this writing, but he's not usually good at explaining his views in a way that will move people. He's a numbers guy. I would trust no one more on economic theory or political negotiation, but a heart strings tugging kind of guy he is not.

Just a few days ago I sat in front of my computer and rolled my eyes as Barack Obama wiped a few manly tears from his eye while discussing the importance of using executive orders to violate the second amendment rights of the people. The tears didn't work on me, because (despite my hatred of math) I am a numbers kind of girl at heart. I look at the facts, I read the studies, and I understand why all his weeping and wailing about gun control is all show and no substance.

However, as my best friend usually tells me, I'm not like other people. Most people are moved by emotionally distraught appeals like the one President Obama delivered. We could follow that speech with a hundred reasons why gun control isn't effective in stopping violence, but that still won't have the same impact his speech had for most people. Rattling off all the reasons why gun control wouldn't have stopped the San Bernardino attack or saved the lives of the children at Sandy Hook just doesn't work as well as a soundbite.

I have no soul for poetry, which is why I excel at writing about politics in books specifically for those interested in politics. When you ventured into the politics section and picked this up you were already the kind of person that was open to boring facts and dry discussion of constitutional rights and the positive effects of capitalism on industry. You, dear reader, are also not like other people.

The problem is that those people who are more emotionally driven are the ones we have to convince if we are going to win elections.

Again, I have no idea how to solve this problem. I just know it's there and I know the Democrats have found a way to reach out to people who don't care for pure facts and logic, now we have to find a way to do the same.

### **We're the Party of Liberty, Not Theocracy**

The next issue is one that was brought up at least once, sometimes more, in almost every interview that I did. The one most common concern from the interviewees was the prevalence of social conservatism in our party and the effect it has on our messaging.

Socially conservative individuals have a place in our party, just as all the demographics you've seen in this book have a place. The only requirement we have is that you believe in cutting the government back to the smallest size possible for humanity to thrive. Unfortunately there is a difference between someone that holds personal convictions that are socially conservative and a person who wants to impose those views on others. The latter are not conservatives, no matter what they might have you believe. Make no mistake, they are Progressives and just like the Progressives on the left they seek to control us with government regulation...only instead of taxes on sugar and rules about "hate speech" they want their regulations based on what their religion dictates.

Some may even hold a few conservative views, like lower taxes or free trade (though in my experience they fit the more "populist" mold of hating free trade because it 'takes jobs away from hardworking Americans' and wanting lower taxes on the middle class, but hikes on tariffs and corporate taxes), but their love of big government for social issues really destroys their conservative credibility on other issues. They're more than welcome to come in and share their views on conservative issues and vote for conservative candidates, but if they are going to be making comments about stoning gay people because it's Gods will...well I'm more than happy to buy them a one way plane ticket to join their intellectual soulmates in the Islamic Caliphate, because their brand of rhetoric doesn't play well with the conservative ideals of freedom and individual liberty. I understand that it can sometimes be a reaction to the left wanting social control in the opposite direction, but we don't win by becoming a different form of the monster we should be fighting.

I've always viewed the ideological divide on social issues as an issue of generational lines, rather than party. In this book the majority of the interviews skewed toward conservatives in their late teens to late 20s (partly intentional, as young conservatives were a subset of the "minority

conservatives” this book was looking at) and, as I expected, issues like gay marriage (and even abortion to some degree) bore out the idea that as the millennial generation is hitting voting age and splitting between parties they are bringing the more millennial approach to these issues into both parties. While young people do occasionally end up in the conservative camp, the very vocal religious right is a major turn off to more than just gay or transgender voters, they could potentially be the cause of a huge loss of even straight, white millennial voters who are much more likely to be in favor of gay marriage and who are much more sensitive to the struggles and needs of the LGBT community in general, which poll after poll confirms. (3)

So it’s important to recognize the damage that these “Progressives for Jesus” can do to our party.

Now I’m not saying that the Republican Party has to expel all those that oppose gay marriage or force them to support it. I’m a lesbian and even I am not the biggest advocate of marriage equality myself (not for reasons of religion or morality, but because I sincerely take issue with the idea that anyone should need or want permission from the government to marry) and my reaction to the 2015 Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality was cautiously pleased (the SCotUS argument was not without some merit in my opinion) along with a healthy dose of concern for the possible issues the decisions wording might cause for religious institutions.

What I am saying is that with 59-70% of everyone born since 1965 being in favor of gay marriage, it may be time to put that particular platform plank to bed and realize that as a party that is supposedly in favor of small government and allowing individuals to live their lives without being controlled by others, maybe gay marriage is really just not the hill we want to die on. The only thing that will accomplish at this stage is alienating potential Generation X and Millennial voters.

As far as religion and social conservatism goes, there’s one more trend that does more to alienate certain subsets of minorities and that particular trend is the use of the phrase “Judeo-Christian values”. I’m not going to get into some long discussion of whether or not our country is based on Judeo-Christian values or not, really I’m not, because I already wrote a few thousand words on the topic on my website at one point and the argument didn’t do anything to change the opinions of either side. Honestly it doesn’t matter either way, the important thing to note is that if you have decided to play politics that way then the only “minority” you’ll be effective at reaching will be the evangelical religious right, which has been pretty much a “sure bet” for quite a while as far as Republican votes go. Oddly enough we do have non-Jewish and non-Christian voters in this country and our party has just as much to offer them.

In short:

1. Form a coherent message of what conservatism stands for, a small number of core issues, and attempt to keep candidates and politicians on message.
- Don’t be afraid to criticize those that end up saying something completely stupid or counter to our principles.
2. Make the difference between liberal and conservative ideals clear and show why conservative plans are superior to liberal ones in the long term.
3. For our arguments to really reach people we need to argue feelings as much as facts.

4. Stop letting social and religious issues appear to be the mainstays of our party beliefs.

## Community Organizing:

*Organizing is what you do before you do something, so that when you do it, it is not all mixed up.*

- A. A. Milne

### **Anything They Can Do, We Can Do Better**

The term Community Organizing has a rather ominous sound for conservatives, for good reason.

I'm not talking about the fact that in 2008 and 2012 our country elected a community organizer for President, though I suppose that might be part of it.

The real reason is that the term "community organizing" is in complete opposition to the ideas of individuality that our party are so in favor of. The term implies that there are communities to organize, and I don't mean your neighborhood watch committee. I'm talking about collective groups. The black community, the gay community, etc.

One of the core values of conservative belief is that we value the individual over the collective, but the reality is that liberals have been able to get away with defining everything in the terms of collectivism for years. As a result that is how most people think of themselves and how they prioritize their goals. What people think of is not "what is best for me", rather they think "what is best for my community."(1)

An example of this would be a gay businessman deciding to vote a Democrat into office, despite the fact that Democrats usually favor higher taxes and more stringent regulation on business. In the long run that vote for a Democrat doesn't benefit the businessman individually very much, in fact it's likely to result in more difficulties for him or her. However, the gay community, a social group that this person feels the need to fit into (makes it a lot easier to find a date after all, since having people call you a traitor tends to kill the mood) has decided that their priority is gay marriage and hate crime legislation and regulations on how businesses choose to serve customers.

If the businessman was making this decision based on what benefits him as an individual he might very well vote for a Republican that promised to lower taxes and reduce red tape and regulation on his business. Unfortunately because of the mostly manufactured reputation (eased along by the existence of extreme social conservatives in the Republican Party) Republicans are viewed by the gay community as evil incarnate. Voting for Republicans or being openly conservative, from personal experience, ends in being ostracized from the community. Which is not something most people are willing to risk.

This means that despite the fact that conservatives abhor collectivism, we have to buy into it in order to find the right way to reach those voters. Our outreach to them can't just be based on what benefits the individual, because every community out there has been wired to believe that the priorities of the collective take precedence over their own individual beliefs or needs.

So how do we do this?

First of all it's a matter of who the messenger is.

### **People Love to Shoot the Messenger**

I'm a pale descendent of Irish immigrants, the harsh truth is that regardless of what I have to say or how good my evidence is, the black community at large doesn't want to hear from me. I'm not part of their group and the perception is that I don't understand them and I don't know what their problems are or how to help them and, to some degree, that may actually be true.

The same thing matters for every other minority demographic. Women's groups don't want to hear from a bunch of male politicians. Gay pride events are not the place to send a bunch of straight interns from the hill. College campuses are not the place for middle aged political pundits. (2)

My arguments might convince a few, but the knee jerk psychological distrust of people from another group is going to keep some who might be open to the message from another messenger and only then will they learn to give up that knee jerk reaction that is found in humans of any and all groups.

Who we need to send in these situations are people who speak their language (sometimes literally) both demographically and regionally (a Californian doesn't really understand a Midwesterner or vice versa).

In 2011 there was a paper released by the National Bureau of Economic Research (3). The paper studied administrative data from community colleges to see if minority teachers had a positive effect on closing the achievement gap between white and non-white students. The brief summary of their results was this:

*We find that the performance gap in terms of class dropout rates, pass rates, and grade performance between white and underrepresented minority students falls by 20-50 percent when taught by an underrepresented minority instructor. We also find these interactions affect longer term outcomes such as subsequent course selection, retention, and degree completion.*

So if the fact that minority students respond better to minority teachers in education, we can't ignore the fact that minority representation in political discourse is of importance as well.

Of course while finding the right messenger is important, the message is still more important. It would be completely useless to send in someone who fits the demographic, only to find they don't have any idea how to discuss conservative values or express how they benefit the communities they are speaking too.

Finding the right way to express the benefits of conservative policies to these communities won't be easy. To be honest most conservatives really aren't that good at expressing why conservative policies are good for the individual, much less how they benefit an entire community. One of the



first things that needs to be done is to listen to these communities. Don't argue, don't tell them their concerns are wrong, just listen...not an easy thing to accomplish.

I used to have this one family member, who had this extremely annoying flaw in his personality, which was that during any disagreement you had with him you could tell that he wasn't actually listening to a word you were saying. He was assuming he knew what you would say and he was already planning his rebuttal around that assumption. In a lot of ways that's what conservatives do with minority groups. I'm guilty of this the same as anyone. It's easy to dismiss Black Lives Matter, NoH8!, Occupy Wall Street, or whatever advocacy group is stirring up trouble at the moment. They usually are pretty ridiculous and they are pretty bad at getting their point across or suggesting fixes for the problems they see, but to be honest every now and then they take a shot in the dark and make a valid point. They are still usually wrong, but it's a point that there is no obvious answer to and an explanation is called for.

So the solution here is, no matter how ridiculous they look or sound, listen to their concerns, because they very well may be tapping into valid concerns that their demographic really have. Listen to the concerns and then counter their "solution" with a conservative solution. Think of how many problems would have been solved if Michael Steele and John Boehner had listened to the Tea Party.

And remember that these protesting groups are not the only ones you can seek out and listen too. Reach out to the communities on the local, grassroots level as well. Go to their churches, speak at their schools, make yourself available to the communities you are seeking out and make your availability about them, not just about yourself. Everyone likes a chance to talk about their problems and get some free food. If you want to hear what young voters want from the Republican party, offer them free pizza and something other than a speech from an author or congressman. People want to feel special, they want to feel like you care and that you are actually hearing what they are saying.

As for what the conservative solutions for their concerns are...well that really depends on the problem and if I had the easy answers to all the problems of getting voters on our side then I would be running for office, not writing this.

Every demographic has a problem or two that is unique to them. Those problems are necessarily always going to be the same.

For young voters that issue at the moment is the very real problem of unemployment, student debt, and extremely high tuition.

For the African-American community that prevailing issue that we hear the most at the moment is the issue of police brutality, though other problems like single mothers, poverty, and unemployment numbers that are much higher than the nationwide average are specific to them as well.

For the LGBT community the fears mostly circle around issues of marriage and discrimination, as they have for a long time, though issues like HIV and AIDS treatment come with the territory as well.

The Hispanic community, at this time, has one of the most visible and often discussed issues in politics. Which is, obviously, the issue of illegal immigration and border security. How we deal with this problem will not only effect the illegal immigrants themselves, but also our country's reputation worldwide and our influence with Hispanic voters in general.

How we solve these problems is a far larger question than this book was ever intended to answer. Besides, that's what we have conservative think tanks for. But there are conservative answers for their problems and we can present them, but first we need to let them know we are actually listening to their problems and we care about fixing them.

### **The Children Really Are Our Future**

We also need to start thinking in the long term. Reaching out to minority voters may not bear fruit in the next election or even the next 5 elections. Despite the fact that conservative ideals are built around long-term solutions, not short-term gains, we all suffer from being hardwired to want instant gratification. It's a product of the amazing world of technology that's allowed so many thing to become instant for us. From Netflix to Amazon Prime next day delivery, we want what we want (or, in the case of voting, need) as soon as possible and if we can't get it we tend to give up in a huff and walk away (I'm the kind of person that will curse at my computer when it doesn't load a program instantly, patient I am not).

So my fear is that if we work with these communities and don't see an immediate turn around, our party will get frustrated, throw our hands up in the air, and give up. The truth is that there are a good number of older voters in these communities that we may never reach, so we need to also start trying to reach out to younger generations. Not just the college age voters, but younger as well. The same community organizing ideas I shared earlier can be employed just as easily with junior high and high school students. Send out people to talk to them, get a grass roots movement working from the ground up and change the minds of future voters. The more we can change the future media presence, reputation and messaging of our party the better. Even if older voters are already poisoned against us, the younger generations have had less time to be exposed to misinformation and lies about what conservatives believe. The sooner we reach out and give them answers about what we believe and what we can do for them, the better.

### **Conservative Beliefs Benefit Everyone**

Once you've sent in a messenger that can empathize and find common ground with the group and listened to their problems and showed them how Conservative principles can solve their concerns you can move past their immediate concerns and start talking about why conservative ideals as a whole are beneficial to them. The immediate concern of the black community might be police violence toward blacks, the Hispanic community might be immediately concerned with illegal immigration, the gay community is concerned about hate crimes. All of those are (probably) valid concerns to a degree and we have to deal with them, but then we need to discuss

the other benefits of conservative beliefs and we need to do it in a way that people who aren't policy wonks will understand.

Taylor Millard, a political writer, put it this way:

*[P]olicy people can NOT get separated from the rest of humanity. There's a reason why the "GOP Smart Set" is being used as a slur. Policy folks can't just move down into the population every so often to prove their own humanity.*

*They HAVE TO be involved with people who can't quote Locke or Jefferson or Mises on a regular basis. They don't know what "Natural Law" is, so you've got to explain it to them. This isn't calling them stupid, it's calling them "normal." They care more about paying bills or watching TV, than what the Legislature or City Council is going to vote on.*

*There's gotta be hybrid policy/commentator people out there. Ones who can shine the light and explain WHY "freedom and liberty" is good and "the leviathan" is bad by offering alternatives to the current policy. Is it easy? No, especially when people prefer the "read and react," but I'm convinced it's worth it long term.*

How you approach this is going to depend on who you are speaking too obviously, but I can't think of any group that isn't concerned about health insurance, jobs, taxes, or welfare to some degree. We will have to find the right message to combat the lies that liberals have created about conservative ideology in the first place, but it can be done.

And again, just in case you need a refresher on what we covered:

1. Liberals have been pushing collectivism successfully for years. Instead of fighting an uphill battle we need to work within these communities the same way liberals do.
2. Find the right messengers to reach out to each communities. Find out their concerns and show them how we will work to help them.
3. Reach out to the next generation of voters.
4. Show how conservative beliefs benefit voters.

## Interviews

I constructed these questions with the goal of understanding the personal lives and conservative values of the conservatives I interviewed. Not every question was answered by every interviewee and some questions got rolled together during both written and audio interviews. Audio interviews are in a slightly different format for obvious reasons and those that are not marked as audio interviews were written by the interviewee themselves. As I did not want to accidentally change the meaning of their statements, only the most minimal of editing was done on those interviews.

These are the basic questions I asked to each person (even myself) and it was the answers they gave that I used as the core research of this book.

### Personal story:

What is it about yourself that makes you a “minority conservative”?

Why did you become a conservative?

What would you say your political beliefs before that were? If any.

What age were you when you became a conservative?

Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?

As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?

Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?

Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?

Positive or negative?

Is there anything I didn't ask about in this section that you think is important?

### Policies:

What do you consider to be conservative principles?

What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?

What do you believe the job of the federal government is?

What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?

Why do you disagree with liberal political views?

Are there any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?

What is your opinion on Gay marriage?

Abortion?

Welfare?

Discrimination laws? (By which I mean laws that make it illegal for a business owner to refuse service to someone because of their gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, etc.)

Feminism?

Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?

What are your thoughts on foreign policy?

Is there anything I didn't ask about in this section that you think is important?

Outreach:

What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?

Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?

If not, how could they improve their explanation?

Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?

If not, how can they improve that outreach?

Do you think there is a better way to explain how the views of Republicans/Conservatives benefit your demographic?

What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?

Is there anything I didn't ask about in this section that you think is important?

### **Meredith A. Walker**

#### **What is it about yourself that makes you a “minority conservative”?**

The fact that I am a lesbian pretty much makes me a “minority” by liberal standards. The fact that I'm in my mid-20s seems to shock them quite a bit as well.

#### **Why did you become a conservative?**

A bit of a complicated question as I would say that becoming a conservative was a process.

The 2008 elections was definitely one catalyst. I certainly didn't have a great love for McCain as a candidate, I still don't in fact, but as I watched the debates and speeches from Obama I came to the sickening realization that he was nothing but a blank slate. I couldn't figure out what his ideas or plans were, he just talked a big game of empty rhetoric about hope and change and nothing he said made me believe he could accomplish anything good. I was a recent high school graduate and nothing he said made me feel he was going to make the world a place where I could get a good job or an education. That sort of put the nail in the coffin any liberal leanings I might have had. Unfortunately McCain wasn't exactly a poster child for conservatism either, so it wasn't until later that I really started to consider that I might want to be a conservative.

What actually pushed me over the edge from being a registered independent to actually considering the Republican party and conservatism was a video that I was sent when I was 18 or so, it was an interview that Bill Maher's show when he had Andrew Breitbart on as a guest. I started to realize that conservatives might know more than I thought they did.

#### **What would you say your political beliefs before that were?**

I was pretty much an obnoxious liberal like most teenagers. This wasn't really brought on by any facts or understanding of the world, mostly it was based on my feelings and the fact that my

parents were conservatives and, like most teenagers, I thought they were idiots and I had the brilliant idea that being a liberal was the perfect way to rebel against them.

### **What age were you when you became a conservative?**

I was 18 when I started to change my mind, but it wasn't until I was 19 or 20 that it really cemented. My ideas on conservatism continued to evolve over the years as my understanding of conservative ideals grew and I distanced myself more and more from the liberal ideas that I had previously believed.

### **Are your family and friends conservative or liberal?**

My parents are both conservative and my sister, who is only 19, recently registered to vote as an independent. She's far more conservative than most people of her age, but she's not completely there yet.

Most of friends are at least a bit right of center if they have any interest in politics at all. I find it difficult to be friends with people who are actively liberal and I'm sure they would have trouble being friends with me as well. I'm sure that I lost a few friends over it, but since I was already in a transition period (graduating high school) where you typically lose touch with old friends and make new ones, it didn't really affect me.

When I was first changing my political beliefs I was dating a woman who was pretty liberal. We didn't part ways over politics, but we would have if we hadn't parted ways over other issues. Since then I've only really dated conservative/libertarian women.

### **As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

In almost every case the reaction has either been completely excited (either because they never met a gay conservative before or because they were excited to meet another gay conservative like themselves) or just "yup, you're a conservative, I'm a conservative, cool". Which isn't the say that we don't have some spectacular arguments at times, but it's almost never related to social issues or the fact that I'm a lesbian. We usually throw down over differing views on policy issues like immigration or foreign policy or which presidential nominee we are supporting.

There is, once in a blue moon, some sort of social conservative ("Progressives for Jesus") that get rude about my sexuality, but they are so few and far between (and I don't really consider them conservatives) that I rarely even think about them.

### **What is the reaction from liberals when they learn that you are conservative?**

If I had a nickel for every time I had someone responded to learning that I'm a conservative with something along the lines of "why do you hate yourself?" or "why are you voting for people that hate you!" or "who brainwashed you?" etc. I would be able to pay off my student loans at the very least. Reactions of that kind come from people I interact with online and in real life and they are the least vitriolic of the reactions. I've been sent emails and messages on social media with death threats or requests for me to kill myself and wishes that I would be raped or that my mother had aborted me. The more violent of the reactions are definitely less common than the

other, but they still happen more regularly than most people would probably be comfortable with.

### **Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

There has been some negative effects certainly. Getting a date is a lot harder for instance. I really have no interest in dating anyone on the left side of the political aisle and there seems to be far more liberal lesbian and bisexual women in my immediate area. My dating pool is facing a significant water shortage as a result.

Aside from dating there was a definite toll on my education. The political science department I was in at my college was full of professors who were really far left on the political spectrum. Unfortunately I never learned when to keep my mouth shut, whether in class or in my assignments, which didn't really endear me to most of my professors (or fellow students). I would have definitely had an easier college experience if I had been liberal or just generally indifferent to politics, but that's just not me.

It isn't all bad though. I've met and become friends with a large group of conservative and libertarian bloggers and I've had the chance to help a lot of people who feel like they are alone in the world as a minority conservative. I've connected with people nationally and internationally who I really enjoy talking to and who challenge me intellectually and support my interests and I wouldn't have it any other way.

### **What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

I believe that conservative principles are those that were considered "classically liberal". The principles that our country was founded on. Namely freedom and liberty, small government, a federal government that abides by their enumerated powers and leaves the states to govern on other issues that aren't meant to be dealt with by the federal government, like welfare, marriage, and other issues.

### **What questions do you find are often asked to you by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

Since I'm a gay female I tend to get the questions about gay marriage, gay rights, hate crimes and religious freedom, and questions on abortion. The gay marriage questions come so often at this point that I have it as part of my "frequently asked question" on my blog...not that it stops people from asking, but at least I have a handy link to give them instead of retyping my answer over and over again. I also ended up putting a section on my feelings about discrimination laws (thanks to that Indiana RFRA law) and abortion, because they were asked so often as well.

One of the first F.A.Q.s I had to write and post was in response to the "How can you be gay and conservative? Don't you know Republicans hate gay people? They won't even let you get married!" question that I got over and over though. My presence as a gay conservative was just too mind blowing for liberals to wrap their heads around I guess.

### **What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

The enumerated powers. That's pretty much it. (1)

Anything outside of that should be left up to the states to handle.

**Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

I think liberal policies encourage big government and a reduction in freedom. Liberal ideals seem to be built on the principle that the government knows what you need better than you do and that the federal government should enforce behavior “for your own good” despite what you might want as a free person or what might actually be best for you.

You can see this in things like higher taxes on sugar and high fat foods, alcohol, and cigarettes. You can also see it in things like the federal government forcing you to buy health insurance regardless of whether you want it or even need it.

They also operate on the idea that, because they know what’s best for you that they are the arbitrators of how much money or material goods you and other people need. If you have too much, their policies allow them to confiscate it and give it to people that they deem have too little. The entire concept doesn’t work to create a good economy and it’s completely unethical and immoral.

**What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

I think the main difference is that liberals believe in collectivism and conservatives believe in individualism. That particular view is proved by the fact that I continuously get harangued by liberals about how I’m a ‘traitor’ to the gay/female community for not falling in line and voted for liberal politicians and policies. I have no intention of voting as if I’m part of some hive mind of lesbians. Conservatives don’t expect me to vote based on my sexuality or even based on the prevailing opinions of conservatives. I have voted for democrats in elections in the past and probably will again in the future, but only because in those instances they offered better solutions than the “conservative” running against them. I don’t have to “fall in line” with conservatives and most don’t expect me to, unlike liberals who seem to think that because I’m attracted to women that I somehow “owe” them my vote.

**Are there are any topics where you disagree with conservative views or agree with liberal views?**

Not particularly.

I mean, don’t get me wrong, I think there are plenty of registered Republicans out there that I disagree with. I simply don’t think that their ideas are particularly conservative ones. I loathe Rick Santorum and Mike Huckabee and other “progressives for Jesus” (a term coined by a pagan conservative who’s has an interview in this book as well), but their views on abortion and gay marriage aren’t actually all that conservative since they seem to think that big government is a good idea as long as it’s enforcing things like banning gay marriage or abortion, despite the questionable nature of such bans on a federal level, when those issues are quite clearly state level issues.

**Gay marriage?**



I don't believe that gay marriage should be decided on by the federal government. I believe that marriage as a whole should be dealt with by the state.

However in an ideal situation I would want to see marriage removed from the government entirely. I think there should be a separation between the romantic and religious binding of two people and the legal process of binding two (or more) people's assets, rights, and family's together, because, frankly, if there is going to be tax benefits and inheritance benefits and next of kin and all the other issues that marriages general cover, those should be things that should be available for anyone who wishes to tie their assets together, not just romantic couples.

The Supreme Court decision on gay marriage was something I was (and remain) ambivalent about. I don't disagree with the winning decision overall, but there were issues that I wish had been more clearly defined (such as the freedom of religious leaders to refuse to perform marriages they don't wish to perform) and ultimately I think gay marriage would have been legal nationally relatively quickly anyway if it had been left to the states.

All things considered I'm mostly just relieved that it's over and done with, though I know more controversy will happen in relation to this topic.

### **Abortion?**

I have thought very hard about the issue and there is simply no way I could call myself strictly pro-life or pro-choice on an issue as complex as this and remain consistent with my own believe in ethics and morality.

On a personal level I would say that I'm pretty much pro-life, except for a few possible circumstances. However there are a myriad of reasons why I don't support a ban on abortion. During the first trimester especially I refuse to believe that the life of a barely formed human is more important than the life of the mother. I'm not going to apologize for that. There are reasons where a woman would need to abort a child early in the pregnancy for her own life.

Abortion for reasons of the child's health are also a reason I can't support a ban on abortion. This is actually one of the few places where I suppose the "pro-life" people would really hate me, but if I had a child that was going to suffer with a serious genetic or mental defect that would ensure they could not pursue Happiness in their life I probably would have an abortion.

While I would classify myself as pro-life, I just don't think quantity trumps quality and I could not ethically or morally condemn my child to a life where they were unable to function or in pain for their whole life. You can disagree with me on this, that's fine.

I support making sure all abortion clinics are up to all health codes. I think there should be strict regulation over them to make sure they aren't doing late term abortions (I can get into why I do agree with bans on those, but I'm not going to right now) or doing abortions on minors (I do support needing a parents permission) or neglecting to report rape, or any of the other abuses that reportedly occur. I also think doctor's at these clinics should have admitting privileges to the nearest hospital as well. I'm not saying I want abortion to be free, unregulated, and on demand. I want them to very rare, but there is no way that I can see a ban being at all useful or beneficial.

## **Welfare?**

I don't see a problem with having some sort of safety net. I see the benefit of it actually, given my own family's struggles. There is a point at which you are so far down that you can't pull yourself out easily.

However I disagree with the current system we have for welfare. I think that most of it should be dealt with on a state (or even county) level as I believe that would enable the local areas to understand what would best meet the needs for their poor and would lessen the abuse of welfare, making it possible to get people off the programs and moving on instead of remaining dependent on them.

Other methods, like a reverse income tax, might be a better way to distribute aid and welfare as well. Making the recipients responsible for budgeting their income and finding the best way to use their benefits to actually thrive, rather than just surviving day to day.

## **Discrimination laws?**

I am a proponent of free markets, which cannot freely operate under unnecessary regulations like discrimination laws. Freedom of speech, religion, and association combine in such a way that I feel it's indisputable that the free market will drive any business that practices in discriminatory ways out of business far faster and more effectively than any regulation will. Business owners, board of directors, investors, those are the only people who should truly have a say in how a business is run, unless the business is intentionally harming people.

## **Feminism?**

First wave (and even second wave to a point) was a good thing in my opinion and we still need it in many parts of the world where women are victimized and marginalized on a regular basis. However once we moved from 2nd wave into 3rd wave feminism it seems like feminists kind of lost me.

There are still some quality feminists in the modern world who are fighting the good fight. Ayaan Hirsi Ali being one that legitimately wants to shine a light on the misogyny in the world and to bring feminism to women who need it. Christina Hoff Summers who shines light on some of the craziness that 3rd wave feminism has brought and tries to show where improvements can be made, based on facts, not misinformation.

In the end I feel like we gave up the word and let an entire movement be hijacked by extremists and because of that the word "feminism" is no longer one I feel comfortable using to describe myself. Modern feminists make me supremely uncomfortable with their focus on issues like "manspreading" and "rape culture", "the patriarchy", and manufactured issues like the "wage gap". They seem more interested in government regulation to fix problems (problems that don't actually exist in most cases) which is something that I also can't support. I have yet to see a government regulation that did more than slap a band aid on a problem (a problem usually created by some other government regulation) and take away someone else's freedom.

So in short, I would consider myself a feminist if the term was in its original context and the modern movement was truly about wanting men and women to be treated equally, based on merit and character, unfortunately that's not what feminism has become in the modern world and I wouldn't want to be associated with 3<sup>rd</sup> wave feminism for anything.

### **What are your feelings on the issues of immigration, amnesty, and border security?**

Immigration is a spectacularly tough question to answer. I am 100% in support of legal immigration. I think the system needs serious reforms (I have a friend that was married for over 2 years before her husband's paperwork was processed and he was allowed to come to the United States). The system, like many in America, is so full of bureaucracy and so top heavy that it's become impossible to navigate.

Illegal immigration is an issue of importance and complexity. I live in southern Arizona, so it's a topic that comes up quite often. We need to secure the border first. No other country has such a porous border or such lenient attitudes toward people crossing the border. Part of the federal government's job is to secure the border and they are failing at it spectacularly. There's honestly not much of a discussion to be had until the border is secured.

The next step I feel is dealing with a very broken legal immigration system. It's a system that is expensive, complicated, and awards visas to people for the wrong reasons. We have to acknowledge that some of the problems of illegal immigration have come from this broken system and that a lot of illegal immigrants came in on visas and overstayed, they didn't all just swim the Rio Grande one night, and to deal with the issue of illegal immigration also means we have to deal with this issue.

At that point the topic of Amnesty comes up. It's a dirty word to a lot of conservatives and I don't exactly have warm fuzzy feelings for it myself. However, the pragmatic side of me says that deportation of every illegal immigrant in the country is not practical or fiscally responsible. I would say that some sort of amnesty (not an immediate grant of citizenship) would be doable. The details would be difficult to work out and anyone with a criminal record (outside of the crime of crossing the border illegal obviously) would lead to deportation. I would also say that anyone applying for the "amnesty" be put on what amounts to probation. If you are picked up for a crime more serious than a misdemeanor/traffic violation etc. you should lose your right to amnesty at that time and be deported. The steps to receiving citizenship at that point would be strenuous, time consuming, and involve fines and other fees and would be far from the idea of automatic citizenship that the term "amnesty" conjures up for most conservatives.

### **What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

I consider myself to be somewhat of a neoconservative. I believe we need a strong military and that we need to be proactive about dealing with threats. Which sometimes means getting involved in foreign countries where threats like ISIS are growing. I believe that proactively dealing with tyrants and dictators worldwide will be better for national security (also cheaper) in the long run, as well as being better for the world-wide economy if those countries can move to a free market and capitalism.

We also need to strengthen our relationships with countries that are our friends, rather than negotiating with people that have serious problem with America. This means better relationships with Israel, among others, and a lot less buddying up with Iran and other countries that actively hate America.

### **What can Republicans do to increase their outreach to minorities?**

I honestly despise trying to do outreach based on demographics, which makes this book more than a bit ironic...I get that already, no need to point it out. However since that seems to be how politics works, we need to get better at it. I think first of all we need to work to make minority conservatives more visible. We've had a lot of luck with that when it comes to black conservatives, but other demographics are extremely ignored for some reason.

Then it becomes an issue of public relations and messaging. We have to get better at expressing our views in an accessible way. Conservatives tend to argue policy with more of an eye to facts. Arguments end up being strings of charts, graphs, and numbers when it comes to just about any topic, from gun control to economics. These don't appeal to most people, which is why the liberal style of appealing to the feelings and emotions of people ("We'll make things fair!" "We'll make your life easier!" "There IS such a thing as a free lunch!" that sort of thing) makes it far easier to reach out to all voters who are bored by the statistics that prove that our side has the right idea.

### **Do you feel like conservatives (and the Republican Party) do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

As a party, no. There are some individuals that get it right, but unfortunately the biggest organizations seem far too interested in appeasing the more socially conservative wing rather than finding ways to do outreach to voters. Let's just be honest here, gay marriage, abortion, talking about "welfare queens", and refusing to take more nuanced looks at immigration are not going to win us points. We need to start learning to emphasize the freedom and liberty parts of conservatism.

On top of that we have think tanks that put out studies that are inaccessible for most people who aren't motivated to understand them. They are preaching to a very small choir at that point, rather than putting effort into finding a way to put their findings into a form that individual voters will "get". I don't really know what that would entail to be honest. I'm just the messenger and a rather poor one at that, because I honestly have the same failings. I prefer facts and figures to the personal touch, but the more empathetic and socially competent among us will surely have ideas and it's up to the graph toting and statistic spouting among us to find them and employ their skills.

### **Do you feel like conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

Nope, we definitely need more. I know that many may think that all gays rabidly hate the Republican party or that this demographic is sort of a lost cause, but I'm proof it isn't and my work with LGBT conservatives online and in this book has shown me that there are more of us, but most of them are out in the world thinking that they are alone.

### **How can they improve that outreach?**

I hate to repeat myself, but we need to work on the visibility of good minority conservatives. Being black and registered Republican isn't enough to qualify someone to be a spokesperson. We need to know they know what they are talking about and that they will know how to speak to the demographics we are doing outreach too. Same goes for any conservative we give a pulpit too as well. If they are going to represent us, they can't be making us look bad by spouting uninformed views. We have a right to choose who represents us.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain conservatism benefits your demographic?**

Absolutely. First we need to combat the false information they are getting from liberals about what conservatives believe. Then we need to break down what we actually DO believe and explain how that benefits them. This is a public relations and branding issue for the most part.

Don't just say we want less regulation. Explain how fewer regulations on business will benefit them.

Don't just say we want no minimum wage. Explain why that will increase jobs in the long run and improve the economy.

Don't just talk about the problems with welfare, talk about solutions and make sure we do it in a way that doesn't confuse or patronize people.

This applies to just about every person. We have to show how it will benefit them, because people are usually looking for the upside for themselves...not just for people in general. We are the party of individuals, not the party of the "greater good", so we need people to realize that what we want to do in politics will be good for them.

**Are there things that need to change in the Republican Party at this point to get them back on track?**

Here's an answer that's going to piss off more than a few people. The Republican Party is a "big tent" but parts of that tent really need their stakes pulled, because they are screwing us.

We need to cut a good portion of the "Progressives for Jesus" out and let them fend for themselves, rather than pandering to them. This won't make me any friends (but let's face it, I'm a lesbian, they weren't my friends anyway). That's not to say all social conservatives are bad. Progressives for Jesus are the ones who take it to extremes and seem more interested in talking about how they can use legislation to ban gay marriage and abortion or contraception (not winning topics and they make it easy for liberals to demonize the whole party, just deal with it). Not only do these people not represent the freedom and individual liberty that conservatism is about (meaning that they hurt our message and contribute to the false information minority voters get about conservatism) but they are progressive big government supporters when you honestly consider their methods and legislative preferences. They just support government control of different things than liberal progressives support.

So if we want to improve our pull in moderate, independent, and minority voters we need to wave buh-bye to Rick Santorum, Mike Huckabee, and many others like them.

We don't like big government with liberals in control, why would we want big government with theocrats in control?

We also need to put a sock in some of the more immature commentators and stop using immature language to insult liberals and actually call out the few, occasional, racists or homophobes that worm their way into our midst. They exist, ignoring them and lying about it doesn't help us. Calling them out and distancing ourselves from the people who are actually being hateful to people of different races, religions, genders, and sexualities improves our reputations and purges some of the less desirables from our party.

So yeah, that does mean we need to stop inviting Phil Robertson or Ted Nugent to speak out rallies, no matter how conservative their belief in small government is...they are problematic in plenty of other ways. It doesn't even matter if you think that Robertson or Nugent or others like him are truly racist, sexist, or homophobic, that's really not the point. The point is they appear so, they make the rest of us look bad to voters and demographics that we have problems appealing too. Be friends with them all you want, but stop making them figureheads in our party. This is how we get people like Trump running for President and that's really not helpful.

### **Cris Pace**

#### **What is it about yourself that makes you a “minority conservative”?**

I'm a New Ager, a type of modern Paganism that believes takes a view that almost all religions are paths to God and that individuals should find the path that works best for them. A very condensed of New Age belief would be to say that New Agers believe that there is a personal God in the universe and that he sent prophets and saints to the world in multiple periods of history, that almost all religions are based on the teachings of these enlightened souls and thus all religions contain parts of the truth and almost all can serve as roads to God, but a New Ager instead of picking just one of these looks at all to find the practices that resonate with their soul as the best way to come back to God.

#### **Why did you become a conservative?**

As long as I can remember I've been conservative to one degree or another. I've become less libertarian as the years have gone by, but I can't think of a time when I was not a believer in liberty, small government, and capitalism, at least in the broad sense as in my younger days I didn't fully understand all the philosophical nuance of those ideas.

#### **What age were you when you became a conservative?**

I've always been interested in politics, even in the 5th grade. Even then I could see the arguments presented by liberals were silly.

#### **Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

Mostly conservative, but I am actually much more conservative than they are.

#### **As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

Depends on where I am. With more educated conservatives I find real interest in discussing how the two systems work together...in more general areas I find there is more indifference than anything else.

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

Well they attack me first because of some infantile belief that New Age means pacifist hippie and they attack me for not being true to my faith, which once I show that there is no inconsistency, they tend to go to full atheist mode and attack my faith as well. There are of course a few exception that just attack my conservative beliefs without attacking my faith.

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

I think it's more the combination that cause a problem. It is still a very Christian nation and conservative or liberal I find the spectrum of Christianity from the true believers to those who only profess Christianity without going to church or knowing the Bible are uncomfortable to some degree with something they interpret as Pagan...and finding New Agers is hard enough (I think the Pew research as us at less than 1% of the nation) and when you figures even a normal distribution of political interest among any group, most aren't into my politics just because it's politics and over half of what's left is liberal or populist.

**Examples?**

Finding dates is really hard. Church is usually a good place to meet people, and I can't do that, dating sites filter by religion and politics and that leaves just a very small group to pick form.

**Is there anything I didn't ask about in this section that you think is important?**

I find attacks to my religion come more from liberal atheists than any conservative Christian. Liberals typically have an aversion to facts. Whenever I'm in an argument with a liberal/atheist about scientific evidence in favor of proof of God they just deny that such evidence even exists. Rather than looking at the evidence and debating its merits they just put their hands over their ears and go "lalalalalalala".

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

Capitalism, Limited Government, Personal Liberty and Natural Rights, Rule of Law over the mob rule, that government is there to protect rights and help provide a structure in which individuals can thrive, and that these values must be protected at home and abroad.

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

Not much, most people only know "New Age" as that section in Barnes and Noble with the books on crystals and astrology and don't even fully understand that there is a full philosophy here. Most questions are about what New Agers believe and they tend to drift off when I actually try and describe it in detail.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

To do those things which state governments or the private sector cannot do. That means the military, foreign diplomacy, issues that actually cross state lines, and the arbiter of last resort when states are not doing an adequate job of protecting natural rights.

### **What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

The Liberal/Progressive/Progressives for Jesus view of government is that individuals are too stupid to run their own lives and need to be controlled by their betters. Conservatives realize that there the vast majority of people are competent to run their lives but that there is a small fraction that of people that have no respect for the rights of others and that small minority requires a police, court and prison system domestically and a military on the foreign front to keep them in check. Further unlike libertarians conservatives realize that there do need to be a few rules of the road for people to operate by so that everyone can be more productive in their lives (such as the need for civil union contracts recognized by the government to grant certain property rights and powers of attorney and privilege) to mirror what people do already outside of government control, they need this to not extend government control but actually to weaken it. Also, unlike Libertarians and liberals, conservatives realize that rights do not end at the nations' border but are inherent in all people and while right domestically must be protected first and foremost the rights of human anywhere must be acknowledged and defended when possible.

Further the difference between conservatives and all other forms of political philosophy is that it's the only conservatism that deals in pragmatics. Liberals and Libertarians will talk about ideals about plans that cannot ever work as if holding to an ideal until it kills you is a good thing—individuals should certainly hold onto important ideals like that, governments cannot.

Conservatism cares about what works; we would love a society without welfare, but that isn't pragmatic as there will always be a few who fall through the cracks of free enterprise and private charity and when they fall they pose a greater threat to the social order if they are not helped than a limited safety net poses. And while conservatives would love said safety net to be small and local, we'll take cutting away at the huge federal behemoth now rather than scream to the heavens we're not getting everything we want right now like an spoiled 4 year old, or a liberal, or Ted Cruz (but I repeat myself).

### **Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

Because even when they're right (things like gay rights or understanding that there are some corrupt cops) they go about the completely wrong way of dealing with things, believing that more centralized government power will somehow reduce the problems instead of causing more.

### **What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

The government should separate the religious institution of marriage from the government function of civil unions. Civil unions should be offered to any two people and come with joint property, power of attorney (as you can't give power of attorney to more than one legal individual you can't have polygamy or any of the other slippery slope problems), and something akin to spousal privilege but should be tied to attorney client privilege that way to harm the privilege you would need to get a lawyer to actually argue against attorney client privilege and a court to agree with that (unlikely). Thus all the legal rights of marriage are protected. Also by separating the two functions churches can still decide what counts as marriage. This way the freedom of religion is not hampered, and the equality of rights for civil unions does not discriminate against anyone.

### **Abortion?**



As I don't believe the soul enters the body until near the end of the third trimester, morally it's not a problem for me. Still in a legal sense I don't believe government should be paying for anything that private funds and/or private charity can handle—as abortion is always an elective procedure it should never be paid for by public tax funds. Also I feel more than anything this is a state's rights issue that has nothing to do with federal power as such as long as the first trimester is still legal I feel states can put any and all regulations they want on the procedure.

### **Welfare?**

There is far too many entitlements, I believe there are now nearly 70 means tested programs on the books. They overlap, they're full of useless bureaucracy, they are inefficient, they are full of fraud, and they don't actually solve the problem of poverty. Liberals like to portray conservatives as wanting to get rid of all welfare programs (although there are even a few really extreme libertarians who would go that far) but even the gods of capitalism, Milton Friedman and F.A. Hayek both agreed that some kind of social security net is needed to ensure social stability. And I would love to use their solution for the need for a social safety net: the reverse income tax, which would guarantee a minimum level of income, \$12,000 a year for example, not enough to live comfortably on, but enough to survive, for every dollar you earn above that we take away 50 cents from the check you get, so if you earn \$6,000, you'll get paid \$9,000. What this does is it keep the incentive to work without any of modern welfare disincentives (like if you even one dollar over a given threshold you'll get \$3000 in benefits cut thus there is never any rational benefit to earn more than that threshold and get off welfare, but the reverse income tax never has a drop off like that so there is no disincentive to work). As it would be in lieu of ALL other entitlement programs there would be no need for the massive bureaucracy we currently have, as you only need to get their pay stubs for the month and send out checks from there (so even if it did nothing to end welfare enrollment the cost to the tax payer for would be significantly less).

Now there are other plans, like block granting money to the states, and additions, like child credits to the reverse income tax, that make sense, but the fact is that while a social safety net is needed, the one we currently have could not be more inefficient and harmful. The inefficiency and red tape needs to be cut, as do all the disincentives to work and establish a family that are inherent in the current system.

### **Discrimination laws?**

Discrimination laws are stupid. If a person owns a business then that business is their property, and what they do with it is their property and by extension their speech. So if they want to deny a service or a job to a person that is them exercising their rights to property and speech. They may be wrong in doing, and probably are, but just as we defend the speech rights of the Westboro Baptist Church we have to defend the right of the worst businessman on Earth. But it really shouldn't matter, first off, as is shown in Sowell's book Basic Economics businesses that engage in discrimination based on race or gender or whatnot actually hurt themselves and are more likely to go out of business. And in this day and age anyone who denies a cake or wedding dress to a gay couple or denies a seat in a restaurant to someone based on the color of their skin can be promised a visit from the local news showing what scum they are and be promptly driven out of business by bad press (unlike now where idiots are prosecuted by the government under

discrimination laws and become the victim of government overstepping its bounds and, regrettably, garner sympathy).

### **Feminism?**

Which Feminism? First and Second Wave feminism are great things that needed to happen, and thankfully they did because women are the intellectual equals of men and should not be in any way denied by society or the government the right to pursue their own Happiness. However third wave feminism, that is absolutely insane. It has the bizarre idea that words have more power than sticks and stones, and that men are inferior and evil in all ways—it's all the evils that Second Wave Feminism fought against and embraced them, just with an opposite gender.

### **Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

Unlike the crazy populists who think that the Constitution can just be ignored, or that deportation wouldn't actually cost us more than we're paying in entitlement payments to illegals, I prefer a reasoned approach to the very real problem of border security. The first thing that needs to occur is building a wall, whether physical or electronic, backed up by significant man power on the border. Once the border is secure, rather than wasting money on deportation if we just set up a working E-verity system and biometric tracking for overstaying visas, we remove one of the major incentives to come to the US illegally anyway. If this is done, along with removing illegals from receiving the entitlement payments that haven't been erroneously given to them by the Supreme Court, you would remove almost all the incentives. If this can then be followed by revising the rules for legal immigration, because right now it is almost designed to keep people we should want in out, then that would fix the vast majority of the long term problems. And if there is a small percentage of illegals still left after that, it may still not be worth the money to deport them.

### **What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

I'm a neoconservative when it comes to foreign policy. I believe that all men are created equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights...and those rights don't magically disappear when you cross outside of the US. That means if there are rights we would fight to the death to defend in the US, then we should be willing to fight to defend those same rights for anyone. Now as a conservative this means trying to accomplish this rationally. If rights can be protected or advanced through diplomacy or trade (which they often are) then we should use diplomacy and trade. If we are not in a fiscal situation to ensure we can help a nation that is oppressed, then we shouldn't start a fight we can't finish. And most importantly we have to realize that only a Constitutional democratic-Republic will defend rights, so if we have to take out a tyranny we need to be in it for the long haul to make sure that nation is stable. We should have invaded Afghanistan and Iraq, they were people oppressed by violent tyrannies and we had the resources to stop it (we should have done it in the early 90's under the first Bush, but he was a useless idiot and coward in addition to being Reagan's single biggest mistake). Invasion was the correct and moral thing to do, if we are in position to free an oppressed people we should.

But Bush Jr. was a dim bulb like his father, and was certainly not a neoconservative, because he seemed to think that democratic-Republics just magically spring up once you kill the tyrant. He ignored all of history that said that Germany and Japan took DECADES to reform, where as in the 1990's when we left Afghanistan and the Balkans' to their own devices democracy did not magically spring up. We moved troops out of both nations far too early, and gave control of

those nations back far too quickly. If we invade a nation, and there are many we should consider, we need to be prepared to stay 15 years at the very least.

Liberty takes time to grow, but its rewards are worth it.

### **What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

We could try actually making the case (as people like Ryan and Rubio have). We do need to take time and go to these group make the same pitch we always make, but use examples and evidence relevant to them. Regrettably we have let the left create this image where people define themselves by this group or that group, and right, wrong or indifferent, that's how they see themselves. Thus we need to go to these groups and show them how liberty, the free market, less regulation, less interference will help them specifically. We need to show them how the handout they're getting for their group are hurting them in the long run. We need to send GOP members to the NAACP, the ALCU, this interest group, that minority group, and not third tier people major leader in the group. They may get booed and face hostility at first but we need point out that when we say our policies are for all Americans they are for ALL Americans. Your group has these issues, fine, guess what those issues are solved by small government in this way, and by lower taxes in this way.

Also we need to stop intentionally using phrases that piss people off. Now maybe it's that I'm a Pagan but I hate the phrase Judeo-Christian values. First off the ethics of almost every religion on Earth that was not founded by a genocidal madman have pretty much the exact same list of virtues and vices. Nobody condones murder or champions thefts (save previously mentioned Religion of Peace), everyone to one degree or another praises thoughtful, rational behavior and charity to one's fellow man. The values in terms of ethics for the Judeo-Christians are not any different than from a Hindu, a Buddhist, a Pagan or whatnot. And it needlessly creates a "you're not one of us" mentality and it needs to stop. I'll grant you this isn't a problem with real conservatives only the Progressives for Jesus, but even the real deal uses this phrase by accident from time to time. May I suggest "spiritual values" says the same things, doesn't piss off groups you don't need to piss off. And I'm sure there are little things that our people needlessly do that puts our foot in our mouth. Now this is not a PC issue, I'm not saying you can't use the term Judeo-Christian, or even that it's offensive, it's simply that rhetoric is supposed to win people and the use of the term Judeo-Christian is not going to win some people.

### **Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

No. Part of the problem is to be conservative is to be rational. We care about what works and what makes sense and what reason demands. Making a convincing argument is a lot about emotion. So we don't always realize that giving off facts, figures and evidence doesn't make a convincing equation even if it's the right one. We need to channel more of Reagan and now people like Rubio, Ryan and Arthur Brooks of the American Enterprise Institute and show that the reason we want these plans is because we do care about people and our plans are what really help people in the long run.

### **If not, how could they improve their explanation?**

We need to spend a lot more money in media. And this is from the top on down. The RNC should probably find some of the conservative comedians out there (Red Eye doesn't seem to have too many problems finding them) and paying them to turn talking points into entertaining little YouTube videos. We need to do a better job of hyping when celebrities talk about conservative ideas...when Bono pointed out that the only way to solve the problems of Africa was through capitalism, the RNC, Boehner, McConnell, should all have invited him to major events to talk about the blessing of capitalism. Every think tank, because we conservatives love our think tanks, need to get better at putting out media that is entertaining as well as correct.

Because the fact of the matter is that the left has learned if you have good entertainment you don't need substance. We need to offer people both.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

First off religion is probably not something they should be reaching out to, mixing religion and politics is possibly more dangerous than most things. (And tax laws prevent them from actively going into any religion...which is a violation of free speech, but this is about the message not which laws to repeal). I would simply say they should just stop using inaccurate phrases like "this nation was Founded on Judeo-Christian" because as I already pointed out the phrase is stupid and this nation was Founded by Washington, a Free Mason who never mentioned Jesus in any of his writings, Adams a man who most certainly declared Jesus was not divine, Jefferson who was a deist, Franklin who doubted the divinity of Jesus, and Madison a man who would have thought the ACLU's stance on the separation between church and state was weak...and a whole lot of other deists and other non-Christians. They believed in God, not necessarily in Jesus.

Focus on the message and make it at least somewhat entertaining and don't worry about what religion they are, if they have ethics it will resonate with them.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain how the views of Republicans/Conservatives benefit your demographic?**

From inside the New Age group certainly. Your typical New Ager thinks that they should be helping people and so they fall for these government plans that say that they will help people, for New Agers, and really for all religions, conservatives need to make the case that charity cannot be outsourced to government it has to be done at a personal level and then show how personal charity has time and time again helped people whereas government charity has not.

**What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

We need to drop the Progressives for Jesus from the party. They are not conservative, they just want big government to enforce what they want.

**Is there anything I didn't ask about in this section that you think is important?**

We need better people in positions of power. People like John Boehner are fine representatives who consistently vote conservative...but he is a terrible leader because he can't make an argument to save his life.

## Sara

The following is transcribed from an audio interview that was conducted by the author and may not be in strictly the same format as other interviews contained in this book.

### **What is it about yourself that makes you a “minority conservative”?**

Well, I have lady parts and I don't vote with them, so that kind of walks me right into the conservative category. I guess technically I was a young conservative too, up until recently. I don't know what the cut off age is for that.

[**Interviewer:** You know, based on what liberals think, I'd say it's anybody below the age of 30.]

**Sara:** Oh, well, then I'm still a young conservative. That pleases me. I was a conservative all through college, and high school, and middle school. I was pretty much born a conservative

### **Why did you become a conservative?**

I think, when you're growing up, you're kind of adopting your parents' beliefs. Up until a certain point, I really started calling myself a conservative and understanding what that meant, and not just parroting stuff when I was in high school. I'm very logical and analytic when it comes to arguments. I will look at both sides fairly reasonably, and I would do that with stuff that was going on at the time, and I just always felt the Right made more sense to me, and I don't know if that's just how I was raised, that I could see the sense in it, but...

### **What would you say your political beliefs before that were? If any.**

I got more into politics in middle school because that was the first Bush election. I was in 7th grade, and it was the first election we all paid attention to, I remember watching the Bob Dole debates with Clinton. I was way too young to understand what was happening, but I remember watching them. So I've always been very aware of politics and I started making up my mind about stuff as I went along. I called myself a Libertarian in college, but that was more to keep drama from occurring. So I could work with people and still, you know, have a social life.

I always tried to make jokes of it in college because some people didn't even know what Libertarian was and I'd be like, "Well, you know, it's kind of like conservative lite. It's the tangy zip without the crazy." That's what I always told people and they'd be like, "Oh, okay." And I'm like, "You know, fiscally, and as far as the military goes, and defense, I'm very conservative, but on the social issues, I'm more open." And that was always good enough for people, I was still tolerable.

### **Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

I can count the number of liberals in my family on one hand, and those are second and third cousins. I mean, we're very conservative on all sides. I mean we're military family and, not so much anymore, but some of my uncles, my grandfathers, and my great-uncles served. My great-uncle was on a ship that transported Patton. You were never allowed to say anything bad about Patton or Reagan in my family.

A lot of my friends are liberal, most of my conservative friends are friends I have through the Internet. I don't have a ton of in-real-life conservative friends. We don't talk about politics at all.

I mean, we'll take little jabs at each other on occasion, but for the most part it's, you know, I know that they're a good person and they know I'm a good person and that's why we're friends and we're not friends because, you know, I voted for Romney and McCain.

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

I haven't really gotten much backlash about being a woman. Being young, I sometimes feel like I'm not listened to -- and again that was mostly in college. Any of the older conservatives I would talk to when I was in college that I wasn't related to, because my family knows, if I'm on a tangent, just shut up and let me go and that I come to the table with facts. I come prepared. Yeah, it's mostly been more about being young than being female. I never felt especially attacked or pushed to the side for being a female conservative.

Apparently I should, according to the liberals, I should feel that way, but...

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

I usually get, "But, you're so smart. How can you be a conservative? You're so smart." And that's one that I've always gotten and I've always given it a very standard, you know, "Well, I'm smart. That's why I'm a conservative."

I always got, "But you're a girl, but you're a woman, how can you support them?" I used to get [that] a lot, in college. I would get, "But you like the Ramones, but you like this movie, but, you know, you're a Tarantino fan, how can you be a conservative?" Like those things are mutually exclusive.

**[Interviewer:** Well, we're all supposed to be old fuddy-duddies who only watch black-and-white films, and don't have any interest in pop culture, right?]

**Sara:** Well, after I finish a chapter of Emily Post's Etiquette, I settle in for a little Lawrence Welk, but I'm promptly in bed at 7:30. [Laughter]

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

Yeah, I would say so, both negative and positive. I mean, I've met a lot of good people and a lot of interesting people for being conservative.

And then, you know, I've lost friends because we've gotten onto a topic and I've voiced an opinion that they didn't agree with. I just concluded a fourteen-year friendship, which it wasn't, you know, it wasn't all politics. It was very little to do with politics but that just kind of served as a reinforcement, because she's kind of gotten to a point where she parrots a lot of the stuff from Tumblr. She's an intersectional feminist now, which must be the kind of feminism where you can want to destroy white men, but at the same time, the white man you're dating can pay for the house that you're going to live in and clean up your college debt. But that's, you know...that was a long time coming. She'll repeat these "acts, and well, "facts," and things that people say on TV

and Anderson Cooper and all that, but she's not registered to vote. So she cares up to a point, but she doesn't care enough to register to vote.

And it really affected my college life. I mean, being conservative, I made the mistake of trusting one of my professors and telling him that I was a conservative. And he passed that information along to a teacher I had at the time, all of a sudden my A papers in that class became C papers.

There was one kid I knew who wasn't super liberal, and he was in his 50's. He had had a whole life and then he decided to go back and study film. But he was like in his 50's and a Mexican man. He was awesome. But we got onto the topic one day about John McCain and he was like, "Yeah, I'm okay with McCain. I prefer him -- you know, he's got more experience coming to the table than Obama." And I was like, "Oh my God. Marry me." Honestly, he was my best friend in college because he and I were on the same level. A lot of the other students didn't care enough to pay attention. And what they did know about stuff was what they got from The Daily Show. And you know better than most that when you try to counter that argument, they start calling you names.

I got into it with one kid before. He was ganging up on another girl in our group. It was two girls and four guys. And [the girl], while being very sweet, was not the brightest. But, you know, she was trying to have this discussion with him, and she was trying to have a calm discussion, and he was just losing his shit on her. And I finally said something, and I was like, "You know, you're missing the main point of her argument, which is, you don't have to be racist to disagree with someone of color." He kept saying that people were disagreeing with Obama because they're racist, because they're a bunch of old, white men. And it's like, "No. They disagree with him because they're in a different party."

They don't think that we should be spending money on this. It's not about race. And he finally got to a point where he told me to shut the fuck up and I got up and I walked out of the room.

And the teacher heard about it later on, and the first thing he said to me, and this is the teacher I was friends with who knew I was conservative. First thing he says to me is, "Oh, well, were you expelling the wisdom of Glenn Beck?" And I kind of looked at him and I was like, "No. I was standing up for [fellow student], who was being verbally attacked by four guys." And, again, that sort of stuff -- that still occurs to me.

[I]t was somebody that I thought I was friends with and that's his first guess. You respect my opinion on your writing and you respect my opinion on helping you get social media set up for this project. I spent a lot of hours after school helping him with stuff and to see him turn around and treat me like that, you know...

It made me very wary of saying that I was conservative to anyone. I kept it very much to myself after that. I tried to work in Hollywood for three years...I kept my mouth shut the whole time. And that was during the Romney election.

And you hear a lot. There's just, like, no basis for their hatred towards us. [I]t sounds like real

raw, vitriol hatred. I mean, I would hear people in the control room talking about how awful conservatives are, and they're such idiots. And the language that they used, I can't repeat. And I would just kind of sit there and be like, "But you all think I'm great. You're all fine with me fetching you a coffee and doing you favors..." I'm sitting there quietly and it's just like, I don't have these conversations with my conservative friends. We don't sit around and talk like this. We talk about other stuff.

And I think that kind of goes to the point that we look at things logically, and we move on, and we don't make it emotional and personal. And -- you know, liberals, the second you say something, it's lashing out. You're attacking them personally. It's a personal attack.

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

Hard work. Individual responsibility. Responsibility, in general. I think, and I know there was a big hubbub about it recently with Giuliani, but I really think conservatives love the country in a big way. I mean, I don't mean to say that liberals don't love the country. I'm sure a lot of them do, but I think we have very different ways of showing it.

I think it's very much about responsibility and individuality.

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

I get birth control a lot. And abortion. I think those are the big two because again, all I count for on the left is my ovaries, so... It's all I can vote with.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

Ideally, I think it would be much more limited. Stuff like security and defense, I think D.O.J. is a good idea in theory but when we have an attorney general that is appointed by the President, it renders it kind of moot because stuff that the entire country might care about isn't going to get dealt with. And that's -- I don't think we have enough time to get into my feelings on Eric Holder. Has nothing to do with his race; it has everything to do with his incompetency. I don't care what color you are. I do care about the fact that you don't know your ass from a hole in the ground, and that you couldn't negotiate your way out of a paper bag with a map and a tour guide.

**What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

I think the liberals, I think they start out very well-intentioned, but they're very forceful. I mean, I think their views are what they think is best for everyone. There's no accounting for the individual. There's no accounting for what someone in Arizona might need versus what someone in Pennsylvania needs. There's no consideration for that. You're all -- all women are concerned about abortion and birth control pills and being paid for doing a different job than men.

I think conservatives focus more on the bigger picture and the liberals get down to we need to pay for your welfare. We need to provide healthcare. We need to do this. We need to do that. And you have no choice in the matter.



**What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

I'm cool with it. I don't think it detracts from heterosexual marriage in any way. I don't really think it's the governments place to say who you can and cannot have a union with, or marriage with. I do believe that you can't force churches to perform them... My basic thing is if everyone is of age and they're willingly, and that's for any marriage, gays, straight -- plural -- I'm -- you know, if you want to do a plural marriage, God speed. As long as everyone's willing and of age.

I don't care. I'm more concerned about getting myself married, okay?

**Abortion?**

I used to be very much to the left when it came to abortion. As I've gotten older, I've changed on that. I've always firmly known that I could not do it.

If I was in that situation, I wouldn't be able to, because I do believe that life begins at conception, but -- and I still kind of fall into a gray area because those are my beliefs. I can't impose those on anyone else. I can't force someone to think that way. And I think that's why it gets into kind of a weird area. I mean when it comes to stuff like the partial birth abortion and the post birth abortions, those I'm absolutely against, there's no gray area there. I don't think anyone could honestly justify that. You've carried a child a term. Deliver it and give it up for adoption -- and that's another thing. As I've gotten older, and my friends have started to get married and have children or try to have children, and I see some of them really struggle to have children, and they want to adopt these unwanted babies. Meanwhile there are people who are using abortion as a form of birth control who can't be bothered to put on a condom but you can go down to the free clinic and get it taken care of, and I think that's kind of changed me a bit.

**Welfare?**

I would support drug testing to get your welfare check. I really think they need to crack down on it. There are people who legitimately need the help, I do believe that. But on the other end of the spectrum, I've known a lot of people who have abused the system, who didn't need it and took advantage of the fact. So, I really think they need to crack down on it and they should track it, too. I mean, if they find out you used your card at an ATM in a casino, or an ATM in a strip joint, as some of them have, shut it down. That's -- when I lived in California, I was in -- I think it was Sprouts one day, and I was an unpaid intern at that point, so I was on a reduced budget. And the woman in front of me had her whatever the debit card is. She's buying steak. She's buying wine. She's buying the expensive cheese, and all this stuff. And I'm there with like, my little huddle of stuff that falls within budget, and I'm just like, "Really?"

**Discrimination laws?**

I think for legitimate discrimination, the laws are good, but we have reached the peak frivolous lawsuits. I mean, we've gotten to a point where they -- they're becoming useless. I mean, everyone cries discrimination now. It's -- I don't know. I think they really need to scale down, give it a very specific definition and that's it.

I mean, some of the stuff you see now when people cry discrimination, even just online, I mean, you're discriminating against me because you have a different opinion.

### **Feminism?**

Again... feminism, very good idea in theory...I've never really felt that I'm not equal to a man. I've never felt really discriminated against in that way. I think that it's kind of gotten to a point of absurdity where you have, you know, demi-feminism and intersectional feminism and feminism on Tuesdays and every other Thursday and it's like.... I think the movement was kind of hijacked there and it became less about equality and more about superiority along with perpetual victimhood.

And if you disagree with them, you're a gender-traitor. You want women to suffer and you want them to go back to the kitchen. And -- it's like, I really enjoy cooking, but I don't want to spend all my time in the kitchen. I want to have a career. I don't want special treatment because I'm a woman...I'm not a special subset that needs your help. I'm just as capable. Let me pass on my merits. I know I'm smarter than a vast majority of people in the room. I don't need you to pat me on the head, give me a trophy and say, "Nice work." That's kind of like what's going on now with letting women into the combat units...and these outside groups are demanding that these women be let in, but they also demand that the standards have to be lowered to let them in. And you can't do that. You can't, you have to meet the same standards as the men. Otherwise, what's the point? You're not helping women up-- you're bringing everyone down.

So you only have to do two pushups instead of twenty. Or pull-ups or whatever it was. There was something -- one of the physical requirements --

**[Interviewer:** I think it was the pull-ups. I think it was. And I think the other one they wanted to reduce was something about, like, how much weight you could carry over a mile run or something. And I'm thinking —]

**Sara:** And that's so if your buddy gets hurt, you have to throw him over your shoulder and carry him.

**[Interviewer:** Right, and if you can't carry a two hundred pound marine while running away from gunfire, you probably shouldn't be in a combat unit.]

**Sara:** That's the only thing that really offends me is when they start saying, "Oh, well, we need to lower it so that women can be included, so that we can make the standards count to women." Don't lower anything on my behalf. You know, I want high standards. I want there to be high standards for people to reach to protect our country. Let the women who are capable be the ones who apply. Don't lower the standards so that anyone could get in.

### **Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

Build the wall. Immigration, come in the right way or not at all. It's really unfair when people come in and get to stay while there is a long line of people doing it the right way and paying money. We went through the process with one of our employees a few years ago, helping him get his Visa to come in -- or his green card. And it took forever. If we had gone through the back channels it would've been done quicker. It wouldn't have cost us as much. I really don't think it's fair. Amnesty... if you're here, you go to the back of the line. You don't get to cut everyone.

You know, no one debates that you work hard. I do believe a lot of immigrants come here and -- illegal immigrants come here and work hard. But we got to keep track of who's coming into the country.

**What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

Right now I think it would be great if we had a foreign policy. If Obama knew how to work a map or how to talk to people. I think we're doing so horribly right now. The way he treats Israel, the way he treats Netanyahu. When Nancy Pelosi started talking the other day after he gave a speech, I was just like, "Really?" None of you can behave like adults? We need to clearly identify who is our friend and who is not. And stop trying to bend over backwards to appease those who are not our friends. A lot of people don't like our country. It'd be great if our President wasn't one of them. Because again, everyone wants to jump on Giuliani for what he said\*, but no one's really demonstrated how he was wrong.

**What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

I think they need to be a little less -- I don't know what the word would be. Sometimes when they do certain things to reach out to certain minorities it kind of feels like when someone's in an argument about being racist and they go, "But I have a black friend." You know, "But I'm reaching out to minorities, I'm here to reach out. I'm here to appeal to women and..." Although, I also feel like a big part of it is the media. I think even when we do something right in that situation, the media's like, "Oh, well, they're pandering. Look at them. They're using these people as props."

I think we need to do something to combat the willful misunderstanding that the liberals like to bring to the table. For example, I was watching The Five the other day, they were talking about having someone armed to guard schools or teachers having guns -- and Greg Gutfeld was talking about it and he basically said I think there should be guns present. Someone should have a gun and be able to use it should something happen. And he was very clear about what he was saying and who should have the gun, and Juan Williams was on and first thing he says -- "Greg, you want to give guns to kids? You want to arm children?" And it's the thing that they do every single time. Every single thing you watch, its willful misunderstanding of the point. And I think we need to find messages and ways to reach out to groups that aren't so easily misinterpreted.

We need a way of presenting ourselves to people who disagree with us. We can easily charm the people who agree with us. That's what CPAC's all about...we go to a room full of our peers and say, "Hey. Aren't we awesome?"

I think, too, we need to really start utilizing the social media aspects. When McCain was running, I had a teacher who had us watch Obama videos. And you know, they're all really good, well-produced videos. There's no McCain videos to show.

And the party needs to become a little more modern, utilize the social media as well as the left does. And I think we need to really start utilizing the creative community we have, because there are writers and filmmakers and very funny, interesting people and yet, we still always come off as prudish and lacking a sense of humor

We need to utilize the online community because we have hilarious people on the online community. And conservatives -- some of the dirtiest jokes I have heard have come from conservatives. Some stuff, I'm just like -- am I old enough to hear this? We have all these great people who are so entertaining and so funny and we don't use them. It's the same group of old, white men that we roll out. And I hate using that term because I don't generally think of us as the old, white men party, but that's how we're labeled. That's how we're seen. It pisses me off because we're so much more than that.

**Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

No, I don't.

**If not, how could they improve their explanation?**

I think the main thing is really being misinterpreted. I think we try and we can explain ourselves to each other, who already know what the end point is and know what someone's trying to say, but I think overall -- I don't know. I just -- we really get misinterpreted so often and it's the willful misinterpretation but it's also how people present us. I mean -- anytime you watch a TV show where there's a conservative character, they're anti-gay. They're anti-woman. They're a misogynist. They have some weird sex thing. We're not portrayed well, and that really carries over, and we have got to find a way to get above that. I think that's where using our creative community would really help if we could show a different perspective of conservatives on a large scale.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

I think other demographics, yes. I think, as a woman, I don't want to be singled out. I don't really feel like they need to have special events and special ways to communicate with just me, you know. I'm a person. Just talk to me that way. Talk to me as a conservative. Don't talk to me as a conservative woman. Because that's one of my big issues with the left is that they specifically talk to women about a handful of things and that's it. You don't hear the women discussing foreign policy. You don't hear the woman discussing anything that's really -- not to say that reproductive issues aren't important, but there are more important things in the world to me. You know, my best friend is in the military and he's getting ready to go to South Korea. That's more important to me than someone telling me that an old white man wants to take away my abortion access.

So, my feelings personally, no, I don't think women need to be set aside like we're special and we need things explained to us.

**What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

I think we really need new blood. We need to stop being so shut off to new ideas and just cool it with some of the -- like when they get up and they start talking about gays threatening marriage in their best preacher voice, I think turns a lot of outside people off. When they start getting into some of those things, I think it keeps potential members away. We just need to be, as a group, more open. And I also think we need to find a kind of a happy medium between capability and

accessibility. Because Obama was very likable to people. I don't know who they are but he's very likable to them, meanwhile he can't find his ass with both hands. He's not capable of doing the job. Mitt Romney, very capable. I found him very likable, but he couldn't endear himself to a lot of the voters. If that documentary about him had come out before the election, I think it would've made a world a difference.

We need someone who's going to be able to reach out to people and be likable and maintain their dignity and the dignity of the office but also be hip or cool or -- not even cool. Just -- I don't know, less --

**[Interviewer: Stuffy?]**

**Sara:** Yeah. I always feel kind of like... there have been certain things over the years with the last Presidential elections that I just, like, inwardly cringe, and I'm like, oh my God. Why did you say that? Why are you doing that? Like Santorum -- I could leave that as the example. Like Santorum.

I thought he had a good mind for helping businesses. But, you know, he started talking about church and dancing and, you know, gay marriage and all that stuff. And it's just like, oh my God, you have got to stop. We need to get some more open-minded people. And again -- I like Huckabee. I mean -- as a person I like Huckabee. I used to really enjoy his show, actually, on Saturday night. But, you know, he'd put his bass guitar on over his suit and you're just like, stop. Please, stop.

We've got people like Greg Gutfeld who goes on TV wearing a unicorn sweater and jeans and a pair of sneakers that match the shade of turquoise on his shirt. And who is funny and smart and, you know, we have people like this in the party. We just have to get them out there to a larger audience of more than just those of us who agree already. I think if we really upped the social media game and used those tools as well as the liberals did, we would have a better shot.

**Is there anything I didn't ask about in this section that you think is important?**

If the Republican Party is so terribly keen to court the minority voters then perhaps they should begin with what they're saying and how their message is delivered.

While flipping around on the radio I came across Rush Limbaugh pontificating about the gay marriage issue which quickly snowballed into commentary about how homosexuals are prominent in Hollywood, their relationships now appear on Television, etc. Frankly it sounded like something Aaron Sorkin would write for the Conservative villain in whichever walk and talk show he's currently forcing on us. But this is the problem, every time they fall into this trap, they take a minor point, which most members of the party could agree with, and blow it out to the "Hollywood is infiltrated with ho-mo-sex-u-als." Old white men seem to have difficulty saying "homosexual" in a way that doesn't sound like it's about to be followed by "should burn in hell." Maybe they should practice that? Stand in front of a mirror and practice saying that like a human.

Then of course there were the side jabs towards Millennials, because life isn't difficult enough right now for a generation with expensive degrees and no job prospects. I listened for about 10 minutes and frankly that was enough. It's the same thing when I'm waiting to see someone on

O'Reilly, which is basically 48 minutes of how Millennials are selfish, obsessed with technology, and oblivious to what is going on around them.

Conservatives need to pause and think before speaking about or to these groups. Now I'm not saying that they should pander, instead they should assume that the year we were born doesn't impede our ability to recognize such actions. For some reason it is utterly difficult for the older members of our party to get their head around the fact that Millennials have the ability to navigate the culture we live in. We are deemed stupid, vapid, and vain because of the shows we like to watch or because we enjoy Twitter. Perhaps instead of trying to change the Millennials, the leaders of our party could get that other foot out of the grave and familiarize themselves with the current world because it isn't going away. Social media is not some current trend that's going to disappear. Our opponents have learned how to harness it and that's why we're on term two from hell.

Few things turn me off so quickly to a politician or pontificator than a willful ignorance of modern technology. When they roll their eyes and go on about "the Twitter" and "Tweetering," it leaves me embarrassed because I know that the liberals are going to jump on the chance to mock the old white men they believe to represent us. If they continue to act like Archie Bunker they'll be treated as such, a relic who is no longer relevant or accepted in this world. If this party is ever going to survive, let alone win something, then we need to work on two things: language and tech savvy. Try to sound like a human instead of some sort of preacher-bot giving a sermon. And for the love of all that is holy, learn how to utilize these new tools, or at the very least embrace those in our party who are because we are the future

### **Sasha Kaplan**

The following is transcribed from an audio interview that was conducted by the author and may not be in strictly the same format as other interviews contained in this book.

#### **What is it about yourself that makes you a "minority conservative"?**

I am Jewish. I'm a naturalized citizen, and I wasn't... not only was I not born in this country, I didn't live in it for the first nine years of my life. I lived in Russia. I'm also a woman. Being an immigrant gives me a different perspective on a lot of what America is and what's right with it, what's wrong with it, and I think a lot of people (particularly liberals) don't really know how good they have it here.

#### **Why did you become a conservative?**

My parents grew up in the Soviet Union. Supporting socialism really was not an option. In high school, I had kind of a mix of more liberal and more conservative views. Foreign Policy and economics I stood on the right. Social issues however... part of it was that I didn't really know that much. And you kind of end up copying whatever your friends think to fit in and what not.

So, I was more socially liberal, but... once I really got into politics and I met amazing conservative bloggers and various other people that kind of helped me understand the other side

of it without that liberal bias. So, I think that really helped me become a more rounded conservative.

### **What age were you when you became a conservative?**

I think a lot of it came out in 2008 when all of my friends were shouting “Oh my G-d. Obama, Obama, Obama” While I was saying, wait a minute – he has no experience and he doesn’t really seem to know that much about anything. Not to mention... Socialism Bad! And I actually got into arguments with people (When didn’t I get argue with people?). One girl actually stopped talking to me. She told me she had to watch Obama’s speech or something and I said, “Wow that’s going to suck.” She kind of lost it a little bit and yelled at me and I just went, “What I meant was it would be a waste of a Saturday.”

My family and I, we cannot listen to him for more than a few minutes. Usually I end up lasting the longest because I somehow managed to sit through at least a couple of his speeches and State of the Union Addresses. My mom can’t stand it for my more than five minutes, and she’ll say that five minutes is far too long.

### **Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

My family is very conservative... to put it mildly. We all strongly dislike Obama and do not have anything good to say about anyone in the Democratic Party. We do like to make fun of them though. My parents and I tend to have some amazing conversation about politics. When you bring the rest of my family into the mix. Oh man, it is a giant conservative fest.

My friends however are -- I actually think I’m kind of lucky in a sense that I have friends that are more on the left spectrum, more on the right spectrum. One of my friends she said her issues are guns, (she’s for them), the military (she supports it with all her heart), the economy, and farming. I let her talk for a few minutes about the issues that mattered to her and after words I told her, “Congrats, you’re a Conservative.” On the opposite side of that I have friends who are liberal to the point where some of the things they say I can’t even argue with because there’s no point. One told me we needed a constitutional amendment because the Constitution apparently doesn’t apply to women without it. That’s not even the least of it. But when we manage to have rational discussions between us they’re great and it was good practice. I think I’ve become a more eloquent conservative because of those debates. Of course, this doesn’t include the trouble I’ve caused in class, at times.

### **As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

Conservatives really don’t seem to care, honestly. On occasion, on my blog, you’ll have people who go, “Wait, you’re a Zionist?” or, “Wait, You’re a girl?” But I’ve noticed that Conservatives overall really do not care, at all, about your skin color, or gender, or sexuality. Of course this isn’t true for every Republican. There are idiots in every group. The conservatives I’ve talked to, none of them care that I’m a woman or that I’m Jewish, all that matters is that I’m a logical, rational, and intelligent person and even when we disagree on little things there’s no malice about it.

### **Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

The reactions been kind of interesting actually. I actually wrote an article on this for Elementary Politics. What tends to happen when a liberal finds out I'm a conservative is first there's a pause, a silence, their eyes go wide and their mouth hangs open as if you just told them that you kick puppies in your spare time, or think about murder. Then, the first things out of their mouths is, "Wait, you're a conservative?" Well they usually say Republican. This is usually the response from college students. Then you nod in return and admit that you are a Conservative.

"So you don't like Obama, right?" They ask.

"..Yes..." By this point I have a general idea of where the conversation will go.

"So you're racist?" Because disliking the president automatically makes one racist, in case anybody didn't know. We can't dislike Obama because he's a terrible president, if anyone dislikes him, it is about skin color. As if that somehow matters.

"...no."

"Did you vote for Romney?" Of course I did. Now you're wondering when they'll get to the point of these questions.

"Don't you know that republicans want to take away your rights?" And there it is. Republicans hate women, or, why do you hate gay people? Republicans are evil that's the point that liberals try to paint. They're really good at it too. They duped a good portion of the population into believing that Republicans hat women and want to take away my rights or the rights of gay people.

I actually should really tell you, there was a post I made the night of the 2012 election. And I said, guys, I just have one last plea, vote with your brain, not your lady parts. Now to me that seemed like a perfectly logical statement. Apparently, it wasn't. I got into this argument and I think it's actually in one of my tags, it was so ridiculous, I think I purged it from my mind. It was something along the lines of how women can't vote without their "lady parts" because Conservatives are evil and want to take away our reproductive rights. And I said, "Wait... how are they doing this?" And then it all goes back to abortion. As a woman I find it really irritating that liberals expect me to automatically care about abortion and care about it in a pro-abortion platform. Trying to get that liberal girl to care about other issues seemed impossible.

I think I've actually gotten a few reactions about being a Jewish conservative. I get that question a lot. Why are Jews liberal? A lot of it comes from a non-religious upbringing or a deep rooted immigrant past that doesn't really influence them anymore. More likely their grandparents or great grandparents came before the Russian revolution, escaping persecution both in religion, and because of their socialist ideals. There's a lot of reason why Jews tend to vote left. Then, of course you add Israel to the mix. There are two types of liberal Jews. The fist are the liberal Jews that tend to be more pro-Israel and they will stand with Israel, but they'll still vote democrat. The other is the thorn in my side, the pro-Palestinian-oh-my-gosh-Israel-is-evil-Jews, which those just logically make no sense to me. I've met a few in person and they still don't make sense to me. How they can support terrorists and over their own people? My brain doesn't compute that. My senior year of high school, they had a youth radio program in the local college, and it was my idea to do a show on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They told me I had to invite people from both sides of the isle, which made sense. As a host, I had to be neutral. And I said, "Oh sure, I can totally be neutral." Yeah, no, I can't. Maybe if I'm mediating a debate on a topic that I'm not as passionate about, I could do it, but anybody who knows me knows when it comes to the



Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I cannot be neutral. I was 17, and I was supposed to have a rabbi, but he backed out and we got a guy who -- I think he was working for the Jewish Community Alliance or something. Then we had the guy from this local Peace Action organization, which is about as la-la liberal as you can get.

The guy who was supposed to be representing the more pro-Israel side wasn't as vocal. I think he was a bit more introverted and he wasn't as forceful as I would have been in that situation. The problem was the other guy, who looked like -- he looked like a schlub. There's no English word to accurately explain what he looked like. He just looked like a schmuck. He wasn't clean-shaven. He had messy, white hair. At least the other guy had the decency to wear a suit, and at least care about his appearance. And okay this was radio, but wherever you go you make an impression. So the show starts and he won't let anyone else talk. I'm sitting here. I have to be neutral and I'm seething. When we had to take a break I had to physically remove myself from the studio.

One of the engineers comes out to me and he goes, "Sasha, are you okay?" In retrospect, I don't think I've ever come close to actually hitting someone [Laughs] as I did that night. It got to the point where -- I mean, you and I have had enough conversations that you know I'm a pretty loud person. I can be very extraverted, but I kept my cool as best I could. Basically the entire show was a disaster.

It got so bad that my mom called into the show. Now my mom is a very quiet person, she rarely yells and less likely to berate someone in front of others. But when you get her angry, you better run for the hills. She's also the most amazing person who ever lived. She calls in and berates the guy because he basically said the Israelis that were dying from rockets thanks to Hamas in 2010 didn't matter because not as many of them were dying as Palestinians. Ignoring pretty much all other facts like Israel having bomb shelters, or actually caring about other people's lives unlike Hamas. To this day, six years later, my mom still gets mad anytime that particular night is brought up.

A lot of liberals, as I've seen tend to act like they know what your opinion should be better than you do. There's that big government mentality right there for you. You don't know what's good for you. Government does. Oh, my favorite one is I can't be a conservative because they're against immigration. [Laughs] How? Illegal immigration and legal immigration are two different things. When I tell them I came here legally and also have strong opinions against illegal immigration they can't quite comprehend how I can be against illegal immigration. I think it's rather obvious. Liberals believe that people fit into little boxes of beliefs that gay people have to believe x things and women have to believe z things, etc. so when they meet someone who doesn't fit into that box their minds can't quite understand it.

### **Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

I think it's definitely shaped how I view a lot of things. It's definitely ended a few friendship, which just baffles me. There really are people who will stop talking to you for your political views. I had a friend who I've known pretty much since ... pretty much the entire time I've been in this country, give or take a few months or -- give or take a year, almost. And we were good friends. Then when I graduated from college, I wanted that "I survived college without becoming a liberal" shirt because as I got into college, I became more conservative than I had ever been, which doesn't usually happen. But my friend who went to a university closer to home, became

more liberal. And at first it didn't bother me, people have different opinions, no big. But... there comes a point when you go so far left, you can't see straight. And by see straight, I mean see the light at the end of the tunnel. I don't even know what to call it. Suffice to say we didn't last much longer as friends.

I think that being a conservative actually opened me up to a lot of opportunities because, I've met so many amazing people. My blog helped me get this opportunity. It's helped me explore who I am more and help me make new friends that I can talk to about things that I can't really talk to people that I know in person. Or, at least, friend-wise. Being a conservative, and being an open conservative, I think at one point I used the term "come out of the closet as a conservative." [Laughter] I used that in air-quotes, are kind of two different things. Because there are people that are more quietly conservative and I've met people at my university that agree with my view, but just don't want to rock the boat or are actually scared to share their own views. That's pretty problematic when you're actually afraid... where there's that split second when you think, "Oh, G-d. Oh, G-d. Do I mention this? Do I mention this? What's going to happen?"

My sophomore year I was in an economics class and I got partnered up with this really nice quiet girl. I had the questions pulled up on a Word document, but I also had a thing saved about the problems with Obamacare. And I had that up, and I didn't realize that I had clicked -- because I have a habit of clicking back and forth when I'm on the computer because I have to do something with my hands. So, it was pulled up when she sat down. Her first reaction was, "Oh, is that about Obamacare?" And my brain went into defense mode, "Oh boy... What's going to happen? Oh, crap. Oh, crap." And she goes, "Oh, this is so cool. Wow. Those are really good points. Did you know that my mom is head of the local tea party?" Sometimes finding conservatives is like finding romance. Really hard.

**[Interviewer:** It can be, yeah. You have to find each other online. It's like back in the 50's, gay people trying to find each other. You need a secret code of how to identify other conservatives in public. [Laughs] It's like Christians in early Rome. I'll draw one side of the fish, you draw the other, and we'll know. ]

**Sasha:** Gay people shouldn't have to be afraid to come out of the closet, Jews shouldn't have to worry about somebody throwing out clichés and stereotypes at them, or G-d forbid something worse and Conservatives shouldn't have to worry about how their friends, or professors are going to treat them just because their political views are different. It shouldn't matter.

Sometimes being a conservative can be really isolating and I kind of had this problem sophomore year where I had a really bad experience with a roommate. She ended up kind of alienating me from a lot of people. We didn't really work well as roommates, but I ended up kind of alienating myself even more because... it was fall of 2012. And everyone talks about politics. It's constant. Because I follow a lot of my friend's blogs, I follow a lot of fandom blogs that aren't political but then are political. One time one friend re-blogged—it was that thing that was going around where two women who have been protesting against Israel together -- one's Jewish, one's Palestinian -- for decades or something, and they have those signs. I was so done at one point so I reblogged it and added my two cents. This was someone who was in the master's program that I knew, who was a couple of years older and was supposed to be mature. I didn't even think about who I was re-blogging it from. I just re-blogged it and debunked the crap out of

it because I was so mad. I come into dinner the next day and I decide to sit with my friends. They tell me, "You can't sit here, Sasha." I had seen that girl, in particular, walk out right as I got there...well storm out. What do you mean I can't sit here? They tell me that she's really mad and pissed off at me. Well, then she can talk to me like a rational adult. One of the other girls says no, she's ready to hit you. You cannot sit here. So, I ended up eating dinner by myself because this person who's supposed to be a couple years older than me, who's supposed to be an adult, who cannot have a conversation with someone because they didn't like that someone disagreed with their post. Who does that?

### **What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

Small government, strict adherent to the constitution, and pretty much anything that is encompassed with that. Small government means less regulations on everything. It means that government is not running your life. It means that government is doing exactly what it's designed to do, protect your civil liberties and protect the country itself. Strict adherence to the constitution means you support the Second Amendment. It means you do not restrict Freedom of Speech. It means that you make sure, well -- I was bored once, and wanted to do a fun post, just something short and sweet, I said, well, wait a minute. I was looking back through the Constitution. The Constitution isn't about our rights. It's a list of things the government is not allowed to do. That went off a slew of re-blogs. The idea of a perfect government doesn't exist. A government that is more interested in actually doing what it's supposed to do (instead of limiting my rights or trying to impose terrible regulations) is the closest we can get. A government that's held responsible to the people that elected them. That would be nice.

### **What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

Always the abortion and equal pay. I am so sick of abortion and equal pay. G-d why would you be a conservative? Don't you know republicans don't pay women enough? They don't want women to be paid equally. It is as if, as a woman I am not allowed to have opinions on any other topic, or that I have to care first and foremost about these two issues.

As a Jewish woman some did tell me once that Republicans were antiemitic which I haven't really experienced, at all. Maybe radical evangelicals, but not all conservatives are evangelicals. This goes back to those boxes I mentioned earlier. With that I also get a lot of questions about Israel from pro-Palestinian liberals. I eat those for breakfast.

As a Naturalized citizen I get questioned about immigration a lot. I am against illegal immigration and no I don't have to be sympathetic. It was a long processes to come here legally. But we did it. People do it every day.

### **What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

Well, I think the biggest one is usually big government versus small government. Liberals tend to have this kind of notion that government can solve all your problems. Even when I have friends who say, "Government sucks" they turn right around and want government to solve some kind of problem. Ronald Reagan said, you put the government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in five years there'd be a shortage of sand. So why do people think putting government in charge of more things will somehow fix things?

Government has, for good or bad, whether it was necessary or not, has grown exponentially since the days of the reconstruction. That's a fact. On the one hand, I can see the argument for stating that the country's bigger, that we're involved in a lot more things, so government should be handling more things. To a small, itty bitty, teeny weeny degree, that makes sense because yeah, government does have a lot more work than it did two hundred years ago. That work shouldn't really affect us as much as it does.

It's ridiculous. I think, sometimes... most of the time actually, government over-regulates. Liberals are always pushing for higher taxes, and there's another conservative value for you. Small taxes. But there's always that regulation, government has to regulate this in order for it to be good. It's like with the internet thing. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Government can't fix everything.

Conservative arguments tend to be more logic based. The facts say that more guns in the hands of the citizens reduces crime. In contrast liberals tend to be more emotion based and use emotional responses. In terms of gun control their go to argument is "think of the children" or something to that effect.

### **Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

Most of the time they don't make sense to me. Aside from my political views, somebody called me the voice of reason, and that is usually what I am. I am a very rational person. I am a very logical person. A lot of the time, liberal suggestions don't make sense to me, in part because they go for the emotional appeal. I think with my brain. It's not for lack of trying to understand though. I usually try at least, to put myself into the other person's shoes and kind of see where they are coming from and I can see where they are coming from a lot of the time. In regards to the Israel-Palestine conflict, I can see what democrats want. They just want peace, and peace is a beautiful idea. I wish we could all just live in peace, but that's not a rational idea. Because a rational person understands that most people want peace. There is always going to be that one guy who kind of wants to kill the other guy for whatever reason. So a lot of times, I use the line that peace for the sake of peace is ridiculous... because it is. Peace on paper means nothing if two seconds after, the lines are signed, they start shooting each other. Hamas is usually, "Okay, okay. We'll cease fire." Because they end up going, "Crap, guys. We've run out of rockets. Can we have a cease fire please? Okay, great. We'll see you in three months."

### **Are there are any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?**

I can't really think of any.

There are certain topics that Conservatives don't quite know how to handle, but nothing comes to mind that makes me think that liberals are right about it.

### **What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

I don't mind civil unions, and I like the idea that has been described to me of getting the government out of marriage. This wasn't an idea I really understood for a while, but once I kind of heard someone really break it down and explain it. It made a lot of sense. Honestly, I'm kind of fine with either one because as much as we would like to, government isn't going to get out of marriage. Clearly I don't have a problem with gay people.

I have actually had to explain to a lot of liberals why conservatives are against gay marriage, and once you kind of explain the reasoning the two schools of thought, the civil unions, the getting government out of marriage, they say oh, that actually makes sense, to which my response is, yes, you could google it, or ask a conservative instead of just assuming. Not everyone is a social conservative.

### **Abortion?**

I personally would never ever, ever, ever even think about getting an abortion. I can kind of understand why some women choose to, but I don't support it. I particularly don't support it in its later trimesters. In the first month, I can at least, kind of, more rationalize that. Abortion for me is kind of an iffy issue because I can kind of understand why someone would go to have an abortion, but it shouldn't be used as birth control and it shouldn't be the first option that people consider. Later term abortions are a huge no-no for me and partial birth is not okay.

### **Welfare?**

It needs to be reformed for sure. My friend, and my last college roommate and I talked about how some things are better in theory than in practice. Socialism, kind of interesting in theory, would never work in real life.

Liberals can parade and say that welfare leeches are not that common, but they're not as uncommon as they think they are. But at the same time, I do know people who really do need the help and who can benefit from it. So, if the system can be reformed in such a way that it ends up benefiting people more, and creating less abuse in the system, that would be great. But, again, that's kind of perfect world idea. Maybe we could get more of the private sector to help out people in trouble. There are lots of charities available to help people who are down on their luck.

### **Discrimination laws?**

That's a tricky one. I kind of agree with what you said that it's not really the government's job to tell you what you can and can't do and who can and can't hire. But, it's kind of more of an issue of morals. I think the biggest issues I've heard these days is people who are transgender not getting hired.

Have you personally ever been discriminated against for being gay?

**[Interviewer:** You know, it's funny. Only one time. And my manager was gay and he didn't like lesbians. That was what it was. I don't know what the problem was.]

**Sasha:** What?

**[Interviewer:** Yeah. He treated me like crap the entire time, and then I found out from another person who had worked there previously who was also a lesbian. He'd done the same thing to her. He hated lesbians. I don't know what it was. He was gay too, so it wasn't like he hated gay people. It was weird. So, only once, and it didn't really fit into what people normally think the case would be.]

**Sasha:** I definitely think that discriminating against anyone is wrong but I also think a small business should have some say into who they want to hire. If you're a Christian business and you only want to hire Episcopalian Christians, that's fine. It's a really complex issue and it's an issue

of morals more than anything else. At the same time if a business doesn't want your business they should be able to refuse, just like you and I choose where we shop. A Christian bakery shouldn't be punished because it did not want to make a cake for a gay wedding. That's their loss.

### **Feminism?**

I hate modern feminism. It is useless and unnecessary and I rarely see them demanding that Muslim countries change their laws and stop treating women as second-class citizens. Yet they'll blast anyone who disagrees with them. Man-spreading, come on. That's not a thing. Men are not constantly thinking about ways to undermine women and ruin their lives. There's nothing that modern feminism is trying to accomplish that I need. Wage gap? Myth. Equal rights, already got all the rights that men have. Suffragettes were awesome. They stood in the face of true injustice. Modern Feminists have never seen true injustice and a man telling you you're "bossy" doesn't count.

### **Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

Deportation. I like the idea that you can gain citizenship through the military service, because I think that gives kids who really didn't have a choice when their parents decided to jump the fence, quote-unquote, to gain citizenship. I've actually spoken to someone who gained citizenship from this experience. His parents were not actually Mexican, but he said it ended up being a really frustrating situation. Things kind of went hinky at the last minute and they ended up practically accidentally in the country illegally. He gained citizenship through his military service, and he goes, "I don't regret that decision. I learned a lot, and I think this is a good idea."

You can either go back to your native country, with your family or you can join the Army or if you're too young to join the Army, there is other things that can be done. I think we also need to really reform -- or fix the border problem. There's no reason why there should be such a huge influx. If you enter illegally into Iran, you get sent to jail. You're lucky if they don't hang you. You enter illegally into North Korea, you're dead. You enter illegally into any country, there is some specific ramifications for that action. In the United States, there's nothing. We need to actually enforce the consequences and people with criminal records need to be deported.

Our legal immigration procedure also needs an overhaul.

### **What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

What foreign policy? In relation to peaceful agreements, I wrote an article about this, that Kerry and Obama, they're actually really not interested in peace. They're more interested in getting that badge that says, "I solved the Arab-Israeli conflict." They're more interested in a Noble Peace prize and the prestige that would come with that than they are an actual lasting peace. Peace isn't feasible at the moment because you have two terrorist organizations that want to destroy -- well, more than two, but the two specifically surrounding Israel -- want to destroy it simply because it exists. People like that are not going to want to make peace and they make demands too. Release those killers, do this, do that and then, maybe they'll consider coming to the peace table. They do that on purpose because they know that Israel is not going to agree to that. As far as Israel is concerned, Obama can take a hike with Kerry and Holder and whoever else. They can all just jump off a cliff. Okay, not a cliff, but... off the White House lawn. [Laughter]

[**Interviewer:** Take a long walk off a short pier into shark infested waters.]

**Sasha:** There we go. Oh, I like that.

In terms of response, we all knew that going into this that Obama has no foreign policy experience. He was a freaking community organizer and the people in his cabinet are just about as qualified as he is, which isn't saying much. Granted, Kerry has some experience, but he's kind of an idiot anyway. The fact that he wanted to get involved in Syria was very problematic. The fact that President Obama supported the Muslim Brotherhood, very problematic. Backstabbing Israel, also very problematic. His entire presidency has been problematic.

I just really don't agree with anything that he's done, especially in foreign policy. It is kind of a hot button topic for me. I don't know -- is it because he doesn't have enough generals in his cabinet? Or are they just incompetent generals like he is? What's going on in the cabinet that he can't form a rational decision? ISIS is a growing problem but he tells us it's contained. No it's not. A herd of sheep is contained. This is a pack of wolves.

It's hard for the US not to get involved because the world complains when we get involved, but when we don't, they complain anyway. They don't like us but they still want us to solve their problems. The US does need to think first before we jump into things. We need to analyze every angle, think about the consequences of all our actions before we get involved in anything.

Don't even get me started on the United Nations. They're just a very bad joke that got way out of hand and needs to just go away. They demonize our allies, they insult our unique ideals and claim that their way is somehow morally superior when it really isn't.

**What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

Shut up and listen. [Laughs]

We need to showcase more young people and to present their arguments in a more rational and a more creative matter. Infographics are great. They're short and the average voter's patience is captured. Logic and education. Don't think of voters as uninformed, think of them as those seeking answers and we'll go much farther than we have before.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

For Jewish conservatives, I think they're doing a pretty decent job. Standing strong with Israel. I think I re-blogged a couple of gifs from a speech Marco Rubio gave about standing with Israel and why it's important and stuff like that. That's great. Congress, actually, earned some major points with me summer 2014 when the latest war in Gaza happened. The one thing democrats and republicans both agreed on was sending aid to Israel to help them deal with the situation. So Jewish wise...well Zionist Jews I should say, I think they're doing well.

Appealing to women is really important. Honestly, my dad was talking to me and he goes, how many women in politics can you name? I could think of a few Republican women, thank you 2014 election for that. But the majority were still liberals. We need more conservative women and we need to encourage them a bit more.

They really need to deal with that whole abortion issue and deal with this ridiculous construction that we hate women. Republicans really have to do is -- republicans don't want to address stereotypes issues because they think it's stupid. They're reasoning for not choosing to address it is very sound, in my opinion. They don't want to deal with inaccurate stereotypes. I think Marco Rubio did a good job with that when he talked about abortion as a complicated issue. One the one hand it is a women's right to control her own body, but on the other hand everyone has a right to life. We need to clarify our opinions on social matters that liberals seem to obsess over. As such, this ties back to Naturalization. People talk about immigration all the time, but a line needs to be seen of where you mean illegals and when you mean naturalized citizens. We need to remind people why the conservative, capitalist ideal is better than the country myself and others have come from.

This has escalated to the point of actual stigmatization. It actually harms female conservatives... because we're constantly asked to justify who we are. If more politicians -- republican politicians, conservative politicians -- would just explain themselves more it opens up a whole new concept that can be freely discussed. Liberals are sometimes like children and you have to explain and educate at the same time because, like that little sibling, child, cousin, etc. they will ask "Why?" But I suppose a lot of it goes back to Republicans having some bad P.R. Part of what I would eventually love to do is be that PR person. I have no problem telling a politician, no, you can't say that. People are going to think you're an idiot. Stick to the speech. I can't believe some of the things that come out of people's mouths. Is there no one on their campaigns who's capable of telling them off?

### **What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

As much as we really hate democrats, we can't get rid of them... nor should we. We need someone to challenge us and to compete with and work with. It's not about what's good for the republicans. It's not about what's good for the democrats. It's about what's good for the country and for the citizens that they're supposed to be representing. It's about the individuals and the constitution.

We have to learn to be empathetic and rational at the same time. This isn't easy, especially for conservatives because we are so logic based. Liberals flaunt "Oh poor little Kimmy she has no healthcare. Don't you want your daughter to have health insurance?" This work. It's emotional manipulation, but it works. We shouldn't try to manipulate people. But we should be trying to connect with them on all levels, not just logical.

I think we have to collaborate a lot more than we have been. People keep bashing Common Core, and I've seen a lot of people from both sides. You're [the interviewer] more supportive of Common Core, you've been debunking a lot of the myths about it versus other people. I've seen a lot of really stupid things that have come out of public schools.

I wrote a paper for my English class about how we need a national set of standards. Standards. I'm not talking about curriculum development, stuff like that. I just mean standards. Just in my town, it took until my brother started middle school for them to actually realize that the three middle schools were teaching three different math programs. So if a kid had to transfer from Middle School A to B to C, and get three different math curriculums. That makes no sense.



We need to realize as a party and as a movement that we have to grow and we have to remember why conservative values are important. We are very unique as a party because we go back to History and look at what our founding fathers believed and how they would have solved a situation, had it arisen in their time. We go back to the constitution, a timeless document that is relevant today as it was 200 years ago. America is made up of different people with different histories and we are able to live in one of the most amazing countries in the world and we should be proud of that.

### **Shane Minear**

The following is transcribed from an audio interview that was conducted by the author and may not be in strictly the same format as other interviews contained in this book.

#### **What is it about yourself that makes you a “minority conservative”?**

Okay, I'm a conservative. I identify as a conservative. I believe in a small government, I'm very supportive of a free market, I'm very supportive of the military, a strong civilian militia, and individual rights of the people. What makes me a minority of that is I don't fit the common idea of what people think of as a conservative. I'm younger, I'm 19 years old so I'm what you'd call college-aged. I'm Transgender, I'm seeking gender reassignment so I've begun taking female hormones. Also I'm pagan so I'm a Wiccan; I believe in old gods and I'm a very nature-focused person.

#### **Why did you become a conservative?**

Well for a while I did hold liberal beliefs; I just kind of blindly followed. Then I started thinking and did some research so I started to look at really what it meant to be a conservative or a liberal and really what I was focusing on, what I was voting on and supporting. And I started just looking at the issues and just questioning. Well I asked myself, "What is the purpose of government?" What I came up with was that the purpose of government is protection; we as human beings came together to organize ourselves and protect ourselves from outside forces and, in a way, being ruled. And the conclusions I came to really led me to believe in individual freedoms and then economically I started to look at what would work and realized that keeping things in the hands of the people seem to work better than government-run things, government control. And I realized that within my taken beliefs and within my LGBT practices, I just want the government to not be restrictive and controlling of it and I realized the paths to freedom came with conservatism and a smaller government.

#### **What age were you when you became a conservative?**

Fourteen, fifteen. I was just entering high school and I joined my debate team and with that we started researching a lot, so I had to look at the classical philosophers and such, like Hobbes and Locke and such and just reading about that, researching that really opened me up to research and once I started researching I started finding that conservatism fit me better. It just makes more sense.

#### **Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

My family is a good even split. My dad's pretty conservative but my mother and my sister, fairly liberal. Most of my friends within the groups I associate with ended up being liberals, but we've kind of had this agreement that friends who want to stay friends shouldn't discuss religion or politics. And I'm a better debater than them so they don't really like talking politics with me. But I'm a conservative mostly surrounded by liberals, but we make it work.

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

A lot of conservatives I speak to, they've taken this "Don't ask, don't tell" sort of stance. If we're talking about politics, we're talking about politics and the issues, but if we're talking about our personal lives then we generally have kept out political lives out of it. So that's been that. So I should say, unless we've gotten political, they don't want to get political.

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

When liberals find out that I'm a conservative, they act shocked and betrayed. A lot of the time they try to educate me, but in a sense I've done a lot more research than them often, so it doesn't really work. They don't really shun me but they look at me a little different.

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

Not particularly. I wouldn't really say a lot of my life is focused around my conservatism to have affected my political beliefs. It hasn't alienated me too much to my friends or anything.

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

I think the largest one that separates conservatives and liberals is large government vs. small government. With that, I'm very small government, so small government, individual freedoms, free market and taxation - those are what I would consider to be the conservative principles.

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

Always asked about gay marriage. That's the first thing. Always. So they always question that first. I'm always questioned about how I view religious freedoms and government restrictions on businesses with that. Being a Wiccan and being so nature-focused I get asked about the environmental protections and national parks.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

I believe the job of the federal government is to protect us and ensure common defense and to make sure that our unalienable that our rights remain that. Honestly, part of that is the government protecting us from itself, so in that, I feel like policies need to be set up to stop government restrictions, which kind of sounds odd but in a way I feel that's what our framework is based around.

**What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

Well, I feel like a lot of liberals think that the government is the answer, whereas I tend to believe that a lot of our problems can stem from the government, mostly with domestic issues. A lot of these social issues, like same sex marriage - I'll use this as an example. A lot of people think that the government needs to, or a lot of liberals seem to believe that the government needs to allow same sex marriage, but I feel that the issue was the legalization of marriage and making

it a government and federal issue, and I feel like that just complicated things and that's where the problem came from. And I feel like that the solution to that would be making a marriage itself like a religious ceremony and then holding civil unions which could be based around some sort of non-romantic, even business-like, as if you would a roommate or something.

**Are there are any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?**

Abortion. I'm not too conservative on abortion. I'm not too for protecting the rights of the unborn. I do get criticized for that often but it's not on the top of my priorities. I think that's where I disagree a lot.

**What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

- Answered in previous question. -

**Abortion?**

- Answered in previous question. -

Additional clarification: I don't feel that policies should be ground in religious ideas, and even though I'm a religious person myself, I just feel like policies shouldn't be ground in that. That's kind of a general thing, but I hear that a lot with abortion.

**Discrimination laws?**

Alright, so my views on discrimination laws are this could also help the free market. If a business is doing something that you don't support, like if a catering company won't cater to same-sex marriage, well then in a free market the best way to inspire change to them would be to take your business elsewhere. So I feel like within a free market that the best solution to these discrimination laws would just be to open the market and just have people take their business elsewhere, because in a capitalist system the businesses that you want to support will thrive if you support them. So I feel like that opens up more freedoms because it opens up people to make sure that their businesses only cater to people that they want to and it opens us as consumers to decide which businesses thrive and fail. So I feel that if most people support it anyway, most people are against this business discriminating, then most people will take their business elsewhere.

**Feminism?**

As a Transgender, gender non-conforming person, it ends up that feminism doesn't support people like me. I've noticed this a lot, so looking at it, feminism wouldn't personally help me, and then looking at don't I feel that there's a need for it, that it's called for. This bill that they're talking about, this equal pay, correct me if I'm wrong but I feel like something like that was passed in the 60's.

[**Interviewer:** Yeah, 1963... Equal Pay Act.]

**Shane:** Yeah, so the only reason I can see a bill like that passing again is to ensure other non-related policies found within the bill; cause you know "you have to pass it to see what's in it" - that's how our system works. So I feel like a lot of feminism is used as... that it's just going to be a used as a platform and as a distraction from a lot of the more important issues. So I don't feel there's currently a need for it. Though internationally, there's definitely reason for it under Sharia.

If people want to be feminists, don't try to fix this country, why not fix the country where people are being raped and murdered.

### **Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

I believe that immigration is important to this country. I believe that people should legally be allowed to enter this country. Illegally, that's a crime and that shouldn't happen. So I believe that a stronger border is needed, because illegally entering this country, the people who I've noticed from some research and talking to people who have legally entered this country; illegally entering this country hurts those who are trying to enter it legally the most. So I feel if we want to support immigration we need stronger support of security.

### **What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

I feel like what's happened is that we've gotten overly involved as a government, and I feel that foreign policy should be left to NGO's. Earlier I spoke of feminism and the solution of how it's actually not in this country; well I don't feel our government should be going and trying to liberate these people, but I feel like if people want to form their own organizations to do it and through their own fundraising, travel and do something about it there. I feel like foreign policy should be less of a government issue because we need to focus more on our domestic issues.

[**Interviewer:** As far as going to war, or preemptively going to war with people that you think are going to be a threat, how do you feel that we should handle that?]

**Shane:** If I feel like they're going to directly be a threat, then I think we should, but I feel like we ignore a lot of the more prevalent issues that are closer to us. I've just done a huge amount of research because a friend of mine was just asking me some questions about it. One of the larger issues that is happening is on this side of the world. The Mexican drug cartels are huge and they're a huge problem and they're definitely a threat to our national security, so I feel like that is something we should focus on more.

### **Is there anything I didn't ask about in this section that you think is important?**

I'm very supportive of our 2nd Amendment rights. That's just one, citizens have the right to bear arms and the right to form militias. So I agree with that.

### **What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

Well I think what help a lot is... honestly things would like the book you're doing. Just more campaigns to show that conservatives aren't all old rich white men. But I feel like spending a bunch of money to show in campaigns like that might just look cheesy and forced. So I feel like if they could find conservative bloggers, find conservatives who will work as newscasters or representatives speakers, and have people like us. Employ more conservative minorities for doing the job about reaching to conservative minorities.

### **Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

I feel like one of the larger things is the government, large government/small government contrast and I feel like that's honestly one of the things that's not expressed enough. I feel like that's a pretty simple term. So if I heard large government vs. small government, government

control vs. personal freedoms - if I heard more of less government control, more personal freedoms, I feel like that would explain conservatism better.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

Well what I feel like they could do is show that... Conservatives have been painted as, well particularly with the Wiccan demographic, conservatives have been painted as this oil-dumping, destruction of the national parks, hunt everything to extinction... So what I feel like they could do to improve outreach to our demographic is show more environmental support, but not in the government regulation way. Because there's support for our national parks, which to me that's a very conservative thing. Pro-hunting, that's a conservative thing. And that's a Wiccan thing. A lot of Wiccans I've known, that I associate with are very into hunting, they're pro-hunting. It's kind of a cultural thing that we do.

I feel like if that could just be pointed out that would improve the outreach and improve a lot more... And a lot more Wiccans feel like the government is too controlling because a lot of them just want to live. So I feel like, as I said earlier about the smaller government, more personal freedoms, I feel like if that was stressed, then my demographic would lean more Republican as a whole.

**What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

The religious focuses. I feel like we really need to stop. You can vote the same way. You can vote that way because of your religion, but you can't explain it that way. You need to find scientific backing for every decision. You cannot be focusing on voting because it fits your religion. And I feel like the more you do that, it'll just continue to look ignorant and uninformed.

**Is there anything I didn't ask about in this section that you think is important?**

[T]his fits within the section. I feel like if the Republican Party and conservatives utilized the resource of the internet more, that's a lot of it. Because a lot of people of our age use the internet, and I've noticed that for every one conservative news site, I can find four liberal sites. So I feel like that if there was more of a push for just social media conservatism.

**Sarah Armbruster**

The following is transcribed from an audio interview that was conducted by the author and may not be in strictly the same format as other interviews contained in this book.

**What is it about yourself that makes you a “minority conservative”?**

I am a woman, and I'm half-Hispanic.

**Why did you become a conservative?**

It probably has a lot to do with my upbringing, but it just falls more in line with my beliefs at their core. And really – it's going to sound a little stupid, but it's kind of an intuition thing too. What feels right.

**What would you say your political beliefs before that were? If any.**

I would say I didn't really have any. It was more like – it was a little bit more authoritarian than I am now, actually. Actually, probably a lot more authoritarian. It was very absolute, because I grew up in a Christian household, and so there really isn't a whole lot of room for... Well, you're supposed to do things this way, but you could do things another way. It was always kind of been in my mind that you did things one way or you're not going to like the outcome. So I've since moved past that, but that's probably more my original political beliefs.

**What age were you when you became a conservative?**

Probably about 16. That's when I really I guess started paying attention to politics, because that's about when Obama started running. That's when everybody kind of went crazy. You didn't really have a choice other than to pick a side.

Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?

My friends are mostly conservative. I don't think I have any actually liberal friends. My immediate family is all conservative. Extended family: not so much.

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

It's actually been really welcoming. There've never been any issues based on, I guess, my background. It's always just been, "Oh, you're a conservative! That's awesome!"

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

Usually it's an "I hate myself" kind of reaction, but, "You hate yourself" or, "You have some weird psychological issue that makes you that way" like it's an affliction.

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

Yeah.

**Positive or negative?**

I'd say mostly positive, but then there's been some definitely negative.

**Examples?**

Well, I'm kind of estranged from one of my grandmother, and a lot of that side of the family don't talk to me anymore. There isn't really any contact, because I'm not quiet and we disagree really strongly.

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

Definitely more for the balanced budget, smaller government, strong military, more traditional principles like... kind of more like the, "Keep to yourself and leave everybody else to lead their life the way that they will live their life, and vice versa."

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

The one I probably get most from conservatives... It used to be abortion, and it went to immigration, because my grandparents on one side are actually immigrants from Mexico. And then liberals... I think it's more of the... It's not even a question, it's just "You hate yourself. How can you believe the stuff you believe in?" or "How can you be so hateful?"

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

To protect the American people. And that's it. And not necessarily from themselves, or each other. From outside sources.

**What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

The main difference, I would say, is each's opinion - their opinions on the role of the federal government. And the liberals tend to want it to be bigger, and the conservatives tend to want it to be much smaller.

**Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

Because what's been happening for the past good... what, like... 90 to 100 years... it's not helping anything. All we're doing is going further into debt and the government is fumbling trying to control everything and it can't control everything. [It's] trying to micromanage and it's not working.

**Are there are any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?**

I don't think so. Not really.

**What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

My opinion on gay marriage personally is I'm not really for it, but I also don't think the government doesn't have any place in telling people who can and can't get married. Honestly I think that's up to the churches: individually.

**Abortion?**

I am extremely against it. I even have a hard time being for it in the extreme cases.

**Welfare?**

That's kind of a loaded question. I don't think it's a good thing at all. Something that was supposed to be temporary being dragged out for so long... Honestly I think it's created a lot of laziness and people who don't want to work and feel entitled to not working and not doing anything for themselves.

**Discrimination laws?**

I'm definitely against all that. That's private property, private businesses. Leave it up to the free market to decide whether or not someone's going to stay in business based on their own policies.

**Feminism?**

Another thing that started out as a good thing and has turned into a monster. [It's] definitely unnecessary in the first-world nations. In the third-world nations there's a lot of good that feminism could do if it could get its head out of its ass.

**Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

Immigration... definitely for legal immigration, definitely against amnesty, and we need to amp-up border security really, really badly. Illegal immigrants make legal immigrants look bad and make legal immigrants' lives much harder. Instead of the attitude being, "You took the initiative to work hard and come here for a better life for yourself and your descendants," the attitude is, "Go back to your own country!" purely because so many people enter illegally.

**What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

Currently, I think it's really bad. We're alienating our allies and for some reason aiding and abetting our enemies - making things a million times easier for them with a lot empty threats that they know are empty threats. It's frustrating.

[Interviewer: How do you feel about getting involved in other countries? Do you think we need to have a strong presence there or do you think we need to pull back?]

**Sarah:** That's hard for me, because on the one hand I really don't want it to turn into another Vietnam, but on the other hand I know what's going on in the Middle East is something that nobody should have been involved in in the first place. It wasn't - I mean - I'm a little more for the whole drone-strike part of things if we can confirm that it's a high-risk target, but other than that - boots on the ground - we're losing too many people for nothing at this point.

**What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

That's hard, because a lot of - I don't want to say the problem with conservatism... it's a really pragmatic belief system, and unfortunately a lot of people think with their emotions and not logic. So I mean you can on some level - the only word that's coming to mind is "pander to" and I don't like that - but there are certain things like policies on abortion and even some immigration stuff you could probably argue for a little more emotionally. But for the most part when you know that - I don't want to use scare tactics, because that's what the left does a lot. But that's been working for them.

**Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

Yes and no. Like I said, it's definitely a more logical way of thinking. It's one where you tend to have to move past your emotional aspect of thinking, but at the same time... I don't know. I think part of it is that again people don't think very logically anymore. And that's a big problem.

Trying to explain facts to somebody who has already made up their mind based on "facts" that support their emotional response to something, basically, is really, really difficult.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

We need to be able to help people see a little bit of the big picture, especially since a lot of conservative principles that get implemented now we probably wouldn't see the benefit of until maybe even a generation or two down the line. They're long-term plans, they're not instant gratification. And we need to be able to convey that to possible converts and especially the minorities. Everybody's all about the instant gratification these days, so it's hard for everybody to address that. I mean even on the conservative side it's hard for people to come to terms with that.

**What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

There's that whole "old white Christian male" thing that everybody seems to throw out at us, which obviously isn't true anymore: we have a lot of diversity within the party. That being said, we need to make sure that those of us who are in the minority brackets - we're not considered just token minorities in the party.



## **Gabrielle**

The following is transcribed from an audio interview that was conducted by the author and may not be in strictly the same format as other interviews contained in this book.

### **What is it about yourself that makes you a “minority conservative”?**

Probably the fact that I'm a woman and that I'm young. It's not as common, especially in Madison. I go to UW and yeah, they're not very nice.

### **Why did you become a conservative?**

I think I might steal my answer from Mia Love. My parents were kind of natural conservatives so I just kind of grew up with that. I actually come from a really, really liberal extended family so it was a matter of growing up where I have both sides and it was kind of expected that you informed yourself and you held your own at the dinner table. So I just agreed more with conservative values. I don't think that the government should provide everything for everybody.

### **What age would you say you really started to have conservative views?**

Probably once I got to high school. My freshman year of high school it was the election year when Obama first got elected. So I kind of started paying attention to politics around that time just because it was such a big deal.

### **As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

My freshman year of college, I was walking with a friend. We were just walking around campus and I was showing her around. That was also an election year. We were walking and [there was this drunk guy stumbling around] and I was like, “Oh my god, this guy's going to walk into the lake or something.” Because he's so stumbling drunk. So I was like, “You know we're just going on a walk anyway, we'll walk you back to [the dorm] we'll make sure you get there safe,” because it was at our homecoming game so everyone was stumbling around drunk except for us because we just weren't. So this guy starts talking about how he voted for Obama in 2008 and how he's so upset with the direction the country's taken and how he thinks he's going to become a conservative now.

Then towards the end this guys seemed so upset about the fact he voted for Obama. I said, “Well, you know what? It's good that you're keeping yourself informed and that you're forming your own opinions. You don't have to be a liberal just because you're a college student. You know, I'm a conservative.” And he goes, “Wait, you're a conservative? I've just been going around trying to get women to think about their political views, because they all seem liberal here and they don't have a good foundation for why they're liberal. So I'm sorry for wasting your time.” And he just walks off. I was like “Ok, a little sexist but I appreciate the sentiment.”

I suppose reactions from conservatives are usually generally pretty surprised. If its older people they're generally like, “Yay. Young people who agree!” But for the most part it's probably surprise.

### **Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

They just kind of assume that I'm a liberal just because I'm a female and so they feel ok to say not so nice things about certain values or they make assumptions, these grand sweeping generalizations about how conservatives hate gay people or minorities.

I have a professor this semester who describes the Republican Party as a coalition of social and religious conservatives, economic conservatives and anti-minority whites. Some people are social conservatives, most of us are economic conservatives, not anti-minority whites. And she puts this on these PowerPoints and she expects to not be challenged.

The reaction from liberals when they find out that I'm a conservative tends to be one of frustration of "You're not liberal but you're a woman and liberals are feminists and we fight for your rights."

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

I think so. Just as far as personal relationships go and friendships go. Like with my closest friends, they're actually all liberal and we're able to discuss things really, really rationally but when it comes to relationships, that's kind of where it gets a little bit tricky. Right now I'm dating someone who's conservative but in the past I have dated liberals and it was actually values that ended up being the deal-breaker. Where they were saying, "The government should provide such-and-such and if you don't think so then you're a hateful person." –kind of a thing, and that kind of stuff. So I think it has had an effect on my personal life. Not so much who I have as friends because I've had these friends since I was very, very little. So we kind of grew up with that kind of discourse that I grew up with in my immediate family and my extended family where it was like, "We're going to be an educated, form our own opinions and be asked about it.

But then once you get older and you actually are able to start dating, that's when it gets tricky. [I]f they don't share your values and they try to force you to think one way then it gets kind of icky.

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

First and Second Amendment. Tend to be big ones. Free speech, freedom of religion, right to bear arms, economic efficiency.

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

I'm not sure, it more seems to be "Why are you conservative?" Just based on the fact that I'm a woman and then that usually gets followed by something about feminism, which I don't consider myself a feminist. So I suppose it tends to focus on women's issues like birth control and abortion and that kind of stuff generally. Then somehow that usually slides into gay marriage because if I'm not your typical conservative I'm automatically a religious zealot who hates anybody who's not straight [and] white.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

I think the job of the federal government should be to kind of serve as the safety blanket from more of social and economic issues. Yes, you have a right to yourself, like economic and social self-determination to live the life you want to live without that government interference. But of

course there are going to be things like people with mental illness or people who have chronic illness and those people need to be taken care of. So I think it's more of a safety blanket to be able to take care of people if they need to be taken care of. But not like how it is now where there's all the welfare queens and all that kind of crap. But I think the idea of kind of serving like a safety blanket to make sure that people are able to realize the life they want to live. I think that's probably the most important part of the federal government and to be able to work together, to make sure that what the people want is what the people get. To have that individual freedom regardless of whatever status you may have, either with health, socially, racially, economically. Some people do just randomly lose their jobs and end up on the street and they should be able to have that full safety [net] and get back up on their feet more quickly. It's very close to my heart because my cousin had cystic fibrosis so he benefitted from that, he couldn't work anymore towards the end of his life

### **What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

I look at it more from a general international law perspective, like the classic kind of perspective. I think liberals tend to focus more on positive liberties and positive rights in the international law sense. So like right to food, right to housing, they value social and economic rights over civil and political rights. We all want the same thing. We all want life to be better for everybody, but it's "what is better" or how do you get to that "better" is where the conflict comes in and I think conservatives tend to value more of those civil and political rights. Political participation is a positive right but it's more of a civil and political right deal to participate in government to be able to be free from government interference with religion, speech, right not to be tortured, right to life. Where I kind of view it as more basic rights is what conservatives tend to value first while liberals tend to value more as secondary rights. I know not all liberals are socialists, but like at the end of WWII the Soviet Union was like "We need to deal with socio-economic rights first. That's our priority." And then the West was pretty much like, "No, we need to deal with simple and political rights first." And I think that divide is pretty well reflected in liberals and conservatives in the United States.

### **Why do you disagree with that liberal political view?**

Primarily because I believe in individual liberty. Again with Ayn Rand, you don't have a right to food or housing, you have a right to grow your own food or buy your own food. You have a right to a free market where you can build your own house or buy your own house.

### **Are there are any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?**

Not that I can think of. I think of it as "Where can I find a balance?" –kind of a thing and it's becoming more and more difficult as the liberals I interact with get more and more militant. It's more polarized which kind of makes it harder but I can't really think of anything off the top of my head.

### **What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

I think that couples should be able to have the government benefits of marriage regardless of their sexuality, but I also believe very firmly in the separation of Church and State so I don't know if I would call it a marriage regardless of whether it's a heterosexual or homosexual partnership. I think that the idea of marriage should be left up to the churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and I really, really, really strongly believe in that. But I do think that there's a

legal marriage and then a religious, faithful marriage, so I think that as far as the legal goes, I think that if you love someone you should be able to be with them and be able to have that equality if you're heterosexual or homosexual or whichever.

### **Abortion?**

I'm pro-life. I do not think that people should be able to get abortions. Of course, I know there will always be exigent circumstances such as rape. I actually worked in the Office of Crime Victim Services for an internship for a while. I worked with the SAFE Fund and I don't know if they have it in every single state, I think they do know but I know they didn't use to, where you can go to a hospital and say "I've been sexually assaulted" and they will do a SANE exam (Sexual Assault Nurse Exam) and if necessary they'll give you Plan B. If you go in a little bit late, they have a certain kind that they can give you up to a week after the assault. So, I don't want people to be re-victimized, but I think that there are those services available. I mean if you're kidnapped and raped I think that's an entirely different thing. The SAFE Fund, you have to check "does not wish cooperate with law enforcement," "does not wish to get billed to insurance." So those kind of protections that are put in place... because some people it might be a case of domestic violence and they're afraid that if they say "I was raped" and law enforcement gets involved that might be a whole lot more dangerous for them. So I think that there are measures that are in place like of course always going to be getting better, it always needs to be getting better, but I think that there are those measures in place where an abortion not necessary. I believe in the sanctity of life. I studied human rights. It doesn't matter if you're developing and completely dependent on your mom or if you're 85 years old, everybody has human rights, just by virtue of human.

### **Welfare?**

I think they're shit! (If I'm allowed to say that.) I think people are allowed to be on welfare for way to long. They're requirements are way too easy. I know it would cost more money, but I think that you should have to drug-test people in order them to collect welfare. But then the problem becomes if they are addicted to drugs, what do you do with them. But you could take that money that you're giving them to welfare and put it towards treatment programs. It's still a lot of money, but at least people aren't just buying their drugs and alcohol and cigarettes with their welfare checks or their food stamps. I know you can't buy alcohol with food stamps but... It needs serious reform. I'm not an expert on economics, but I know that much and it needs to be reformed.

### **Discrimination laws?**

[I'm for the] Free market. If people decide to discriminate against someone based on who they are, whether it's racially, socially, religiously, what have you, then that business will fail and they'll go out of business. You don't want those people in business anyway. They're not going to contribute positively towards society. They're not going to be able to grow and they're not going to be able to succeed. I don't think it's the job of the federal government to say, "Hey we're going to try to keep you in business, but you need to do this in order to stay." I just have a problem with that.

### **Feminism?**

I think that feminism is needed elsewhere in the world, but not here. Not in the United States. I think that third-wave anything is a joke. Especially feminism, in my experience the third-wave feminists are the walking stereotype of those 1800's hysterical women. They fit those stereotypes. They get very hysterical about anything or anyone that disagrees with them. They assume that if you don't agree with them, that you're a hateful person or that you've internalized sexism or misogyny or something like that. It's not really that black and white. I do believe in equality, but I can't identify with that movement at all.

### **Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

I think that the executive order granting amnesty to illegal aliens is a slap in the face to all of those people who came into the country legally whether it was 150 years ago or 2 months ago. It's a slap in the face to those people who are trying to do things legally. Really you do need to have a secure border. Other countries have a secure border from all sides and we're just leaving our back door open. I think that's quite dangerous to do just from a national security standpoint. But I think while immigration does need to be reformed, that is not the way to do it just by saying, "Ok. You can all get these orders, or these benefits." I think it's a slap in the face to people who try to do things legally and citizens of this country.

### **What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

It makes me very angry. It also frightens me a lot. It's just very, very scary to me because we're not doing anything about these awful things that are happening all around the world. I tend to identify more closely with the Teddy Roosevelt philosophy of foreign policy to "Speak softly and carry a big stick." But we're not even speaking and we're not carrying any stick. Not even a little stick which I think is a problem. Historically, for the past 200 years other nations have kind of depended on us to be that kind of help when they need it and it's a problem that we're not doing that right now. If I'm allowed to say it, it's un-American.

**Interviewer:** So you do think that we should be getting involved in these... proactively going after problems in the Middle East and things like that?

**Gabrielle:** Yeah. Absolutely.

### **What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

I think they can actually speak up when Democrats say that Republicans and conservatives in general are minority-hating and to kind of refute that because that's not true. We're not hateful people, at least in my experience. It's not like Republicans are saying, "We should send all gay people to conversion camps and we should reinforce segregation." It's kind of like liberals are making it out to be like that's what conservatives believe in. It's just not true and if there's no dissenting voice then people, especially young people just learning about politics are just going to take that at face value and they're just going to believe it. I know it's an extreme comparison, but it's kind of like the Hitler Youth, they were indoctrinated. I don't want young people to be indoctrinated by people, especially teachers saying Republicans are hateful and I think it's the job of Republicans whether it's in power or just everyday conservatives to just say, "Hey, you know what? That's not true." And to be able to articulate more clearly their viewpoints.

I think that conservatives by nature tend to be more conservative. Of course there are some conservatives who do kind of have a big mouth, but a lot of them just kind of tend to be more reserved and be like, "Ok, well you can say what you want but I'm going to go about and do my

own business.” You have a right to say what you think and I have a right to say what I think, but they’re not going to exercise that right to disagree with what someone’s saying.

**Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

I don’t know exactly what to do to make that easier, to explain it better but I think that it does need to happen. I know there’s a lot of younger conservatives who are extremely, extremely articulate, but at the same time there needs to be a better way to word things. I think that Republicans and conservatives kind of have a tendency to put their foot in their mouth a little bit.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain how the views of Republicans/Conservatives benefit your demographic?**

I think as far as women, yes, because a lot of women are going to vote for a woman because she’s a woman, regardless of their political affiliation, even if they’re not even standing for things that they agree with. Actually, our family friend’s daughter was at some political event. She’s a pre-teen, she’s like 10 or 12 I think and she went up to this woman and said, “How do I know who to vote for?” And the woman told her, “Always vote for the woman.”

I think unfortunately that’s all too common, women vote for women because they’re women even if it’s not what’s best for people in general regardless of gender. So I think as far as outreach goes, I think that women conservatives kind of need to speak up and be like, “Hey, it’s ok to be a woman conservative!” That’s kind of hard just because of the backlash from liberals and feminists, or liberal feminists (double threat) but I think that by actually showing that we exist, I think that’s important and that’s why I think your book is so important because it’s actually showing: ‘Hey! Non-stereotypical conservatives exist!’ So I think that that’s just kind of important for everyday conservatives to kind of speak up.

**What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

I think it is changing. Just in the last election there were a lot more women and a lot more minorities elected and I really think that needs to continue for non-stereotypical conservatives to actually run for office. Just because those are going to be the ones in the spotlight, that’s going to be our representation and so you’re not going to be able to change those stereotypes without that representation. So I think that that needs to continue to change. I think that it’s already on track. I think it needs to continue.

If I may also add having had a year in between the interview and now, I think that it needs to be less divisive and actually stick to conservative principles instead of having people in the GOP stick to their brand of "conservatism" and try to pass it off as conservatism when it really isn't. And with that, I think we as conservatives need to be able to articulate things in a way that is palatable to everyone. Other conservatives may know what we mean, and agree with us, but if we're using language that is unpleasant to liberals and people still figuring out their ideology it's not going to get us very far. I'm not saying we need to use more liberal language to describe our conservative views, but using a more neutral, less politically-charged language makes it easier to get through to people with whom we may disagree.

**Is there anything else about outreach that I didn’t cover that you want to talk about?**

I think it's also important to stress within certain professions that you don't have to be liberal just because you're in a certain profession. I think that that's more of an educational outreach. I spent last semester interning in Victim Services and I had to take a class that went along with it, an internship class. It was basically like "if you're into public service you have to be liberal." I was like, "Eh, No, no. Actually no." I think there needs to be education outreach. It's important to learn about politics especially once you start to actually have to focus on it. I think a government civics class should be a requirement. For me, I took AP Politics in high school and it was optional and all, and thankfully there were a lot of conservatives in my class, but that class would have been a whole lot worse if we all hadn't been coincidentally placed in the same class. We were all conservatives and our teacher was very liberal.

My brother has her now for AP European History and she told my brother, "You'd get along really well with Stalin." My brother had a fit. He was just so, so upset. No, it wasn't Stalin, it was Putin. Sorry, I'm thinking like Russian dictators. I meant Putin. She said he would get along with Putin because they were talking about a war and my brother said, "War isn't pretty but sometimes it's necessary." Like in the case of people being oppressed who need help that sometimes there's going to have to be war, and he used the example of WWII and she's like, "You'd get along really well with Putin." My brother was like, "You are so uninformed, can you go away?" So I think like especially in educational outreach, that's especially important just because I think that a lot of problems stem from people being uneducated.

Whether it's crime, or financially, or politically, I think those kinds of things are important and need to be touched on. Whether it's a speaker is coming into classrooms, as that kind of outreach, like community outreach, like, "Hey, if you want to get involved, here are your options. So people can form their own opinions. Have people from the Republican Party come in. Have people from the Democrat Party come in. So young people can actually learn how to form their own opinions. I think that's probably the most important thing.

## M.

### **What is it about yourself that makes you a "minority conservative"?**

I am a minority conservative because I am a racial minority (Black American), I'm a woman, and I'm a female.

### **Why did you become a conservative?**

I became a conservative for two reasons: I had two conservative parents that raised me well, and conservative values are factually and ethically sound for the most part.

### **What would you say your political beliefs before that were?**

I would say that I have always been fairly conservative, when I was younger I believed in things like the wage gap and privilege, before I did research and learned that these concepts don't really exist.

### **What age were you when you became a conservative?**

Like I previously mentioned, I have always been fairly conservative, though I would say that I started taking politics seriously when I was around 15-16 years old.

**Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

My immediate family is conservative. The rest of both sides is moderately liberal. Most of my friends are liberal, though a few are conservative.

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

Most conservatives are pleasantly surprised that someone that fits the mold of a typical liberal such as myself refuses to identify as one.

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

Most people are surprised to hear that I am conservative, although since I am also religious they aren't too surprised. They usually remark that I personally do not seem like the typical conservative (narrow-minded, etc.).

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

I do feel that it has had an effect on my personal life.

**Has that effect been positive or negative?**

I'd say both negative and positive, although more "negative". Since I live in such a liberal place, it's hard for me to seek out like-minded people. I am studying sciences, so I can't devote as much time as I would like to gathering with other students and discussing politics. I'd say that this has benefitted me in some small way in that I can filter out people whose opinions I might as well completely disregard. I don't believe in creating an echo chamber of people, but as I am constantly surrounded by extremely liberal propaganda I see no harm in removing extraneous people from my life.

I haven't dated someone in a long time because I haven't met a conservative guy. I don't have many conservative friends, so sometimes I feel that my political opinions isolate me. Also, I feel that being a black conservative is different than being a white conservative, or even a Hispanic or Asian or mixed race or whatever, because you get these dueling perspectives but you have to choose what's right.

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

I find it hard to use one word to define conservative principles, but a description that comes to mind is traditional. Some examples are lower taxes, lower government spending, capitalism, etc.

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

Mostly they just ask me how I can be conservative because I'm black.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

To provide a limited role of regulation.

**What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

Liberal values are usually based more on emotion than fact.



**Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

They're usually factually incorrect, and very subjective.

**Are there any topics where you disagree with conservative views or agree with liberal views?**

I don't have a typical view of gay marriage and I am fine with interracial dating. I think that privilege does exist in America, but all Americans are privileged by being American, and privilege is mostly due to economic status.

**What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

I don't personally agree with it, but I don't think I should try and stop it either. I think that no religious figure like a priest should be forced to marry a gay couple, but I think gay people deserve the same rights as the rest of the citizens of this country, including marriage. I think having to ask for permission for marriage in general is stupid.

**Abortion?**

100% pro-life.

**Welfare?**

It should only be used for a short time while a family is down on their luck. You shouldn't need to be on a welfare program for several years. There also should be mandatory drug testing and follow-ups on job searches.

**Discrimination laws?**

Well, there's already the Equal Pay Act of 1963 in place, so there's that. Obviously whether someone is black or a woman or gay doesn't have anything to do with their job performance, so discriminating against someone because of something they can't help is wrong. The problem is, how does one prove that they were solely rejected from a job because of that one factor? Also, does an employer have the right to hire whoever they want if it's their own business, versus a public domain?

**Feminism?**

I'm completely against modern feminism. I'd say that feminism is needed in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries way more than here. However, I've also read that nations where feminism is severely needed often have several human rights violations as well. I still think that in those situations women have it worse. If a woman feels that she is being discriminated against, in this country you have the power to take legal action.

**What are your feelings on the issues of immigration, amnesty, and border security?**

There needs to be a tighter border security, and if someone is known to be an illegal immigrant they should be deported with notice as soon as possible. I am divided with this issue in the case of children that were brought here against their own will. I understand that our citizens should come first, but they have to suffer from the consequences of their family's actions. The problem is that if something is done for them then that only incentivizes illegal immigration even more. I don't know if I have an answer.

**What are your thoughts on foreign policy?**

I would say that we should remain fairly non-interventionist, but I think we should be doing more to fight ISIS and to be better allies with Israel. I appreciate the fact that we've gotten rid of several dictators in the Middle East but that just created more problems than it solved. We should stop giving money to countries that hate us, like Pakistan, and start spending it here.

**What can Republicans do to increase their outreach to minorities?**

Participate in more outreach programs for minority children.

**Do you feel like conservatives (and the Republican Party) do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

I think part of the problem is that voters have a bias due to the extremely liberal media, so that even if a conservative politician has a well-researched platform their audience may not care.

**How could they improve their explanation?**

Their explanations should be factual and consistent, and they should stop responding to gotcha! questions.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

I think there's always room for improvement, but I also think that many African Americans wouldn't be responsive to whatever they have to say anyway.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain how conservatism benefit your demographic?**

Conservatives seek to improve quality of life and guarantee personal freedom to every individual, which is more important than whatever social justice cause liberal latch on to.

**What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

The extremists, but there's not much hope for them anyway.

**D. Taylor of Miami Florida**

**What is it about yourself that makes you a "minority conservative"?**

I grew up as a religious conservative. I may not be as faithful to the religious part, but I am faithful to the idea that America is a unique place, a blessing to live in as a black woman, and safer than many places as a bisexual and a BDSM practitioner.

**Why did you become a conservative?**

Initially, religion. Now, a desire to flush out the bloat of government, restore freedom to individuals, and spread ideological independence.

**What would you say your political beliefs before that were? If any.**

I played around with nanny state social conservatism. I regret that.

**What age were you when you became a conservative?**

Probably 19/20. I had an Economics professor that adored Hayek, but made sure we had some understanding of Keynesian Economics. It was reaffirmed when I had a brief foray into the adult industry as an exotic dancer.

**Are your family and friends conservative or liberal?**

My mother is a religious conservative, my father is a socialist. My siblings range from right-libertarian to social/economic hard right. My friends are a mix, but lean heavily left. Most are not fully aware of my beliefs.

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

Mostly if I play the respectable minority game, I get the respect back. Most respect my privacy and are sympathetic.

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

LOL! Confusion at my existence. Seeking a 'gotcha'. Some call me a rebel without a cause. One suggested I was hoodwinked by a man. I've heard "Uncle Tom" a couple times.

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

It's been mixed. I try not to let it affect me too much.

Dating women is hard. I tend to keep them emotionally at arm's length and seek sex first rather than a relationship. One woman I was interested in asked me point blank who I voted for and promptly ended the date (this was in 2000). Dating men is occasionally a little easier, but many guys tend to think I'm immediately incompatible, even though we may have been getting along just fine previously.

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

Small government, free markets. Freedom of religion and speech, not having the right not to be offended. Following your own path, and self-protection as a human right.

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

Police brutality, gay marriage, college campus issues (speech codes, "rape culture"), affirmative action, and white privilege.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

To be the last line of defense and last resort of arbitration.

**What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

Liberals mistake complexity for intellect. Liberals want an all-encompassing form of control. Conservatives desire simplicity and a loose hand to do what they wish.

**Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

Controlling people's private convictions. Censoring speech and history. Expanding the safety net to a smothering blanket. Trying to force an equal outcome.

**Are there any topics where you disagree with conservative views or agree with liberal views?**

To a degree, black Americans DO have legit grievances. Law enforcement over reaches and people have been killed.

**What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

Should have been left to the states.

**Abortion?**

[It should be] limited. Should be made illegal after the point of which the fetus feels pain. Also, the foster care system needs reform badly before we can even contemplate any sort of total moratorium on abortion.

**Welfare?**

Limited length of time and limit the benefits.

**Discrimination laws?**

Depends. Title IX needs to be repealed. That much I know.

**Feminism?**

I'm firmly against third wave feminism. It's nothing more than a pity party for over privileged women.

**What are your feelings on the issues of immigration, amnesty, and border security?**

There should be a moratorium to clear up backlog and deport illegals, then an overhaul of the entire system.

**What are your thoughts on foreign policy?**

We should cut most of our foreign aid. Both parties tend to do too much. Bush tried to be all things to all people and that was a waste. I will say what he did in Africa with the AIDS epidemic would merit a consideration for a Nobel Peace Prize, but lol, no. He did bog us down a touch in Iraq, but there is a firm argument for that conflict having been inevitable.

Obama is useless on foreign policy by screwing over our friends while giving concessions to people who hate us. Then again, Bush the Elder kinda messed up with Most Favored Nation'ing [of] China.

**What can Republicans do to increase their outreach to minorities?**

Actually go to where they are. Help make the cognitive connections. Bypass the media to go straight to the people.

Show Trans people that support of the Second Amendment protects them. Partner with libertarians on issues like ending the War on Drugs. But definitely bypass the media.

**Do you feel like conservatives (and the Republican Party) do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

Haha, NO.

[To improve it] look at their experience first, but also bring history into it. But it's time to really exploit new media for what it is.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

No.

**How can they improve that outreach?**

Not sure, we've been given over to the left and probably wouldn't know how to undo that grip except to probably bypass the usual gatekeepers and go directly to the people.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain how conservatism benefit your demographic?**

Use history. Hold a mirror up to the Left and show that they are the establishment and tap into the revolutionary spirit that seems to be epidemic.

**Are there things that need to change in the Republican Party at this point to get them back on track?**

The leadership and the desire to go along to get along. Fight for definitive principles and make those principles clear to the people without media interference. Use Twitter and Periscope.

### **Piper H.**

The following is transcribed from an audio interview that was conducted by the author and may not be in strictly the same format as other interviews contained in this book.

**What is it about yourself that makes you a “minority conservative”?**

Well, I'm half-Mexican, and I'm also bisexual.

**Why did you become a conservative?**

Originally, it was because my dad, he really instilled the conservative values into me, so about the age of 7, when the first Bush election was taking place, and I think sometime around when I was 15 or 16, I kind of took that and I ran with it and I learned more about it. I kind of became a conservative myself when I applied my own thoughts. It really became what I believed in, not just what I was taught, and my beliefs have begun to differ a lot from my father's. Which is good, because we can challenge each other.

**What would you say your political beliefs before that were? If any.**

Kind of: when I was discovering more about my sexuality, I – you know – got into more of the Tumblr stuff, and I was looking into all of that. I had a slightly-liberal phase. But I kind of lost that after a while.

**Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

My family is definitely conservative. I don't have a lot of friends. My boyfriend's kind of a moderate, really, and my – what friends I have – they're not very political.

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

Other conservatives are very supportive. I've always felt that conservatives are very open to minorities, and they very much encourage other viewpoints. I mean, if you look at who's running for president on our list this year, you'll see plenty of them.

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

Liberals for the most part, they kind of – they really question it. I have gotten some negative reactions from them. They use phrases like “self-hating” or say that I'm not a “real” Mexican or bisexual or even woman. I guess they can't wrap their minds around the fact that people should think for themselves, and not blindly conform to the norm.

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

Yes, I do kind of look for people in my life who I can, you know, I'm compatible with on an intellectual basis. And I think that kind of includes political beliefs.

**Positive or negative?**

Positive, I think.

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

Conservative principles... Obviously I think it's very important to protect all of our rights: first amendment, second amendment. Those are the things conservatives focus on, but I also think that we don't focus enough on the other ten /Bill of Rights/ should be amendments which is kind of like why I think I like Rand Paul right now: because he's doing a lot of ... focusing on the NSA spying, which I like, because our fourth amendment is being infringed upon so much these days that people just don't notice it anymore. And states' rights obviously, is a big one people just kind of forget about. They just don't care. Nobody cares. And pro-life. And small government, cutting taxes, and trying to carve out some future for the next generations that isn't handling all of this massive debt, which obviously there is, but you should do something.

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

People ask me about gay marriage a lot. I bet people will ask you about that too.

[Interviewer: Well, if I had a nickel for every time...]

**Piper:** I think probably in my social life people ask me about immigration a lot: sometimes jokingly, sometimes seriously. I don't know how many times people have asked me about the border, or “should we secure the border so your family can't get in?” or something silly like that.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

The job of the federal government is mainly defense. And to provide protection, be it unborn or basically to protect the citizens, but I mean, I suppose there could be made some argument for a very small safety net for the disabled, the mentally ill, the elderly, which I could support. Although ideally it should be left up to the states. And I think a very strong military is important as well.

**What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

Liberals, I think they don't have much regard for what America was originally meant to be, and I think that's the very basic difference: that your regard for the Constitution, our rights, trading, our rights for some security, the balance doesn't exist.

**Are there are any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?**

No, I don't think so. I mean, I kind of sway a little libertarian sometimes, but I don't think I have any liberal stances.

**What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

My opinion on gay marriage? I think it would be best if the government were removed from marriage and it could be between any two people and a consenting institution to wed them, but also I probably think that won't happen. Although I have seen some bills for it – I think maybe in Arkansas there was something - a law to get rid of marriage licenses.

[Interviewer: There was one in Oklahoma, I know.]

**Piper:** Oklahoma, maybe that was it. But I think if that can't happen, maybe it should be on a state-to-state level. I don't couples need a piece of paper from the government to have a legitimate marriage. I think we should, perhaps, inform the government that we've wed, for legal purposes, but I don't think the government should be able to say who we could wed.

**Abortion?**

I'm pro-life, unless there's some situation in which it's between the life of the child and the mother, which is some an extremely rare condition that I don't even know how rarely it comes up.

**Welfare?**

Our welfare system is way bigger than it was intended to be, and it needs to be reformed and cut back. It needs to be much more temporary, and it needs to be much more basic. For you know, the essentials. Its primary goal should be to get people off of welfare and into jobs. I think allowing people to stay on welfare permanently is only encouraging poverty. It's not meant to be like that.

**Discrimination laws?**

Businesses should have the right to do business with who they want to do business with. They have a right to contract.

**Feminism?**

I don't like feminism. I wouldn't say that I'm anti-feminist, because they've become kind of toxic as well, but I think feminists forgot what their mother told them when they were little: that actions speak louder than words, because they're always trying to push a dictionary definition of feminism at us.

**Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

I think that first-of-all the border needs to be secured before anything else can be done. And once or if that's done... I don't believe in amnesty. There should be no amnesty for people who are

here illegally. It's a crime, and there should be no reward for that. I do think our legal immigration system should be simplified and reformed, however.

**What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

I think we're much too involved abroad, but I think what we're doing right now we're doing kind of idiotically. Like our negotiations with Iran... It was stupid, because Iran is never going to live up to the too easy conditions that we gave them.

**Is there anything I didn't ask about in this section that you think is important?**

Not really. Just, you know anti-gun control obviously. I think that's a really important issue for minorities. Because gun control was originally targeted at racial and ethnic minorities, and even today minorities face violence, even if it is sometimes from their own race. We need to be able to protect ourselves. That's why I like groups like the Pink Pistols and people like Colion Noir. They understand it.

**What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

They need to spend time in those communities. I don't think they really do that. I was at CPAC last year and I went to a speech – I believe it was a mayor who... it was somewhere in Florida, I think, who won the election in a previously all-Democratic town, because he went to these largely black neighborhoods, and he spent time in the community centers. He volunteered there, and he got to know the constituents. And while he realized that on a national level that's not always feasible, I think that people need to be more relatable to these people – to us.

**Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

I feel that when somebody explains it to me that it's well explained. But I've had the privilege of a good education. That I know that some people – a lot of minorities don't have that privilege, because it's not a secret that there are a lot of poor communities that are largely minority. And I think it's some of those people that we have the disconnect with. But conservative views are not that complicated. If somebody has an open mind, and it was explained to them simply, I believe anybody could understand that it's better. But as it is, no, they don't.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain how the views of Republicans/Conservatives benefit your demographic?**

Yes. I think that people, conservatives, need to show how conservatism will benefit the entire picture. They need to show the big picture, and make that clear to liberals. Because I know a lot of liberals are one-issue voters, and I think that if you know that if you look at the issue as a whole pie, then that's a lot more appetizing than just the one slice.

**What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

Yes. I think that – well, I'm a Christian, but I think that the Republican Party as a whole is too religious sometimes. I think sometimes we just vote as... Sometimes we vote with our church. And I think we really need to stop doing that, because if we give up those small issues like gay marriage, we'll gain a lot of territory.

I wrote a paper in my English 1101 class – like my first college class – about why the Republican Party should support the legalization of prostitution. So I could suppose you could



say that I take on a bit of a libertarian leaning, but I think at its core, the Republican Party should have a bit of a libertarian leaning itself. We need to focus on what really matters: liberty, freedom, small government. Controlling people's lives is ridiculous.

### **Elizabeth Barlow**

#### **What is it about yourself that makes you a “minority conservative”?**

Well, to start off I'm asexual. And that's a minority in LGBT community. I'm also a female from a lower income family. I wouldn't call myself transsexual, I don't identify with my sex.

#### **Why did you become a conservative?**

I suppose I raised into it. My mother and step father are both a right leaning moderates, and my father is an objective conservative. But what really started the ball rolling for me was when I watched Bill O'Reilly with my father when I was 12. Since then, I just read every book I could get ahold of on the conservative ideology. Now I'm more of a libertarian conservative.

#### **Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

Most of my family is right leaning. Two of my best friends don't identify with anything, but they are more likely to bash liberals. My other best friend is more liberal, but is more like a classic liberal if anything. I think the only thing most of friends are liberal on is gay rights, other than that they are mainly moderates.

#### **As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

General acceptance.

#### **Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

I found more conflict with liberals, mainly online

#### **Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

Other than the general headache I get when I talk to a hard core liberal? Not really.

#### **Is there anything I didn't ask about in this section that you think is important?**

I'm paranoid. And I know it's probably my paranoia, but I'm an artist who wants to work on movies and I want to publish a novel in the near future. I am concerned that my politics will hinder future careers in the artist community. But it's not really going to stop me going for a career I want, It's just a concern.

#### **What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

A strong, but small federal government, and open free market of businesses and open ideas.

#### **What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

I mainly get “How can you not support feminism” from liberals

#### **What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

Oh gosh this hard for me to answer, because I really hate the federal government and any job they can do now could easily be done better at a state level or if shrunk down...I guess that's the answer. The federal government should be as small as possible without losing control of the country as a whole.

**Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

I see a lot of modern day liberal policies effected by Marxism and to put it bluntly, I find Marxism to be the root of all evil. In today's time that is.

**Are there are any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?**

I tend to disagree with social conservatives who just want to use the government as their personal police force. While I agree with liberals on LGBT rights, police brutality, and the drug war; however they-as a collective-support the system infringes on peoples' rights.

**What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

It should have been legalized since straight marriage was. With that said, I despise the fact so many LGBT community leaders focused on that issue. There are so many issues that were barely touched on, such as conversion therapy. There's also the staggering numbers of how many people from that community are murdered. These are talked about, but like I said, Gay Marriage was more important I guess.

**Abortion?**

I find it morally unethical, however I understand and accept there are reasons why a woman needs it

**Welfare?**

It's necessary, but there needs to be some major reforms.

**Discrimination laws?**

Again needed, but we need to revise them.

**Feminism?**

I used to think feminism was just another tool for leaders in the liberal community to use, but now I realize that it's the other way around.

**Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

No on amnesty unless in extreme cases, and there needs to be more security, but this needs reform too. Such as those with credible job/student visas should not be deported for flimsy reasons. There needs to be better, unbiased education for incoming immigrants, English needs to be taught and enforced, and there needs to be a safety program. Immigrants need to aware that people and corporations will try to take advantage of them and such they need to know their rights and who to get ahold of if they get into that kind of situation.

**Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

I think we explain our views just fine, but the outreach sucks.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

Liberals target the younger generation. Republicans and conservatives realize that but how they go about countering it is terrible. Generally they attack everything as ‘amoral’ or liberal propaganda, and while I do agree it is, my generation isn’t going to see it that way. There’s this ridiculous need for many republicans to mention the lack of GOD in America and we need to PRAY for HIS salvation every time Miley Cyrus dances naked in a video. There is no way to stop those kinds of conservatives, but I don’t feel there’s enough done by the level headed conservatives.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain how the views of Republicans/Conservatives benefit your demographic?**

We also don’t do enough to get our message through forms of entertainment and higher education. Blacklisting can go so far and either we don’t fight it back or there isn’t enough of us to fight back because collectively, conservatives don’t focus on the arts and higher education.

**Kellan Monroe**

**What is it about yourself that makes you a “minority conservative”?**

I am nineteen years old and, more importantly, a girl.

**Why did you become a conservative?**

Because I did not want the government to control my money or personal life. Because I believe in personal responsibility and freedom. Because I believe in clinging to the traditional values that helped shape this nation.

**What age were you when you became a conservative?**

I was raised to be a conservative, but I was about fifteen or sixteen when I started to understand politics, and that’s when my beliefs became my own, not my parents’, so to speak.

**Are your family and friends conservative or liberal?**

Mostly conservative.

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

There hasn’t been any reaction. That’s why I was so shocked when a high school history teacher (who was, ironically, male) told me that conservatives looked down women and I should reconsider my viewpoint. I had never heard that; I thought women conservatives were the norm.

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

I have been accused of being Republican just because my parents are. I’ve been called anti-feminist and racist. I’ve had some well-meaning, but condescending people try to “re-educate” me. But clearly, I’ve stood my ground against them.

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

I think it's more the other way around, and that my personal life has had an effect on my conservative beliefs. I've always been taught to take responsibility for my own actions, and I've never been deluded into thinking that I deserve any sort of free handouts. So I think these principles can be applied to politics as well as my personal life.

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

Small government, personal freedom, and responsibility. I believe we all have natural rights to life, liberty, and property, and that the government should not infringe on those rights. I also believe that the government does not owe anyone free handouts; more privileged folk do not deserve to have their money taken and given to those who did not work.

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

Definitely feminism and abortions.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

To protect its citizens from foreign invasion, unless this so-called "protection" involves a violation of personal liberties. (I.E., the Patriot Act is in my opinion an invasion of privacy and has done more harm than good).

**What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

Liberals place more power and responsibility in the hands of the government, and they are willing to sacrifice natural rights in exchange for bread and circuses.

**Are there any topics where you disagree with conservative views or agree with liberal views?**

I disagree with conservatives who oppose gay marriage.

**What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

Marriage is between one adult and his or her chosen partner; the government should have no say in who one chooses to marry.

**Abortion?**

I disagree with abortion because I think it is unarguably murder. Science has proven the humanity of unborn fetuses, and there is no moral grounds for cold-blooded murder.

**Welfare?**

Abolish it. It is a drain on taxpayers who work hard and do not deserve to have their money taken from them. There may be a few extreme cases in which it is needed, but for the most part the system has been abused.

**Discrimination laws?**

If a business owner doesn't want to cater to a gay wedding because of religious reasons that is his or her prerogative. It's a part of the right to religious freedom established in the Constitution.

**Feminism?**

I believe feminism is no longer needed in the first world and has become a corrupt movement filled with attention-seekers, misandrists, and spoiled girls who think they are owed something just for being girls.

**What are your feelings on the issues of immigration, amnesty, and border security?**

I think the government should crack down on illegal immigration. People who follow correct procedures are more than welcome here; people who cheat are not. Tighter border security is needed.

**What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

This question is more difficult for me to answer. I know war is horrific and should be avoided; however, human nature being what it is, war often cannot be avoided. I think negotiations are useless because people are prone to cheating. The Iran deal is a case in point. Iran cannot be trusted; Benjamin Netanyahu and other leaders begged us not to trust Iran, but our government did anyway. Cuba is another example of a regime that should not be trusted, but our government has struck a deal with them also.

**What can Republicans do to increase their outreach to minorities?**

Stop supporting people like Donald Trump or Mike Huckabee who just reinforce negative conservative stereotypes.

**Do you feel like conservatives (and the Republican Party) do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

For the most part. Most of the time, if people don't understand Republican views, it is because they're getting information from the wrong sources (Tumblr, Buzzfeed, etc.). But Republicans tend to do a pretty good job explaining their views.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain how conservatism benefit your demographic?**

I think that more women need to understand that lower tax rates and jobs created by the free market will benefit them far more than free tampons and birth control will. Many women want say they want power and independence but cling to a party that thinks the government is entitled to take away independence.

**What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

The parts who still cling to outdated ideas about homosexuality. It's extremely hypocritical to say you support small government, but that the government should dictate who you marry.

## **Equestrian Republican**

**What is it about yourself that makes you a "minority conservative"?**

I'm bisexual conservative Christian, I don't consider myself a member of the LGBT Community.

**Why did you become a conservative?**

I was raised in a Christian conservative home, my family is very political. But a big part, kind of strange to think about. Was video games. Now I'm not talking Gamergate or Not Your Shield,

that's a different story. I mean when I was in about fourth grade, I got the game Call of Duty: World at War for the DS Lite. I played it and I decided to look into World War II, and as I looked into war I got into history, I got into history I got into politics. And it just kind of went on from there.

**What would you say your political beliefs before that were? If any.**

Although I was raised conservative there was a time in middle school I considered myself more left leaning, but in the end I'd still say I was largely a conservative through most of my life.

**What age were you when you became a conservative?**

I'd have to say I've had an interest in politics since elementary school, but I started calling myself conservative about when I was fourteen or fifteen.

**Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

Well I'd say now most are conservative, my mother and grandfather I can't really say. My friends that I've met in real life mostly avoid politics, the internet communities I hang around are conservative.

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

I won't lie, I've gotten some hateful comments. But they're pretty rare and most come from a place of ignorance about my views.

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

Hell hath no fury.... To quote one leftist blogger on Tumblr, "...how dare you bite the hand that feeds you? The LGBT Community is there for you and to protect you."

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

Very much so, I'd say it's had a huge impact.

**Positive or negative?**

I'd say both.

**Examples?**

Well I could go back to middle school, kids would call me a Nazi for being Republican. Most of my friends don't like talking politics, I had a boyfriend once who snapped at me for talking about God and politics a few times.

But at the same time, when I do find conservative friends we form a stronger bond as we're always being hated on by the Social Justice crowd.

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

Individualism. Short and sweet the vast majority of conservatives are individualist.

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

I feel like this question was tailor made for me... I've literally gotten this question sent to me more than 300 times, sometimes in different forms but it cooks down to this. "How can you be bisexual, but not consider yourself to be in the LGBT+ Community?" I want to tear my hair out

every single time.... I've explained multiple times to people who question it: I don't feel they represent LGBT Conservatives, and they don't.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

Defending us from threats foreign and domestic.

**What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

There's an old saying, "If you're a Liberal by 40 you have no brain, if you're a Conservative you have no heart" that's a lie. Liberals are ironically the more reactionary side of our two party system. Just look at the modern Feminist movement.

**Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

I'd need to go point by point, but mostly, they are mostly collectivist.

**Are there are any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?**

I support some legalization of drugs, I would never partake, but I believe it's not our say to say what people can do with their own bodies.

**What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

I believe marriage in general should be free from government. If you're a consenting adult you should be able to get married without a marriage license to whomever other adult you want.

**Abortion?**

Abortion is the murder of an infant, I believe if there is a reasonable threat to life then it is reasonable. But otherwise, it's not your body.

**Welfare?**

We need some sort of Welfare Fraud Department, to prevent abuse.

**Discrimination laws?**

I'm a free market Laissez-Faire Capitalist, if someone doesn't want to sell to me for being bisexual, I'll go somewhere else.

**Feminism?**

Modern Feminism could be best described as a cult celebrating women and putting down men. There are reasonable feminist, yes, but they are few and far between.

**Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

We can't just send Eleven Million people back to where they came from at once, it would be impossible. We need tighter security on the border and the coasts.

**What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

The bad is how we've been treating our allies like Israel, and the Iran Deal is a giant middle finger. A good [example] is our reaction to Russian Expansionism into Ukraine.

**What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

We need more people who aren't afraid to tell people they're conservative, we need artist, we need speakers, we need people who care, and we need people who will listen.

**Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

Not at all, with a Democrat you almost always know their views, most people today still think the Republican Party was the party of slavery, which is incorrect, most think we're all old, white, straight, cis people.

**If not, how could they improve their explanation?**

As I said, artist and speakers. This could be movies, video games, painting, I don't know what else. But we need it.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

I wouldn't say so.

**If not, how can they improve that outreach?**

Just address us, tell us their views. So many Conservatives, really politicians in general, dodge the questions.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain how the views of Republicans/Conservatives benefit your demographic?**

Do you like men? Do you like women? Do you like freedom and economic security? Vote Republican.

**What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

We have many old school "Facebook mom" conservatives who refuse to learn about other views. We have people who are against vaccines. We need more representation, people to stick their necks out. The reason Republicans are so hated is because the Liberals totally eclipse us in media presence.

**Judah ben David**

**What is it about yourself that makes you a “minority conservative”?**

Well, three things.

First of all, being conservative and of Jewish descent is seen as perhaps the worst possible thing you can do, by other Jews at least. The closest most Jews (at least cultural Jews, like the kind I come from) get to conservatism is in support of Israel. But if you're pro-life or pro-gun, or mention you don't like Hillary Clinton, you almost automatically become a freak.

Secondly, I'm bisexual. I have a very strong preference for females, but I did date a guy in high school for a while. Being conservative and dating a guy was...interesting, to say the least. I was called a traitor a lot, especially because I couldn't get on board with a lot of the gay marriage crowd. I knew too many in the LGBTQ community who didn't just want tolerance, they wanted



acceptance. I don't think I have the right to be accepted, merely to be tolerated. So while I was pro gay-marriage, I saw no reason to go after religious people about it, or to hate religious people in general, so that was a blot on my record. I also never really thought of sexuality as a political issue. Neither side was for gay marriage when I was in high school and frankly I don't think either side really is now, it's just a political soapbox to get on.

Thirdly, I've worked in academia almost all of my life. Freshman year of high school, I worked in a science museum, where I stayed (in various capacities) for almost seven years. It was a wonderful experience, educationally, but also an eye-opener for just how liberal academia is. To most academics, "conservative" is a filthy word. That's continued to the present, where I am a graduate student at a tier-one research university. My students, my professors, and my peers in Psychology almost all consider conservatism to be akin to mental instability, or at least delayed development. They're also not at all afraid to use really offensive ways of making those comparisons, too. Here, whenever anyone finds out I'm conservative, it's an instant high school flashback to "but you're so smart! How can you not be liberal?"

Literally every day I go into my office, I hear something at least mildly denigrating conservatives. Yes, some of that is due to the especially circus-like nature of the 2016 election, but it's also due to the bias within an academic environment.

**Why did you become a conservative?**

I was raised conservative. Both of my parents are. I didn't realize people existed who weren't conservatives until I started trying to talk politics with my grandmother during the 2000 election.

**What age were you when you became a conservative?**

I was raised conservative. However, I started talking politics at about age 8. Yes. I was that child.

**Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

My parents and most of my immediate family are mostly conservative. My extended family on my father's side ranges from incredibly liberal to socialist, and my mother is an immigrant to this country, so her family don't really understand American politics.

My friends are all over the place.

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

Very often, they're surprised. There are some Jewish conservatives (Michael Medved, etc.) but if you run into someone at the shooting range or the bar and start talking and they find out you're conservative AND in academia, some of them act like they've seen a unicorn.

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

Some of my friends who are liberal have been able to get past it. Some of them still forget I'm conservative until I call them out on some various bull shit thing or another. Some liberals cannot fucking stand it. They absolutely cannot. I have had professors and coworkers who have tried to get me fired or fail me, or at the very least embarrass me, once I am forced to reveal that I'm a conservative. Generally, that's why I try not to identify, but damn, when I do, it doesn't tend to go well.

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

Yes.

**Positive or negative?**

Both

**Examples?**

Positive in many ways. Because I can't really remember a time when my views were the majority position, outside my immediate family, that is, I've always had my beliefs challenged, and that's a good thing. When I've met conservatives who grew up sheltered from opposition, a lot of them don't stay conservative for very long. They have no intellectual ownership of their conservatism, and they don't think through their position. Or even worse, they become Trump fans, or similar. I know why I'm a conservative. I know who I support in elections and why. I know why I don't like the people I don't like. And above all, I know not to like people just because they agree with me on certain issues.

That would be the second positive effect. Most of the people I dated in High school were liberal. All of my girlfriends were and my boyfriend was, at best, a moderate. I didn't care. My best friend was my only truly conservative friend, but everyone else was liberal. That didn't matter to me. I learned to not take it personally when people disagreed, but to see people and politics as separate. So I'm able not to demonize people just because I don't agree with their politics, and I'm glad I can.

I'd say the only negative part of being a conservative is it can make you feel very alone sometimes. Especially when people get fired up about issues. I've had people decide they can't be my friend anymore because I don't support gun control. I've had people tell me that they can't associate with a pro-lifer. So sometimes, you just have to be comfortable knowing you're right, and then drink your Scotch and be happy by yourself.

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

I think conservative principles are the same as the principles of the American founders: small, limited government, and the freedom and equality of all people. I believe that this equality is an equality of opportunity, not result. Basically, the only roles the government should have in my life are to protect you from me, me from you, and us from them. Nothing more.

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

At the moment its gun control and abortion. Gay rights have been a thing in the past, but now that gay marriage is legal, and I'm married to a woman so my bi "phase" is behind me and no one really gets on me about those anymore.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

The constitution does a pretty good job of listing them. Defend the country. Regulate interstate commerce. Right now, I think part of its job is to shrink down.

**What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

I think liberals' major difference is in the role of the government. Most of my liberal friends believe in complete personal liberty, so long as it's sexual and drug-related, but that's it. They think the government exists to keep us safe and provide for us. As I said above, a conservative view of the government is it has minimal use.

### **Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

I think they're naïve. I think they're unconstitutional. Lastly, I don't think they've ever worked out in anyone's favor.

### **Are there any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?**

Gay marriage and marijuana legalization. I don't smoke pot myself, but I'm sick of it being illegal.

### **What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

For it. Honestly, I'd be happiest if all marriages were civil unions and then churches and synagogues and mosques could give you matrimony if they want.

### **Abortion?**

If you know that sex can lead to a baby, that's a risk you take, no need for the kid to pay for your mistakes with his life.

### **Welfare?**

Not a good idea. Unfortunately, our system is at the point where we just can't shut it down, but it needs to be phased out.

### **Discrimination laws?**

You can't judge a person's intent. And you can't stop assholes from being assholes. If a restaurant wants to be racist or sexist or homophobic, let them. Keep protests away from it, don't give them attention, take your business elsewhere, and the market will decide the issue.

### **Feminism?**

A great movement at its beginning. I absolutely believe in the equality of all genders. But unfortunately, now we're at the point where the movement has splintered, and some of them are absolutely fucking insane. They're also polluting their cause. Now I can't be a feminist because I carry a gun, because a real man doesn't need to carry one? What the legitimate fuck? And I can't have an opinion on abortion because I don't have a vagina? It's just stupid, in my opinion.

### **Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

I think we need to protect our borders. However, I also think that deportation is expensive and risky. Frankly, deport the ones we catch committing crime who are here illegally, leave the rest. Honestly, if we ended this phony war on drugs and ended our corpulent welfare state, that'd probably take care of a lot of our immigrant problem, too. That being said, people like Trump scare the fuck out of me. Illegal immigrants aren't destroying this country. If people want to come here legally, that's wonderful. My own mother is an immigrant (admittedly, from an English speaking nation, but still). I think immigrants have so much to bring and to give. Just please come here legally.

**What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

I can't even think of the last good decision we made. We can't be the world's police force. We cannot try to bring peace to the Middle East. Stop fucking trying. I hated Bush's foreign policy. I hate interventionism. I think Obama is only making it worse. We cannot be an empire and we should stop trying.

**What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

Change the issues. The GOP needs to die and younger conservatives need to do a better job standing up and representing the current U.S. Gay marriage? It's over. Abortion? How about you defund it? And how about you actually adopt a different position on war and welfare than the liberals? I think the RINOs need to be kicked out.

I think if we have more conservatives like Rand Paul, Marco Rubio, and Justin Amash, the diversity will come. We need to be an actual alternative, and we're not at the moment. We haven't been since the Reagan era.

**Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

Nope.

**If not, how could they improve their explanation?**

They could stop using buzzwords and lies and actually simply explain their beliefs in a non-inflammatory manner.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

Nope.

**If not, how can they improve that outreach?**

Change the image. A lot of it is due to a biased media, admittedly. But mention how smart so many republicans are. Have the studies and data that support our positions be founded on good grounds. Stop siding with Fox News and start siding with CATO and FEE and the Heritage Foundation: actual think tanks with actual data that stands up to scrutiny.

**Laura Jean**

**What is it about yourself that makes you a "minority conservative"?**

I'm a woman, artist, who is hoping to go into teaching in some way or another, who holds values that others in those demographics get upset with when they hear them from me, or other politically savvy people. I'm constantly told I'm working against my better interests, by people who do not understand what I actually want from my time, talents and abilities.

**Why did you become a conservative?**

I noticed after high school that a lot of what my friends said wasn't really true, or wasn't the whole picture. I was in high school during W Bush's second term, while the nation was still

recovering from the 9/11 attacks. All my friends said that the war was for oil, that we were sending men over there to get killed needlessly, and I believed them because I didn't know better. After more of the same in college I also started to see that these liberal friends of mine didn't seem to want to do anything but the "fun" things in life. They had goals, but they always had a reason it wasn't working out. Someone or something was preventing them from reaching this amazing potential. I wanted to go places in life; I wanted to get out of the community college I was in and go forward. And I started listening to my parents and other adults around me, and listening to conservative radio programs and I liked what I heard.

**What would you say your political beliefs before that were? If any.**

I didn't have anything strong enough to be considered beliefs. Growing up in California, specifically San Diego area, I believed, and still do, in conservation of resources, recycling, protecting animals and nature. I believed in helping out those who needed it, so what little I understood of welfare I didn't oppose. I wanted to get the troops out of the Middle East more to be back with their families than because I opposed the fighting (one too many "they were killed a few months/weeks" before they were supposed to go home" and "they were so young" and countless other heart breaking stories.)

**What age were you when you became a conservative?**

Around 20, 21, about the same time I moved on from all those "friends".

**Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

My immediate family is conservative; my parent's siblings seem to at least lean conservative, with some of the cousins on both sides being liberals.

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

Most conservatives I interact with take my "minority" status for granted. They celebrate the fact that I want to teach and change the world, and that I love to do art. Some of them actively want me to achieve my dreams, offering suggestions or opportunities to advance my life.

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

Pretty negative, when it's in a place that liberals are expected to congregate. In an art class years ago, there were people who called me an idiot, who trashed my beliefs and one who said that people should take a test (intelligence was implied) in order to vote. I was one of two conservatives in the class group, so we'd have discussions to the side that other people would ignore or barge in on in turns. This was during the Prop 8 push, which added to the drama and anger.

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

It has, in that I have to be careful who I associate with on a regular basis.

**Positive or negative?**

Both. I don't have to constantly be put down or worry about someone itching for an argument, but I also have to avoid people I would otherwise love to get to know, not because they disagree, but because often they are fanatical in their arguing.

**Examples?**

In college there were only a few liberals, but sometimes when our conversations got political, they would argue in circles (a pet peeve of mine) or they would do research before hitting me up for an ambush argument.

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

Small government: Only the necessary laws and regulations to protect the everyday. Trying to legislatively hedge someone into a corner leads to inefficiency in all walks of life.

Overregulation leads to money spent when it doesn't need to be, and lost or unreachable opportunities that can help a person and a society advance.

Low Taxation/Free Market: The belief that people know how best to spend their money and that when they can have more of their money to spend, prosperity follows. Money, or lack of, can make or break companies. Letting bad businesses fail, letting immoral practices come to light and trusting the consumer to put their money where their beliefs are. What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?

Education: Wanting to know my beliefs on Common Core (An idea that might work in a smaller less varied country population) and not always understanding why I disagree with it.

Teaching: I am a firm believer in voluntary unionization if any union must exist. A union will put someone on strike, even if they don't agree with it, or if it is detrimental to them. Unions dues can go to causes I personally don't support. Teachers unions also protect bad teachers at the expense of students and education.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

The Federal Government is supposed to be an overseer of interactions between states, the highest power to appeal to, and a moderator of legislation. Assistance or interference into the lives of the everyday American should be a last resort (Supreme Court, or additional Amendments). The Federal Government is also supposed to keep checks on itself to prevent the branches from overstepping their bounds and prevent corruption or injustice.

**What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

Liberals focus on what could be best for every individual, which is why they fervently support social programs such as welfare or healthcare. This mentality can be pushed to extremes where offense is taken when disagreements arise, or blind "ends justify the means" action and legislation.

Conservatives focus on what is good for the general individual, which is why they fervently support hands-off government approaches. This mentality can be pushed to extremes as well, where people ignore the needs of others, clinging to the idea that opportunity is 100% equal across the board and anyone can succeed w/out help if they just try hard enough.

**Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

I believe that being on a dole system only encourages people to stay on it, it doesn't encourage people to get themselves out of their situation. Handouts vs a hand up, where money can still be earned, skills can be learned, and a person is given the chance to pull themselves out after a time. I believe that taking something from someone else (money, opportunity, etc.) just because

someone else doesn't have it is ridiculous. We'd all be poor homeless beggars if that was carried out in full.

**Are there any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?**

Yes and no. I do believe that a localized, voluntary welfare system could be beneficial. It could also be better managed, since a small community could allocate funds as needed (instead of handing out checks, they could encourage programs to educate or train lower income families to learn valuable skills).

I do think that treaties in some instances could be beneficial, but there is no way to guarantee that they'd be executed well, so it is better to avoid the entanglement.

**What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

Personally, it is against my religious beliefs, but as long as people don't demand my church perform a marriage for a same sex couple, legally it doesn't affect me. I don't support it, but I won't tell someone they can't be with the one they love. The problem is that government shouldn't be involved in marriage (a traditionally religious institution) in the first place. It shouldn't matter if a person is married or not, there shouldn't be tax incentives for married couples.

**Abortion?**

Absolutely against. Life starts at conception can mean the act of sex, or the moment of fertilization, but that's the only grey area. Pro-choicers ignore abortions effects on the mental and physical state of women in favor of no-consequence sex. The only concessions I'll make are in cases where the mother's life is in jeopardy, and in cases of rape and/or incest. In both cases counseling should be offered or provided, and legal action in the latter case should be pushed. (I do not understand making that an argument without making the push to punish rapists and abusers. Are they supposed to abort the child and not seek punishment for the father? Just let him wander around until he strikes again?)

**Welfare?**

Against on the grand scale and with lack of oversight. A community volunteering to help those in need (food kitchens, low income housing, training/education programs, even micro loans or something similar) would be better than a system that hands out to lottery winners because of lack of oversight (<http://articles.latimes.com/2012/mar/07/nation/la-nn-na-lottery-winner-collects-welfare-20120307>). People do need help, but a steady check for no work/effort isn't the answer.

**Discrimination laws?**

Perhaps once needed, now obsolete and easily manipulated for a personal agenda. Capitalism will win out in a moral society (one that doesn't believe in discrimination) by refusing to support a discriminatory business and driving them out of business or out of their area. But relying on laws to do a citizen's work leaves a lot of wiggle room to blow up into people taking offense at the wrong things.

**Feminism?**

Once needed, and effective, now a joke. Second wave feminism, that put the job of moving up in the world on the shoulders of women in the “you can do anything you want if you set your mind to it and work hard” mentality, was beneficial and positive. Women look at things differently, which brings different innovations into the business/science/industrial world. Third wave feminism puts the burden on others to fix problems, blames others for nonexistent problems, and takes no responsibility for themselves.

### **Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

Immigration has become too difficult to do legally, which isn't an excuse for people coming here illegally. What needs to happen is the process needs to be streamlined and made clear, and programs to help educate people on how to become a citizen or at least to get a temporary work situation (seasonal work or the like), and possibly training and language education.

Amnesty could, in some situations, be used to help people help themselves, but instead was used to give anyone and everyone a free pass into the country. In the situation in Mexico, admittedly dangerous and one to get out of when possible, amnesty became an open door for cartel and gang degenerates to get in the country legally. This helps no one at all, and in fact makes things worse for the host country.

To say that border security is unnecessary is naïve. There is a problem in Mexico; drug dealers from there or from countries farther south, want to get their product to buyers in America. People want to get into this country for the welfare benefits as well as work opportunities. These can and do create problems for society and are a burden on resources. We don't need to close off the border to everyone, just those who do not want to positively contribute to society.

### **What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

Foreign Policy is not my strong point, but the best I can articulate is we need to support our allies and stop supporting those who cry out for our down fall and destruction. When I hear of our money and help going to countries whose citizens mock and criticize and threaten to kill Americans, or to governments who plot or wait eagerly for our downfall, I am incredibly disappointed in the blindness of our leaders. These are not allies; these are a drain on resources better spent on our supporters, or on aid for good people in bad situations who would be grateful for aid w/out hating who it came from.

As for the past 15 years, things have been put into motion that can't easily be undone, and can't be turned away from. The attack on September 11, 2001 made everyone aware of a war being waged, and no one knew the whole story, or the best way to fight it. Too many alliances mean we have to be too careful to be effective when trying to ferret out those who are dangerous to us. Too little support on the global scale means we're made a mockery of when we try to justify our fears and our actions, and accused of being racists or gun/trigger happy when trying to prepare defenses.

### **What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

Instead of saying “I'm not a racist, here's how” show how conservative principles would appeal to minorities or benefit them. No one likes taxes, but few understand how their bosses paying less would help them. Explain how real capitalism would work if it was allowed to flourish.



**Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

No. So often the Extreme Right (often die hard Christians or borderline anarchists) steal the spotlight and turn the argument to easily mocked rhetoric that the real reasons and appeals of views are lost.

**If not, how could they improve their explanation?**

Taking advantage of social media, with help from savvy individuals to get their views and their record out for people to see.

Being more transparent than the competition. It's one thing to say this is what I support, it's another to show how you're going about doing that. Tweet about bills, what you voted on, what you're working on. Explain terminology, and use modern terminology when appropriate.

Take advantage of opportunities to interview or to speak on the issues, but do so responsibly.

Don't take just any interview, and don't take the bait when the interviewer tries to corner you or press you on issues you don't want to talk about.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic? If not, how can they improve that outreach?**

Same as above. Get their view out there; explain how their ideas can help the younger crowd. Get younger blood into office or into the staff and support them as they work or move up. Don't mock younger voters or belittle those who can't vote. Figure out how to understand their mentality and mindset, and show how conservative principles could support the things they do.

I.e. traditionally liberal programs (art, music, theater) rely on monetary support from the school and community, a capitalistic endeavor. Don't be angry that you can't get the funding, figure out how to earn it. Present your argument as to why these programs shouldn't be cut to the school board. Learn to speak your mind, not just chant with a crowd.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain how the views of Republicans/Conservatives benefit your demographic?**

I do. All my friends ended up getting jobs before me, and they'd all complain about the money being taken out for taxes, or say that minimum wage should change with gas prices (this was during a record spike). They didn't understand how economics worked, and opportunities were limited because of labor laws and school. Conservative values could possibly have removed or lessened some of those barriers and allowed them to fully understand how conservative values can further their lives and personal agendas. Like donating your money to programs you supported if you had more of your own money to spend. If they understood that welfare came from their hard earned paycheck they may have been less sympathetic to those who chose to stay on it.

Hard work is a good thing, regardless of what the work is. Liberal education (not the agenda, but the Thomas Jefferson ideal) is great, but not for everyone. Not everyone cares about philosophy

and arts and higher mathematics. Some people just want to be able to make a living and support a family. Blue collar jobs are not to be sneered at, as they are good, honest livings.

**What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

The perception of exclusion. It's seen as the party of old white men for a reason. Yes, that doesn't ring true for the current nominees or the shift in demographics, but those on the outside still see it as a rich white man's party, clinging to guns and money. Pundits still pull up people to interview that push that point home for viewers. Show how there are other demographics in the party, and how the party values make their lives better, and you'll see people changing their opinion, if not changing their side.

**Is there anything I didn't ask about in this section that you think is important?**

Just a personal two cents regarding any politician.

I sincerely believe that career politicians who do the bare minimum to stay in office need to be exposed and if the constituents wish it, removed. Obviously forcing anyone from an elected position is anti-democratic, but many voters aren't aware of the track record of their elected officials, or their length in office. Incumbents have the advantage often because of voter ignorance.

**Beth D.**

**What is it about yourself that makes you a "minority conservative"?**

Simply put, I'm gay. I usually say "gay" as an umbrella term because I don't quite fit the word "lesbian" as I am attracted to transmen sometimes. I also consider myself gender fluid. I use she/her pronouns because that's what my friends and family are used to, but if there was an established set of gender neutral pronouns, I would use them. I don't identify strongly with either end of the gender spectrum (male or female), happily sitting somewhere in the middle most of the time.

**Why did you become a conservative?**

I come from a conservative family where politics are often discussed. Conservatism has always made more practical sense to me. If I do all my chores and my sister doesn't do any, why should she get payed the same allowance I get? I remember during one of the Olympics my mom told me about how "To each according to their ability" could be horribly interpreted and put into practice. It started with little things like that and grew from there. The war in Iraq pretty much solidified my views.

**What age were you when you became a conservative?**

Thirteen or fourteen, maybe. That's when I was old enough to understand and form a political identity apart from my parents.

**Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

My parents are conservative, my extended family is mostly conservative on my mother's side (I don't know my dad's side too well), and my friends are a mix. My sister is as of recently a socialist after spending most of her life not being interested in politics or voting at all. Offline I

am friends with people who won't bully me for being conservative. Online I am in the closet, so to speak, in some places. I don't come out until I know I won't be given a hard time.

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

Most don't care, some are curious and intrigued. I am never scared to tell a group of Republicans that I'm gay. Granted, I live in a red pocket of a blue state and I don't know if this would be the same in more socially conservative places. I do sometimes get "You are living in sin," but that's not a Republican reaction; it's an Evangelical Christian one. And I still prefer it to how Democrats often treat me as a Republican.

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

"YOU ARE VOTING AGAINST YOURSELF! WHY ARE YOU SO STUPID?" is a way too common online reaction. Offline I get raised eyebrows most of the time, or "But don't you want to get married?" I don't go out of my way to socialize with liberals, though, and I don't bring up politics when I do.

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

Well, it is part of my point of view and how I see the world, so definitely.

**Positive or negative?**

I think it's positive.

**Examples?**

I think it has led me to be frugal and to at least try to take care of myself. When I can't do something by myself, I ask for help from friends and family instead of looking for a way to get it from the government. But on the negative side, it is extremely hard to find a romantic partner, especially since I am shy in real life. I could date someone who leans to the left, but there seems to be very little political moderation among the queer left. If you are gay and a liberal, you seem to be WAY liberal. Being WAY liberal often (always?) comes with loathing people who vote Republican.

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

Small government, low taxes, take care of yourself and don't rely on the government safety net to support you your whole life; it's for emergencies. Free market, liberty, a celebration of our heritage (including guns and free speech). Options and choices.

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

Marriage equality, definitely. Since I'm also physically female I get asked about abortion (code word: awoman'srighttochoose) often too.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

Do things the private sector simply can't, such as maintain the roads, establish a police force, punish criminals, and protect us from enemies.

**What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

Liberals seem to want the government to take care of EVERYTHING with the hard earned money of citizens going into the central pool to pay for it all. There is a lot of governmental force

in how Liberals seem to want things. Also with liberals, since the government is so activist, it really matters what the personal beliefs of the officials are. With conservatives (not necessarily Republicans, but conservatives) who believe that the government should have very little influence, their personal beliefs matter less because they aren't going to enforce things based on what they believe privately.

### **Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

I want to keep my money. I want low taxes. I want protection from hostile countries. I want to choose where my kids go to school and what health care we have. I want more choices in general, and liberals don't offer that.

### **Are there are any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?**

The marriage thing is a sticking point, I must admit. I seriously don't understand why conservatives have dug their heels in on this issue. As the group who wants more options and choices, we should have been leading the movement of equality. OK, I know a lot of it is religious, but at the very least I think officials could communicate the issue better. I would be fine with the ideal of obliterating federal marriage altogether and making ALL government recognized unions civil, but Republicans haven't offered that. They really do sound like they want straight couples to be treated better than gay couples.

But meanwhile, liberals act like we NEED the government to recognize our union to give it validity, and that's just stupid. I want recognition very badly, but I don't NEED it or need the government's pat on the head to get it.

### **What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

I want my eventual union with a woman to be recognized the same way my heterosexual parents' union is recognized, officially speaking. I don't care whether they are both civil or not, as long as it's the same. It isn't a TOP issue for me since I will call my wife my wife and my marriage a "marriage" no matter what the official language is, but it is close to my heart. I don't know if I could vote for someone who pledged to block me from getting married. It would hurt me to do that.

### **Abortion?**

I tolerate it during the first trimester, or until the fetus can survive outside of the womb. I think that's an acceptable compromise. I also accept abortions during any point if the mother's life is in danger or if she had been raped. I would like to see conservatives being proactive in making sex ed better because in my opinion the best way of preventing abortions is to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

### **Welfare?**

It's necessary, but shouldn't be a way of life.

### **Discrimination laws?**

Private businesses must be allowed to run their business as they see fit. If an African American couple doesn't want to bake a cake for a KKK wedding, they should have a right to refuse without legal reprisal.

**Feminism?**

I don't think there is an adequate definition of what that actually means. I believe men and women are essentially the same and should be treated as such, without special perks or special punishments. I want equality and I don't see the current feminist movement championing it. Too much of the discussion seems to be about punishing men and I will never get behind that.

**Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

There needs to be a way for people to immigrate here legally and that way must be enforced. I would like criminals (especially violent ones) to be deported. As for peaceful productive citizens who are already living here, I think there should be a way for them to achieve citizenship, but only because we've not done a good job policing the border. The grace period can't last forever. There's a reason why immigration laws exist and other countries have them. Many if not most other countries are even harder to immigrate to.

**What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

I don't feel confident in my ability to answer this. The Obama years have been dismal, though.

**Is there anything I didn't ask about in this section that you think is important?**

Legalizing marijuana, maybe. Which I'm in favor of for the same reason I'm for other things as a conservative: Less government control.

**What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

The central clear message of conservatism is universal and easy to understand: Lower taxes, less government intrusion, more liberty. No matter your gender, sex, orientation, age, race, ethnicity, heritage. We are all equal under that banner and Republicans need to boil the message down to that inviting equality. Champion the similarities and things everyone can get behind. Republican officials would do well to downplay their personal beliefs on things like gay relationships because it's not an issue they can win on and it doesn't matter anyway because a Conservative wouldn't govern based on their personal beliefs. And for the love of God don't talk about rape unless you absolutely know what you're talking about because there has been gaffe after gaffe on that topic.

**Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

If they did, Romney would be president now. It's embarrassing how badly Republicans explain things. They aren't helped by the abrasive and adversarial media, of course.

**If not, how could they improve their explanation?**

Keep it simple and universal. Lower taxes, less government intrusion, more choices, more liberty. Pointing out how biased towards the left the media is might help, but I think that's a job for citizens not politicians.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

No.

**If not, how can they improve that outreach?**

A place hasn't been made for gay conservatives within the party. We have tried to force our way in and build our own booth inside the tent, but we get shut out. That has to stop. Too many people care about us and LGBT issues are a deciding thing for too many voters. We at least have to have an official place to make the party attractive to independents and moderates.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain how the views of Republicans/Conservatives benefit your demographic?**

Firstly, outright opposition to marriage equality must stop. It's the law and trying to change it just looks bigoted and disgusting. Keep it simple, keep it universal. The Left likes to divide people into pigeonholes to be conquered. The Right needs to unite everyone.

**What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

The communication must get better. Divisive issues must be played down in favor of unifying ones. The differences between Republicans and Democrats must be pointed out because too many people who dislike Democrats due to Obama's failings don't see Republicans as any better.

**Thomas Hernandez**

**What is it about yourself that makes you a "minority conservative"?**

I am a 23 year old Hispanic/Native American young man from Southern California.

**Why did you become a conservative?**

When I was a teenager I got my first official job at 15/16. The realization of having not only my money being taken from the government, but then half of the remainder being taken to support my mother who refused to work, despite being able bodied with a decent resume, made me realize that I like to keep the money that I make and I don't like the others deciding how it gets distributed without my say so. I believe in individual rights that shouldn't be violated due to the comfortability/"safety" of others.

**What would you say your political beliefs before that were? If any.**

Socialist, I believed in sharing wealth so that everyone was equal and everyone's basic needs were met.

**What age were you when you became a conservative?**

Probably 15/16, when I received my first pay check and had a large chunk of it taken both by the government and family members who could work, but refused to.

**Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

Liberal.

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

Well, I've always been accepted by the conservative party. At first they look at me funny, but once I start running my mouth they realize I'm the most "redneck" Hispanic from Southern California that they'd ever met.

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

A sellout. They call me an "uncle Tom" type character for the Hispanic community that I grew up in.

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

For a long time it was difficult for me to date or find friends, especially where I was living, because the majority of the people there didn't share my political views. It wasn't until I joined the military at the age of 18 did I find more friends that I agreed with and didn't want to just talk politics every time I walked into a room.

**Positive or negative?**

It was negative for the majority of my younger life. At such a young age no one was a conservative. As teenagers most people are these hippie liberals who hate conservatives, but, like they say: if you're 21 or younger and you vote conservative, you're heartless. If you're 22 or older and you vote liberal, you're brainless.

**Examples?**

I was often called closed-minded and selfish when in reality I've always had an open mind, but not just so open that my brain fell out. I couldn't be honest about how I felt or what I believed for fear of ridicule until I turned into an adult.

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

When I think of conservative principles a few things come to mind: Hard work ethic, understanding that the only way to success is through sacrifice, and never having anything handed to you. At the end of the day, to me, it is the basic right of the pursuit of happiness without government interference.

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

Liberals often ask me about my opinions on government programs, they like to assume (if they don't know me or if they do, keep bringing up) that my family was a part of them, and in some ways still are. As far as conservatives go it goes closer to illegal immigration and how I feel it should be handled.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

The job of the federal government should be the unwavering protection of individual's rights.

**What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

Liberal views tend to take away from individual rights for the sake of the community or society, whereas the conservative views are centered primarily on personal goals and success which in turn would benefit the community/society through job creation and through heavy taxes that are placed upon the wealthy.

**Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

I like to keep the money I earn, I like to keep the firearms that I've earned the right to have, I want to raise my family the way that I intend to raise them, and I want to worship however I want to worship without the persecution of political correctness.

**Are there any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?**

Sometimes I feel like our law enforcement has turned more into a Gestapo and a gang versus the intended purpose to serve and protect the communities. There needs to be more restraint with deadly force and more respect towards people's privacy and ways of life.

**What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

As far as gay marriage goes, this is America. If it doesn't interfere with my marriage or my money, I couldn't care less what two consenting adults choose to do with their own time and hard earned money.

**Abortion?**

I feel like it is an absolute disgrace that here, in 2015, we justify a form of persecution and genocide towards a group of people. I believe that Abortion is murder, through and through. The decision we make and the choice we have is when we decide to use contraceptives or birth control before conception. After conception happens another life has now been involved and to snuff it out is to kill an innocent human child, regardless of the situation. From Doctors' offices to abortion clinics, all have access and lifelines to help a young woman go through her pregnancy and place her child up for adoption, however at such clinics it is the mother's responsibility to ask for such information. The my body, my choice slogan doesn't work in most cases either, because at the end of the day it is also the sperm of the male and so he should have a choice as well, as it was part of him that helped conceive that child, should it be proven that she was not forcibly impregnated by him.

**Welfare?**

Welfare should be a temporary band aide "one year" to the problem that is a low income single parent issues. Unfortunately it is all too common to see leeches on society that make a career on welfare and live better than many of the lower working class.

**Discrimination laws?**

I don't think that discrimination has a place in American society regarding race, origin, nationality, creed, religion, sexuality, or sex. However I do believe that business have the right to serve and not serve whomever they decide if it contradicts their religious convictions.

**Feminism?**

There's no need for feminism in modern day America. Feminism died when men and women became equal on all planes of life in America. What exists today in western society is feminazism, however, feminism should make a comeback and assist women in third world countries who truly suffer, are oppressed, and underprivileged due to the ass-backward men that live in those areas.

**Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

No illegal immigration or undocumented workers period. It is an injustice to the legal immigrants who worked so hard to become citizens of the United States and a burden on both the tax payer and the justice system. There should be no amnesty especially for people who didn't respect our laws enough to follow them by crossing the border illegally. I believe that border security should be beefed-up and more thoroughly enforced.



**What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

I believe that the time of America being everyone's police man and savior should come to an end. We need to stop supporting other countries and fighting their wars. We have homeless, we have hungry, we have orphans, and we have low income that could use the money that we're just throwing at other countries. Why wouldn't we fix ourselves here at home, our own countrymen and women, before lending aide to a foreign government?

**What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

Republicans should really emphasize that they are against ILLEGAL immigration, not immigration in general.

**Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

I don't think that republicans or conservatives do a good job of explaining their views to voters. They could certainly do a better job at that.

**If not, how could they improve their explanation?**

Conservatives/republicans could thoroughly explain that specific groups are not being targeted by their policies and initiatives.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

Republicans and conservatives can improve reaching out to other minorities by explaining, and emphasizing, that minorities such as myself do work extremely hard at whatever they do and they deserve to relish in the fruits of their labor instead of having a large percentage taken as well as making it clear that if they do decide to come into the country in the legal way they won't have to worry about sneaking around as well as being underpaid for the hard work they do and, if they encourage others to proceed with other methods the legal way, crimes within the community may lower because everyone will be working their fair share and have the same opportunities as one another.

**What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

I feel like the rich need to stop becoming so rich and the poor need to stop getting poorer. Although I believe in free enterprise and capitalism, I also believe that there's no reason that somebody needs \$500mil+ in their bank account when their employees who have worked at their business for several years, are still scrounging for the next penny, despite being top notch workers.

**Jane**

I'm unfortunately not the model minority conservative, reading the National Review from cover to cover and staying abreast of every political issue. Honestly I research all the candidates hurriedly the night before I vote, but I've never not voted in an election.

I live in the bay area of California, a notorious liberal hotbed. It's pretty ridiculous sometimes but the more ridiculous thing is that it rubbed off on me. I'm all about handcrafted soaps and stuff. Luckily, I'm getting a bachelor's in economics which is wonderfully illuminating on most of the issues that drew me to conservatism in the first place.

**What is it about yourself that makes you a “minority conservative”?**

I'm a bisexual woman, and conservative.

**Why did you become a conservative?**

I was raised by conservative parents, but what really cemented my conservative beliefs was what I learned studying economics in college. I'm more capitalist than conservative, I'd say. Of course, there's no political party for all-capitalism all the time.

**What would you say your political beliefs before that were? If any.**

I don't want to credit myself with having actual political beliefs in high school. Being queer, I had strong opinions on gay marriage and gay adoption since I figured out that I wasn't straight. I liked (and still like) the Libertarian idea of renaming a civil marriage as a civil union. I'm no legal scholar, but I believe that church and state should be separate, and the social approval that comes along with a marriage isn't the responsibility of the state to administer. I also think that polyamorous groups deserve equal legal protection from the state as couples do, and currently there are no good legal devices for polyamorous families.

**What age were you when you became a conservative?**

It's been coalescing my entire life.

**Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

My immediate family is conservative but all my friends are liberal. I live in the San Francisco bay area in California so honestly we just don't have any conservatives around here. I can think of one conservative I know in person who doesn't share 50% of my DNA.

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

I think that most of the time I'm rejected for the liberal mannerisms I've picked up living this close to SF, rather than my orientation, basically small cultural differences. I tend to eat vegetarian food from world cuisine, and I bring up feminism more than most Republicans or conservatives are used to. I've noticed that when conservatives don't like someone, we tend to ice them out, instead of getting into the huge shouting confrontations/harassment that liberals seem to favor. See: protests. I haven't met any conservative Rush Limbaugh personalities in real life, though I've been iced out of a lot of conservative groups and venues. I'm looking at you, College Republicans!

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

I get confronted and shouted at a lot. They think I'm supposed to be enlightened as to the evil ways of conservatives because of my sex drive.

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

Oh, yes. It definitely affects my dating chances, especially with other women, for obvious reasons. I have also had friendships disintegrate because we had too many political disagreements.

**Positive or negative?**

Well, I mean, it's been overwhelmingly negative but on the other hand I like being conservative because I like being right. Pun intended.

**Examples?**

When I attended an overwhelmingly conservative university, it was deeply weird not to be the political minority for once. I actually tended to hang out with the liberals at that school because we had more in common. I had been a political minority my entire life, and so I knew where they were coming from. I find that political minorities tend to be some of the most reasonable and polite people. Living and working with people who disagree with you every day makes you realize that the opposite political party isn't Satan. Incorrect about nearly everything, yes, but not Satan. I fit in better with the very reasonable liberals at my school than the conservatives who had never had their beliefs challenged nor felt the need to communicate across the aisle. On the other hand, I got my beliefs challenged a lot by some whip-smart liberals who felt like I was ripe to be converted.

**Is there anything I didn't ask about in this section that you think is important?**

I just wanted to include that my views of the Republican Party, conservatism, libertarianism, political affiliation, and intra-party culture changed a lot by moving from the bay area to northern Indiana. A conservative from West Virginia (my roommate) is very different from a San Francisco conservative, despite sharing the same age, gender, and religion.

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

Conservatives believe that the state exists to protect the rights of its citizens. We believe in a small government that doesn't intervene where it isn't needed. We believe in empowering state and local governments to handle issues on a more tailored level than the federal government can. We believe in freedom of expression, and that the government shouldn't regulate how any idea is expressed in the public sphere. This issue has come up lately in the context of religion. We believe in the efficacy of the free market for delivery of goods and services. I know that many conservatives want to use the political arena to promote behaviors associated with their faiths, such as a prohibition on abortion. I think that most prochoice conservatives have diverged from a conservative principle on this issue. When I use the word "conservative," I think of conserving the spirit and tradition of the Constitution.

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

Most conservatives are really awkward about sexual proclivities, so this comes up pretty rarely. I'm bisexual, but I'm also a very strong Catholic active in the Church so I think I don't get much of the "you're going to hell!" experience from the religious Right. I get into a lot of apolitical theological arguments about my orientation but that's another story.

Before gay marriage was legal in California, and nationwide, a lot of liberals wanted to know my views on that, but since the liberals have oh so graciously deigned to decide that my libertarian approach to marriage isn't homophobic, it was usually a short and tension free conversation. I often get told my voting behavior is homophobic. I find this HILARIOUS, because most of the time I hear it from straight liberals whom have never encountered real homophobia in their lives.

### **What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

The federal government exists to provide coherence between the fifty states. A federal body is needed to aggregate the resources needed to protect from external and internal threats to American sovereignty. A bunch of militias could not do the job right. The federal government should support a military and diplomatic corps to deal with foreign threats, a law enforcement body for internal threats on a national scale (the mob, for instance). Coining currency and managing its worth is also the job of the federal government. I do not want to end the fed, and I highly recommend a course in history of economics or basic macroeconomics to anyone who does. I found it life changing. I think the federal regulatory agencies were revolutionary in their time, but the internet is now making some of them moot. Many industries successfully self-regulate, and as consumers demand more transparency, they are gradually forced to do so to higher and higher standards. The government is better occupied regulating itself. I think a national system of courts is essential, though right now the Supreme Court has a lot of deeply strange opinions. Many people are quick to mention the roads and the postal service as the job of the federal government but honestly I moved to Indiana right after they privatized their entire highway system and it was glorious, so I have a personal bias.

### **What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

Liberals tend to assume government intervention provides solutions, while conservatives believe additional government intervention brings additional problems.

### **Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

I believe everyone has to seek a reason to live in their own way. My recent ancestors came from East Germany, and they were basically not allowed to take the initiative when it came to their lives. I think that people should have the freedom to do whatever they want, that isn't vastly injurious to society, to earn a buck (or not), to travel (or not), to improve themselves (or destroy themselves). As much personal freedom as can be attained without harm to society akin to anarchy is good for the soul. Beyond that, I believe in capitalism. I believe in the maximum wealth for the greatest amount of people, and liberals don't. I understand why some people value equality higher than the maximum amount of wealth for the maximum amount of people, but I don't.

### **Are there are any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?**

Don't Ask Don't Tell was a complicated issue. It made sense when Clinton implemented it for the safety of gay service members. Most people don't remember the murder of Allen Schindler Jr. I think that as views on LGBT people vastly changed, and clearly nobody in the military was about to be killed for being gay, conservatives defended it too hard, just to make life more of a pain in the ass for gay service members.

### **What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

My opinion is moot, frankly. It still bothers me that the government is the issuer of a title that is meant to add respect to a relationship in the cultural sphere. See above, the question about high school.

### **Abortion?**

Oh, that is a great question. As a Catholic, I believe ending a life is God's responsibility and that I should not kill. As a capitalist, I believe that forcing, or strongly encouraging, unprepared parents to take on that role is a recipe for continuing poverty and all the ills that come with it. Artificial barriers to accessing birth control, including abortion, should be removed so that couples can make their own decisions given their own preferences. As a libertarian, I believe people have the right to hurt themselves as long as they don't hurt anybody else. I don't know what I think as a conservative, who looks to the Constitution first. Is there a right to privacy? Is a fetus a person with its own rights?

### **Welfare?**

I have a lot of very detailed opinions that come straight from my study of economics and not from conservative thought. I believe that conservatives should interest themselves, ultimately, in policies that work. Some forms of welfare work better than the free market to alleviate poverty, although for most, the evidence is unclear. Of course, it's a little stupid to say that there should be no government support whatsoever for the most downtrodden members of society. I'm not libertarian for a reason.

### **Discrimination laws?**

You have a right to be an asshole, and you have a right not to be treated like one under the law. So unless the government is the one discriminating, discrimination is legally protected. Of course I hate it, but it's protected. If, say, I owned my own business, I would frequently exercise the right to refuse service to bicyclists, whom I believe are the scum of the earth.

### **Feminism?**

As a young woman trying to get a job in finance, feminism means a lot to me. I don't think it's a legal/governmental issue. Women are treated equally under the law, even in the armed forces. I think that was a good idea, but I'm waiting to see how it works out in reality. Of course I deeply hate being treated like less than because I'm a woman. It happens all the damn time, dealing with would be Wall Street dicks whose favorite movies are American Psycho and Wolf of Wall Street. I don't think that a bunch of women's studies academics in their ivory towers are doing women in the workforce any favors, though. I hope that culture shifts over time to allow a greater emphasis on fatherhood so women aren't trapped into the Superwoman dilemma: trying to a.) Have a career and b.) Raise kids at the same time. The only answer is for men to step up and lean out, to allude to Sheryl Sandberg's wonderful book. Of course I respect that other women have different issues when it comes to feminism.

My heart goes out to transwomen, who face appalling rates of violence and discrimination. That is a legal issue. As a conservative, I believe that legislating difficulties into people's lives simply because they make choices I don't like is wrong. Trans people face huge obstacles trying to get their gender changed legally, and unfortunately, they really need a correct legal gender. This issue comes up every time you flash your driver's license.

### **Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

I'm Californian, so this issue is a really important topic to me. I think that a porous border hurts the safety of the United States, and any economist can tell you that supporting a huge black market economy (in this case, a black market labor economy) will distort the white market. I see huge strains rippling through the healthcare and education systems because of the large number of undocumented immigrants. I wish I had a great idea on how to solve this, but I don't.

My biggest priority is ensuring that the stream of immigrants to this country are documented.

### **What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

I deeply believe in foreign aid. Incentivizing foreign governments to cooperate with US goals is a great, great way to buy friends. This isn't glamorous but it works.

I double majored in Arabic and economics in school, so my views on the Middle East don't align quite so much with an American viewpoint. Frankly, the issues facing the Middle East are bigger than most Americans imagine and completely independent of America. The Sunni and Shia'i and every variety of both groups have been fighting between themselves for 1500 years over ideology, land, oil, and especially over past grievances. While I acknowledge the critical and pivotal importance in supporting Israel, American money should come with strings attached and Israel doesn't play by American rules when it comes to their neighbors. I mean, they're not horrible, but I think the adage "He's a son of a bitch but he's our son of a bitch" applies. I could go on all day about how Israel could have handled pretty much all of their foreign policy issues better, but they're still a strong ally whom we could do more to support.

There is absolutely no way that any American intervention in the Middle East, ever, could have gone well. The conflicts in the Middle East are all of them Gordian knots. We don't have the regional expertise and we're not willing to commit the huge amount of time and resources to fix an entire region of the world. In that vein, I think offshore drilling and fracking are hugely important. It's Saudi oil money fueling these conflicts. There's a big difference between the fighting currently going on in Yemen and the fighting in Syria and the difference is that the Syrians got ahold of a lot of money.

### **What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

While I respect the religious right (I mean technically I am the religious right, I teach Sunday school and everything), a shift back to libertarian values would serve to clarify the platform. Aside from the platform, I think that there's a lot of automatic rejection of minority experiences in conservative dialogue that really turns us off.

I was just reading the Weekly Standard, and the cover article was a really offensive one about campus rapes. While my opinions on the issue mostly align with conservatives (rape is bad and should be punished by law, but this has turned into a witch hunt), the tone was extremely dismissive to the young women who have gone through a traumatizing experience, as well as their colleges. That's not going to attract the young, college educated female vote. This stuff happens all the time. Most articles pointing out some sort of liberal gaff like to point to the support a liberal politician has echoed for the LGBT community, as if that goes to show that

said politician is clearly an idiot. While I'm no fan of most LGBT activist organizations (the "Human Rights Campaign" is my biggest pet peeve) that simply lobby for more liberal politicians and causes, I wish that Conservative media didn't act like saying something nice to or about LGBT people was the same as pledging allegiance to Soviet Russia.

**Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

I'd say yes. I mean, there's not much you can say for a party that says "we believe in small government and less government intervention except for when it panders to our electoral base!"

I think Republican voters are a smart bunch overall and acknowledge the realities of a democracy and getting elected.

**If not, how could they improve their explanation?**

It's really, really hard to explain capitalism basically. Of course it's going to get butchered in the morass of political rhetoric and soundbites. However, I think more of an insistence on returning to the tenets of capitalism instead of inaccurate soundbites about "creating jobs" would help. What do I know?

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic? If not, how can they improve that outreach?**

What demographic? Queer feminist young women, or conservative Catholic in finance? Because one side of me gets more outreach than the other. I'd say the biggest problem in minority outreach, especially in terms of numbers, is that the Republican Party has alienated women. There are sooooo many women in this country who vote Democrat and it drives me crazy. I have a great theory on this: there are still a lot of chauvinists out there, and the Republican Party won't kick them out because they vote and probably donate. Some voters are not worth having in your camp. Genuine male supremacists, the men who believe women deserve a certain limited role in society, are not worth it. I would trade however many men like that for the ten thousands of women who vote liberal in reaction to them.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain how the views of Republicans/Conservatives benefit your demographic?**

There are a fair amount of people in this country who think LGBT people are fundamentally sinning, perhaps just by existing. There are also a lot of people who think feminism is something other than it is, or maybe honestly want to keep women out of the workforce, I don't know. I don't think these people will ever be bedfellows with the queer community, or many women. I think the only solution is to focus on the economic issues, explain them extremely well, and try to redirect people away from voting on social issues. Social issues are meant to be resolved in the social sphere, not the political one.

**What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

Social issue voters! All of them!

Cathy

**What is it about yourself that makes you a “minority conservative”?**

I am a woman.

**Why did you become a conservative?**

I have always been of that mindset – my parents were and it always just seemed logical to me – I probably flirted with some more libertarian beliefs in my teens but I do not think I veered much from true conservative principals due to my teen years being in the late 60’s and the culture at the time – I have always been a more “live and let live” kind of a person as long as it has no effect on me.

**Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

My parents were conservative – my Grandmother lived with us most of my life while I was at home and had been a Democrat and voted for FDR and she never forgave herself – my brothers (2) went through some very liberal stages but now are very conservative also.

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

I don’t really see women as much of a minority in the conservative party

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

Many of my friends when I was in my teens were liberals and often in high school I shocked people with my views, as I do not think they expected a girl to look at things the way I did. It was often difficult with teachers in High School and College.

I once wrote a paper in a college philosophy class that the teacher wrote on it – Well written paper – graded down for Old Fashioned Ideas.

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

I actually feel that being a conservative is a way of life – it is a compilation of all of my values and principals. So yes it affects my personal life as it directs how I live, the decisions I make. Definitely has affected my work life. I have always been a dedicated hard worker and always wanting to learn more. I am the kind of person that always asks questions because I want to know why I am doing something and to know more about the effects of what I do. I see it as being responsible which I also see as being conservative. It has often caused me difficulties, as many people do not appreciate my need to understand and get irritated with my questions. Let me say that I can often be childlike with the why – why – why. But as I became a consultant in my field of expertise I think it has been very beneficial. I have a way of looking at things that allows me to either understand it or be able to explain it or I question it until I do. In management it was beneficial as I was always able to give an explanation for why something needed to be a certain way.

Basically I am trying to say that being a conservative is being a responsible individual.

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

Being responsible for your actions – your life

Thinking long term – aware of potential results long term



Realizing that morals/ethics matter at all times and are a reflection of yourself

Spirituality

Logic – reason at all times

Private Property rights first and foremost

Freedom, Liberty as long as they do not interfere with someone else's freedom/liberty.

The American Constitution is the final arbiter for our country and it is to be applied to current conditions but not re-interpreted to fit new beliefs.

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

What I hear most in business and elsewhere is that for a conservative, I am such a nice person. Liberals have this notion that conservatives are mean somehow and are surprised that I actually care about people and consequences of actions. What it boils down to is that they think they have the market on “nice and caring” but do not want to take the responsibility for the long term results of their actions and they cannot see that what I do and why I do things the way I do is because I care and I can see the results long term. Liberals have difficulty in applying concepts in the long run. If I was doing a labor project I would be reviewing all the staff with the objective of reducing costs. They look at it as a numbers/statistical game so they have no responsibility for the consequences of what is done. I look at it as doing whatever is necessary to save the most jobs and the ability of those there to still receive the most advancement in the future (raises – benefits – etc.). So when I look at some new way to increase revenue/services as a way to save a job they do not understand why I care so much. They see the fact that they say they care about people but then doing something as a necessity for a job (which they are not responsible for) as ok but if you take more time to look at all the effects and potential options they see that as unusual – out of place – and when I explain why I do it, they do not comprehend why someone who is conservative would care. But the issue is that they do not see/accept that in reality I do care and they do not. They just want to do a job they were hired for without having any real responsibility for the consequences in the easiest way possible. They cannot see that it is all encompassing.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

Defense – police powers, judicial powers and military

**What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

They want to feel good about themselves so they want to make people happy regardless of the long-term consequences of their actions. Feelings trump everything. I think I have stated what I think conservative values are and those would be in direct opposition to “feelings”. Basically Liberals feel that government is the extension of parents and are there for you, birth to death. Conservatives believe government is a necessary evil and they are responsible for themselves and any others they choose until death and if you are responsible enough even after if you have something to leave to others.

**Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

Because they are wrong and will always destroy society in the long run

### **Are there any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?**

I do not necessarily agree that most social issues have anything to do with government so I am confused/irritated when the conservative party gets so caught up in these issues and allows them to define our party. So basically many Republicans do not actually follow their own belief system and cannot see that government has no place in societal/cultural issues. Best example I can give are the two main issues that have hurt our party. Abortion – I do think that women, rightly or wrongly, have a right to make a decision regarding their body. I also agree that life begins at conception but that person in that position must make and live with their own decision – it is not my place or government's place to make that decision for them. So I do not think it hurts culture that much by becoming a right (although silly and contradictory to right to life) but I think if government had stayed out of it even after the legal decision (meaning no discussion politically and no funding of any kind) then it would not have been the issue it is today. And as I can see/understand both sides that to me means it is a personal issue only.

The other issue is homosexuality. Again, live and let live - it has no effect on me or anyone else not involved. The marriage issue is also silly for conservatives. Government should not be involved in marriages – they are religious issues. Government is involved in contract law and so civil unions would fall under their purview but no, they wanted to again get involved in a social/cultural issue. This is where I will always be on opposite sides with the party but I do not feel it is in opposition to conservative values as if they actually followed them they would see again this is a personal issue and other than contract law does not affect them. It demonstrates to me that they really do not understand their own supposed values/principles.

### **What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

Not a government issue and if gay people really only wanted to be married and not cause a rift in society that is more than possible as there are many churches/ministers that would marry them. Civil unions would have given them the legality they needed/wanted but it was not enough so as a group they actually were after something more than what they said they wanted. Otherwise I could care less – whatever makes people happy and thrive is ok with me.

### **Abortion?**

With government involvement I feel it is detrimental to society as a whole. Unfortunately it is used/encouraged for minorities and that is a real shame and hurtful long term. But with other societal issues as drugs I think maybe it is a blessing not to bring so many damaged people into the world. Again I can see all sides so this is a personal issue but government should be totally out of it. I mentioned financial support previously but they also support it through welfare/assistance rules. Although I always thought it was wrong to look down on someone who became pregnant before marriage it also seems destructive to celebrate it also.

### **Welfare?**

I do not believe in the concept of government protection – security blanket. I see this again as a social construct and better dealt with locally and through churches/charities. I see charity/assistance as a personal issue between humans. A contract, in essence. When someone needs help (as most of us do at some time in our life) I think it is beneficial to help them if you can. That brings tremendous benefit to you for assisting someone. For the person being assisted, if they are worthy then they will feel a commitment/responsibility to do the best with your help

and achieve to repay you back. No necessarily in kind but by working to get out of/correcting the situation. Humans generally want to help other humans and see them succeed and be happy. People being helped are generally appreciative and want to show you that you really did help them and they can now stand on their own. None of this occurs when government is involved. So in my opinion all parties lose. It has helped create a culture/society of need and inability to achieve on their own – also this idea that they cannot achieve or change their status has increased in my opinion due to government interference.

### **Discrimination laws?**

I personally understand why they started but I disagree. I would prefer to know where all the jerks were/who they are so I do not have to deal with them. If I knew someone with a business was bigoted in any way then I could choose not to work for/with them and choose not to use their services or products. I wish that was my choice. You cannot force people to think appropriately, all you do is drive it underground – I think if it was out in the open it would disappear faster as society as a whole would shun them – again government interference stops humans from doing what they should.

### **Feminism?**

Obviously I think that women are equal in many aspects. But I acknowledge that they are not in others. I will never attempt or believe that I am physically the same as most men. There are exceptions to all rules but in reality men are generally more physically adept than women. I certainly believe that I can do the same work mentally as any man – probably better than most. So I think if standards are set for a job/whatever then they should apply to both genders equally and not change. If you meet those standards then you are qualified for the position.

I do not think that women are discriminated against. I started working in the late 60's so I encountered discrimination against women. My first job was with Kmart, who did not promote women to management positions. But when I started in high school I was hired as holiday temporary help at below minimum wage (which I think was \$1.15 and I was hired at \$.85 – this was allowed for teenagers) and then when the holidays were over they decided to keep me on and raised my hourly rate to the minimum wage which they were not required to do. So even though the company had some ideas that would be considered discriminatory they dealt with me fairly. When I dropped out of college I went back to work there and they were short a housewares manager and they thought I could do the job but they could not give me the title or pay but paid me the highest they could. I was young and this did not bother me – I learned what I could from them and moved on to another job. In college my accounting teacher told me that I was the top of the accounting class (there were only 4 women in the program) and he was sure I was cheating in some way as a women was not capable of being better than all the other men in the program. This is why I dropped out of college. But I have learned that there are always idiots in the world and if you let them determine what you do then you are the one that is hurt. On another level when I dropped out I was accepted into another college out of state and I went to every bank I could find to apply for a student loan as my parents would no longer assist me. After trying for over 6 months to obtain this loan assistance a bank manager pulled me aside and explained to me that currently the money was distributed mostly to minority students and white students only received assistance in the first month of every year and only to a few. I gave up again and went into waitressing. From there I went into management where eventually I was

given the task of training all the new managers (after a new rule started that you must have a degree for management) which I thought was kind of funny. So basically my point is probably everyone encounters jerks or some discrimination in their life – get over it – fight it but do not believe that someone owes you something.

I think that current “feminists” appear not to want equality but possibly hate men and want to be set apart from them. I choose to interact with men and society as a whole. I do not need laws to assist me – I can do it on my own. Besides if I think a man looks good in a suit or has a nice tie, I am going to say so! Same goes for a woman I think looks nice or has on something I think is nice. These things are not discriminatory. Women can tell if someone is lecherous vs being nice – we all need to grow up. And you can tell some man who is out of line that they are out of line – learn to stand up for yourself. I do not believe in the wage discrimination issue – I have always been treated fairly and equally in that area. Most business/corporations have set pay parameters that have nothing to do with your gender but the position. So if any discrimination is occurring then it is in very small business and why would you want to work for them anyway.

### **Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

I do think we need to secure our borders – particularly in the current climate. I think a country has a right to borders. I understand why people from other countries want to come here but with our current rules regarding welfare we are receiving more that want assistance than ever before. We want and need peoples who have something to offer – be productive. So our immigration rules should be set to bring the largest benefit to our country as a whole.

As far as amnesty goes it is how you define it. It would in my opinion be silly and very expensive to deport all the illegals in this country today. So #1 is the border - #2 would be giving them all green cards so that you can document them. Then start reviewing all of those documented – if they ever voted, broke a law (other than coming into the country) or are currently on any assistance programs then I think they should be deported. If they currently are working then they need to start paying fines for having come here illegally. In maybe 15-20 years I would allow them to apply for citizenship. I would require all people to speak English, stop printing things in other languages. Anyone ever caught voting would be deported. Anyone that does not come forward and start the process if ever caught would be deported. Oh I forgot right after the border next would be following all current laws – reviewing and changing if necessary and full implementation of e-verify. If we bring the full force of the law against any employer then that will stop a lot of this. Change laws to ensure that only citizens can receive any benefits from any government agency. Implement ID voting laws. Review the born here citizen laws. I think in this day and age that should be removed unless one of your parents are already citizens.

### **What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

Wow what a diverse topic. I am a believer in the fact that America is an example to the world for freedom and god given liberties. So whenever possible we should be speeding the message and removing obstacles to it. The operative words were “whenever possible” so financial status would effect that. For many generations America has become the world power and leader – it is a role that I think is proper as long as we follow our originating principles.

That all being said I am not happy with where the world is today and our part in it. I agree with the statement that a vacuum must be filled as we have allowed those without proper principles to fill in the world today. Obviously I am not a supporter of the current administration or what they have done during their time. I think once we were attacked we should have declared war on Islam. I actually thought going into Iraq was the right thing. The dictator was funding terrorism around the world stock piling chemical weapons and had demonstrated no qualms about using them. The Iraq location would have been strategically great for a military base in the region. If handled properly it would I think have provided more stability to the region. We should have maintained our presence – controlled their government – implemented our constitution. I think allowing the area to be split into 3 countries or whatever made sense would have been more logical. We should have instead of wasting money and paying off tribes assisted in developing the country. We did not need to use so much financially once we had control as we could have managed their resources (oil) to pay for the re-development of the country. It could have been accomplished if actually thought out and planned but after winning I do not believe there was a plan. Actually starting with when we stopped supporting the Shah I think much of what we have done in the Middle East has not been well thought out. It is unfortunate that Obama did not fulfill the NATO treaty and place the missile program in Europe. It is also unfortunate the he did not continue with Reagan's Star Wars program that had a successful test when he first became President. These two things would have changed our presence in the world and affected the world security further. I do not agree with negotiating with Iran – we should be setting terms and they can accept or suffer the consequences. I am pretty hard-nosed about these types of things. I do not think water boarding – sleep deprivation- rock and roll music to be torture. I think in this world, intelligence is a priority. I think the term winning means that the people you were fighting are beaten so badly that they surrender completely.

I could go on for days but I think that summarizes my feelings.

**Is there anything I didn't ask about in this section that you think is important?**

Well I think economics would be important, as that is the reason for most of our problems – the different views between philosophies. Basically we need to start educating in school the economic values of our Constitution and how it applies long term. We need to stop funding every concept that comes by or assisting people. We need to make a decision of what the object of government is and determine if we want our original capitalistic free market society or socialism and beyond. But the true consequences must be demonstrated. All of this goes to economics as we are in debt beyond ability to pay at this time. If we started decreasing government and applied a certain % to the balance of our debt that would be a great start. Have a balanced budget meaning that we no longer add to our debt and live within our means. This is another topic that I could go on for days. But this is very important as it is the basis of conservative values/principles.

**What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

Talk to them. Easier said than done depending on where you live. I would actually work on education and what is taught and how it is taught.

I do not like to group people and prefer to deal with them as individuals. I would talk to people on the basis of being American and what makes us the same instead of what dissects us.

**Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

No and I am not sure all of them actually understand it

**If not, how could they improve their explanation?**

I liked when they were giving the courses on the constitution – I am thinking that maybe some required in-service would be good for all elected officials about the constitution, how it affects government and economics.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

I guess – again I think they should talk to Americans as a whole – I do not think groups should be separated to be spoken to separately

**If not, how can they improve that outreach?**

Years ago in my area Republican groups were very active but they have gone by the wayside for the most part. I think social programs locally are very beneficial. I would think the Republican Party could use its money to help form/support these groups. Go into schools and help form/support groups from high schools on up. I think local is better and then reaches upwards. Start having editorials on a regular basis to promote whatever is prominent at the time across the whole country. Actually start planning on how to promote items and then flood the country with those ideas at the same time. It would allow for us to change and control the debate. Start having speakers for all organizations not just political ones – offer the speakers all year long – the more we can get our word out the better for us and the country. Offer special programs for all schools – Constitution Day – all grade level discussion on the constitution – economics – history, etc. I think education is the key and teaching long term effects.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain how the views of Republicans/Conservatives benefit your demographic?**

No

**What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

Education as to what it stands for – platform can change of current issues but we should have a set list of principles/values

**Sam**

My name is Sam, I'm 19 currently, and I was born, raised, and currently live in Ohio. I go to the University of Cincinnati and am studying Political Science and History. My ultimate goal is to teach American and Cold War history at the University level.

**What is it about yourself that makes you a “minority conservative”?**

I am a minority conservative because I am young, raised Catholic, and am attending a large University.

**Why did you become a conservative?**

My parents are both conservative, so I was always exposed to a conservative “bias” on issues. However, I tried very hard to push all politics out of my life through my childhood and teen years. When I started doing Community College in concurrency with my high school though, I really got into politics by myself. Conservative views make much more sense and I decided then that I was conservative, separate from my parental influence, although they did help me realize it.

**What would you say your political beliefs before that were? If any.**

Before I started my community college education, I was still right leaning. However, I bought into some things such as the feminist “wage gap” and “rape culture” ideas. After looking into it more however, I realized how both of those were illogical, thereby sealing my conservatism.

**What age were you when you became a conservative?**

I started to identify as a Conservative Republican when I was 18.

**Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

Parents and family are mostly conservative, friends mostly liberal.

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

Generally, whenever I talk to some local politicians, their reaction tends to be “so you understand how the economy actually works and why being conservative makes much more sense.”

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

Generally, they say “That’s way opposite from my viewpoint!” They tend to not want to even get into political discussions with me after they find out.

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

No

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

Less government control on people and businesses; Cutting spending to lower our deficits from all points of the budget, including the military; Charity by the individual and business being more used and promoted than welfare provided by the government; Personal responsibility.

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

Generally because I’m young, I’m not supposed to be seen as politically active or knowledgeable at all, so I get a lot of belittling of my opinions in general from both liberals and conservatives.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

Provide the defense of the people; protect the rights of all people provided by the Constitution; break up monopolies that stop development and competition of the industry in which the monopoly was formed; provide a social safety net for those unable to work and not provided for

in the gap of personal and business charities; Protect historic sights and landmarks from development and destruction; Protect National Park Landscapes from development and destruction.

### **What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

Liberals tend to be for government to intervene with business and personal practices that do not inhibit the rights provided to all people in the Constitution. They are also more for equality no matter what personal choices a person makes, where conservatives are for equality to make their choices, then the people are on their own to see where those choices take them.

### **Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

They are for more government control over the people to stop ideas that do not inhibit the rights of the people. This includes political correctness and the idea of censorship on any level, no matter how offensive.

### **Are there any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?**

Making English the official language of the United States. We are a diverse nation of diverse people and in some places, it would be unfeasible and would force perfectly good, working, legal immigrants to not be able to do basic things such as drive, pay taxes, possibly even work, or serve in the Military, because they simply don't speak English. English is still  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the citizenship test so they can't become citizens until they have a basic knowledge of the English language anyway. But if they can't speak English and are legal, should we really not let them be able to do things that let them work and instead let them live off of Welfare? That is the main one. The others are already listed below.

### **What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

I'm for Gay Marriage so that couples who opt for marriage are protected under the law and can receive spousal benefits from workplaces that offer benefits such as healthcare. Also, marriage is a contract that is recognized nationwide, whereas a Civil Union is only recognized in the state it's given, if given at all.

### **Abortion?**

I personally would not want any woman I got pregnant to have an abortion. However, it is not my right as an individual to say people can't have an abortion. After the first trimester though, you've had enough time to decide and at that point, it should be illegal and the fetus considered a living human. Bodily autonomy is a big part of Conservatism however and abortion does fall under the idea of bodily autonomy.

### **Welfare?**

Welfare is fine for those UNABLE to work, who do work and still don't have enough for rent, utilities, and food still, or who are not provided for by charities. However, if you are able to work at any job, you make enough money to support yourself on a tight budget, or are provided for by charities, it is not the taxpayer's job to pay for you. You don't need to be comfortable to live.

### **Discrimination laws?**



Privately owned businesses should be allowed to discriminate how they please. People are very tolerant/intolerant of intolerance these days so the free market will settle itself out and most discriminating businesses will not survive. Even if some do, you don't have to use them. It is as much your right as the consumer to use or not use a business for any reason that it is their right to serve or not serve you for any reason. Also, if a business wants to discriminate against you, why don't you just go somewhere else that will accept you instead of causing more animosity than is already there by forcing them via the nanny government to serve you? They're not going to like you either way, so why does it matter?

### **Feminism?**

Most feminists put out false statistics that hurt women and others more than it helps. Feminism has become not just a man hating movement, but a movement that hates free thought. They trivialize things such as rape and oppression by spreading false statistics and making up definitions to established words that only fit their false narrative. This is all to pass the feminist agenda. Once feminism actually fights for those women who are actually oppressed, I will reconsider calling myself a feminist. Until then, I will consider it a hate movement.

### **Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

Immigration needs reformed. I do believe most people coming here are coming here to work where no American wants to work. Currently it is too difficult to immigrate into the United States. Giving amnesty to those here illegally probably isn't the worst thing we can do, but it is by no means a good thing. If they're working however, making it easier to obtain a green card isn't such a bad idea. Here in Cincinnati for example, we had a couple with three kids who moved here 13 years ago from Latvia. Two of their kids were born in the United States and the third was a baby when they moved from Latvia. The family is about to be split up and the parents and oldest child deported back to Latvia by the INS because they can't renew their green cards and aren't approved for citizenship. The husband has been working here since he moved here, paid his taxes into the American system, and they just want to be a normal American family. However, the current system makes it very difficult for them to even stay here. Thus, we lose tax money, potential citizens, and even possibly proud Americans. There definitely needs to be reformation so people who really want to be here and pay their taxes and work to help the American economy can stay here and eventually gain citizenship.

### **What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

First and foremost is selling out the Nation of Israel. They are our closest ally in the Middle East and this current administration has done nothing but hurt Israel. I hope that Israel will be able to find out where Iran is most likely going to try and develop the bomb (frankly, we all know it's going to happen and we all know who their first target is going to be) and destroy the site for themselves to protect themselves and us. The other big wrong was the half thought out Iraq invasion and subsequent premature pull out. I do believe that Saddam Hussein was a threat to us and to Israel and his regime was oppressive to the people of Iraq. It was not a war for oil, otherwise we would've actually received oil from it but none came our way or Britain's way. However, we didn't have a plan to nation build properly like we did in Japan after WWII. If we had had that, there wouldn't be the ISIS problem of today and Iraq could have developed and flourished in the world. This is a result of both the Bush Administration and the Obama Administration. The best foreign policy we've had was the killing of Osama Bin Laden in 2011.

This was a big highlight. That can also be attributed to the Bush and Obama administrations. Bush's for receiving the intelligence and Obama's for going in for the kill.

**What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

Nothing. The Democrats will eventually piss them off enough to push them into the Republican Party. They already did it with the Jewish population. I'm sure they'll find a way to push other minorities to vote Republican.

**Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

For the most part, yes. However, there could be better use of their words around campaign time. I'm reminded of Ben Carson saying that "being gay was a choice" and of course Todd Akin in Missouri basically forfeiting the safe Senate seat to the Democrat by saying "if you're actually raped, you won't get pregnant." If people like that are pushed out of the Republican Party by primary voters, which they seem to be more and more, more minorities, especially those in the LGBT community, will probably come.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

Not really. Granted, most young college students admonish Republicans for even existing because they don't get a good idea of what the Republican Party does, so I do understand why the outreach to colleges is poor.

If not, how can they improve that outreach?

They could improve outreach by showing that this isn't their parents Republican Party. The Republican Party of today has more elected women and minorities than the Democratic Party. If the Party could show these young students how accepting the Republican Party truly is, I think that'd do wonders with outreach, even if just a few people change their thoughts about it.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain how the views of Republicans/Conservatives benefit your demographic?**

They're for lowering taxes which will help this demographic have more money, something we all complain about in some sense. Also, the Republican view on college and education as a whole will A) help lower costs for college by stopping the handouts which raise tuitions and B) enforces the idea that you DO NOT need a college education to be successful and that possibly just going to vocational school and learning trades will help you achieve your dreams and aspirations. This generation needs to realize that college is not everything and you do not need to go there to be successful. The Republicans put much more focus on promoting that idea than Democrats and that does wonders to benefit the youth demographic.

**What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

1) The people who have been there for years and years like Mitch McConnell, Orrin Hatch, and John Boehner just to name a few. They have been there way too long and it's time to let new people take over.

2) Stop talking about social issues in general. That has almost nothing to do with the federal government and all the views do is turn people away. If they kept their mouths shut about it and

said “this has nothing to do with what the federal government is supposed to do, please direct that to your state and local politicians,” I feel the party will be a much more open and loving environment, especially to minorities.

## **Tyler**

### **What is it about you that makes you a “minority conservative?”**

I’m gay. I don’t believe that a household must have one man and one woman to parent a child, nor do I believe that only a single man and a single woman can enjoy marriage. Until I realized how ineffective the LGBTQ movement was at gaining respect for homosexuals. I am a minority conservative because the conservative ideology takes me for my work, not my preferences.

### **Why did you become a conservative?**

I realized most of the homosexuals I’d met or seen in the media run around like fools in neon tights, exaggerated drag, or nothing at all. They’re posing with bongos on-line and whenever called out respond that they’re being oppressed. They’re social workers or beauticians or cosmetics-company spokespeople. As Booker T. Washington, one of my heroes, said, “No greater injury can be done to any youth than to let him feel that because he belongs to this or that race he will be advanced in life regardless of his own merits or efforts.” I don’t want to be associated with a movement that glorifies acting out and hedonism – I just want to be a guy who happens to like guys.

### **Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

I live in one of few places in Texas where most people are liberal. This includes most of my wonderful high-school teachers and friends. It is an extremely inclusive environment – there is no violence or bullying at my high school for any reason, and none because of sexuality. My parents and family are conservative.

### **As a minority conservative what has the reaction been... from liberals?**

I’ve told others that I was a homosexual because they have called me out on being a homophobe. “Fucking Republican” has been said. One friend claimed he had observed attitudes like mine in some of his other gay friends whom he claimed were uncomfortable in their sexualities.

### **Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

Absolutely. I was motivated to attend a certain liberal university in Texas largely because it is in a bigger, more inclusive, city than I live in now and has a significant gay population. I desperately wanted to go to a small liberal school because I was paranoid that people would be prejudiced against me because of my sexuality unless I could let them get to know me. Now, I’m comfortable looking at larger universities in smaller towns. Texas Tech in Lubbock would be a better, less expensive, choice for me now.

### **What is your relationship with other minorities like?**

I am not openly out. I have very little contact with the gay population at my high-school, because have very little in common with the few gay students there, even with respect to sexuality.

### **Do you feel comfortable as a minority conservative?**

Most of the conservatives I know are not very accepting. They're ancient-regime conservatives who hate interracial relationships and homosexuality without any reason. Many believe that individual transsexuals and same-gender families adopting children partly explain the moral downfall of the country. I don't feel comfortable being open as a minority because they won't immediately see past my sexuality.

### **What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

Independence and economic-self-reliance

Social and economic freedom – zero regulation except where it is necessary to protect liberty, safety

- Minimum regulation on food production, pharmtech, intoxicating substances

Respect for individuals

- No prejudice (without government enforcement, i.e. in day-to-day matters)

- Right to life

— Forfeited by murderers

- One can do what one wants in one's bedroom

- Marriage should not be a government issue

- Bodily autonomy should not be a government issue

Respect for corporations

- Zero regulation

- Discretion to discriminate by experience, education, and even race, sexuality in hiring

- Discretion to refuse service to anyone

Policies

- Income tax is theft

- Regulation is not the government's responsibility

- The above principles should be asserted internationally

- Infrastructure development and administration of prisons should be privatized, as should emergency services

### **What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

To make possible, by existing, an environment in which the above principles can be asserted, i.e. to have a Constitution which enumerates the above principles.

To maintain a military in which research is privatized and which is funded and utilized to assert and defend conservative principles.

To maintain a representative body with which representatives of foreign nations and countries can interact. This body should act to preserve conservative principles internationally.

To host and maintain judicial and legislative processes.

### **Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

The "liberal" views of the LGBTQ movement are self-destructive. I've heard plenty of people say they would be significantly more understanding of minorities if they didn't make such a show of being so unwilling to act responsibly. Liberal homosexuals don't work to become

successful to indicate they have that potential. Like SJWs, most gays I've seen don't want equality, they want to be left alone to drink and cruise without facing the same responsibilities most people do.

### **Gay Marriage?**

The government can stay out of it. A marriage license is just a silly entitlement people can get. An actual marriage is a ceremony and an exchange of vows, and thus is deeply personal. It doesn't have to happen in a church, although religious people would argue a properly-officiated marriage is more legitimate than others. The vows are all that matter. If I want to exchange vows with four men and four women and our goat, fine. I won't, though, because I have no values to share with a goat.

### **Abortion?**

I've been compared to a fascist for saying this. It's bull to say a fetus as bodily autonomy. Same argument goes for circumcision. However, I think women have bodily autonomy and surgeons can act on that. Life begins at conception, yes, but a human life only has value once self-awareness, identity, and tactile sensation become involved. It's a gray line, but let mothers do what they want or need. It's not the government's responsibility.

### **Welfare?**

No-one is entitled to anything other than respect. If welfare requires income tax, it's socialism.

### **Feminism?**

Feminists are like most African Americans and gays. They want to be treated like everyone else without working towards any reason to be treated with significant respect.

### **Border security?**

Immigration is fine and great. Tumblr-user mr-cappadocia suggested illegal aliens who are detained for any reason should be placed in indentured servitude by the fed or state to perform labor, e.g. picking up litter. I personally would suggest a private agency/hire/individuals who would otherwise be deported. These individuals would receive sub-minimum wages and would do no more than menial tasks but also receive some vocational education and education in American history. Ideally they could become naturalized and then become citizens while working and learning in prison-like conditions. The National Guard and Border Patrol need more funding.

### **What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

Outreach makes me suspicious. I want to be sure that Republicans will support the conservative principles above. If they reassure me they'll do that, that's plenty of outreach. It dissolves the borders between the different minorities and majority voters. Those principles protect me as a minority better than do assurances on campaigning for gay marriage or anti-discrimination laws.

### **Do you feel like the Republican party/conservatives do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

I'm not really very familiar with Republican leaders' views, even presidential candidates'. I can say that Rick Santorum does a great job of demonstrating he's not interested in equality. Individuals like Dr. Ben Carson and Scott Walker make individual issues clear enough, but I don't spend enough time listening to them talk to know much about them.

**If not, how could they improve their explanation?**

Significantly increase their representation. Spread to social media more and focus less on lengthy speeches. As unrealistic as it is, I want a website where I can find how these individuals voted on various polls that I've taken, who they say their heroes/political inspirations are, and what their motivations are. In other words, I want to first, second, and third – date them.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?  
If not, how can they improve their outreach?**

I understand there will always be traditional conservatives who are not comfortable with minority conservatives. However, I think it isn't too difficult for everyone to agree on the conservative principles I listed above. I want to see more federal scholarships for minorities who exemplify conservative values. I want some dialogue about how minorities can escape their majority SJW movements.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain how the views of conservatives benefit your demographic?**

Techniques that work well on social media would work well on the news media. People need to illustrate how liberal and SJW methods toward equality are actually divisive more often and louder. Conservatives need to, at least sometimes, vocalize the emphasis on equality and professionalism in their views. /The Constitution made men free from tyranny. Conservatism made men free to live. /

**Angela Markwaiter**

**What is it about yourself that makes you a “minority conservative”?**

I'm faired skinned with green eyes and hair just this side of blond. I live in what many would consider a generous sized home. I'm not rich; but, I'm not dirt poor either. I'm in debt up to my eyeballs; but, I know from whence to expect my next meal. So, yeah, I'm not what comes immediately to mind when one considers the term "minority conservative"; however, in a way, that underscores my "outsider" status. What I am is a conservative Southern-to-the-marrow disabled artist from a multi-racial family. So, let's break that down a bit and find out why that puts me in the minority.

I'm not exaggerating when I say Southern-to-the-marrow. My ancestors on both sides were pioneers who settled in AL before it was a state. Yeah, I'll sit back and wait while you crack your jokes.... Ready? Now, I'll give you the facts. Both sides of my family fought in the Revolutionary War and received land grants for their service. Then they bundled up their meager possessions and families and struck out to build a new life in a wild and unforgiving land. And yeah, they encountered Native Americans, sometimes for the worse (one ancestor was scalped) and sometimes for better (my line gained Native American blood). Mostly farmers and merchants,

my ancestors also fought in the War Between the States (or as history books teach: the Civil War). Though American schools teach that I should be ashamed of this heritage, to the contrary, I am proud of the strength & fortitude of my ancestors.

So, generations of middle class families scratching to make something out of nothing culminated in a family of staunch Southern Democrats who just wanted the "damned Yankees" to stay out of our business. But, as time passed, it became obvious that those Democrats who were supposed to be staying out of our business were creeping into our pockets. "Reconstruction" plus the Great Depression had already brought my family to poverty level. Hearing about how my mom used to go to school barefoot because she had no shoes was sobering for me as a child. My grandmother stashed both food and money all her life because she had learned that the economy was not always dependable. So, imagine how they felt as they saw the liberals gradually take more and more from their pockets?

Now, understand this: my family has repeatedly fought for freedom... Freedom from the English and then freedom from the North. It was only natural that when my father discovered the principles of libertarianism, he latched on tight. And my mother, being highly intelligent, followed. During this time, my aunts, uncles, & cousins were becoming more & more conservative until, today, all but two vote Republican... in the south.... where tradition is revered and anything new is considered with suspicion... Yeah, though conservatism is growing in the south, it is still fighting the entrenched tradition of the Southern Democrats.

As for disability being a minority within conservatism, the mere fact that the disabled are thankful in the minority overall qualifies me here. However, the ugly fact of the matter is it is hard as hell to be disabled, so when Big Brother offers to make life easier "for free", the temptation to accept the help is mighty powerful. And sometimes, being disabled boxes you in to the point that you MUST have help in order to survive. Where to turn for help? Unfortunately, most disabled people who are politically active are lobbying for free healthcare and universal accessibility without considering the cost of such programs. And freeloaders who recognize a good thing when they see it are ready and willing to leap onto the already beleaguered gravy train.

Sadly, many of the people who desperately need assistance don't get it because they don't have the energy or know how to navigate a system designed to foil freeloaders. So, the only people who benefit are those who know how to work the system. I'm in the minority because, while I recognize there are many other disabled who desperately need assistance; I don't believe more costly government programs are the answer.

I am also an artist. Yes, I tend more towards emotion versus logic as most artists are wont; however, my freedom is far more important to me than trusting the largesse of the government. The most vocal segment of artists tend to advocate for more and more "public funding for the arts" and more tax money to go to arts in the schools. Meanwhile, I argue that the government has no place in the arts whatsoever. The government is handing out grants left and right to those adept at writing proposals so those receiving the money from the taxpayers' pockets are rarely the artists most deserving of funding. Once again, it is all a matter of who works the system the best and results in money being taken out of the pockets of truly creative and talented artists in

order to support the few who played the game. The consequence is American museums filled with butt prints, string hanging from the ceiling, heaps of trash, and offensive performance art while modern masters never see the inside of a museum. The Clinton Christmas tree decorated by government sponsored artists with condoms and drug paraphernalia solidified my belief that government sponsorship destroys art.

Finally, I am proudly from a multi-racial family. Yeah, that crap about all southerners being racist is just that. Crap. To begin with, I boast Native American blood. Not enough to give me any color (dang it); but, enough to give three out of six cousins on my mom's side a dark complexion and me stick straight hair. Can't recall how many greats go into it; but, my great (X?) Grandma Riley was part Cherokee. The photos we have of her pretty much confirm it. And then, there is a census which records my great grandmother on my dad's side as a mulatto. I'm not so sure of that one because she had bright red hair; however, I do find it interesting.

But, that isn't all. My niece is Guatemalan and my cousin's children are half black. I tell you this because I am proud of the inclusiveness of my family. I am proud that when we get together, we celebrate a variety of cultures. Every one of my family members is treasured for the special gift they bring to our clan and none are judged by race. And I am proud that my family is color blind.

I was brought up to believe that everyone is important and that everyone's life has value. My father marched for civil rights in Birmingham BEFORE Martin Luther King began his campaign. Yes, he is that old. And yes, so am I. As a youth, he once stood up against members of a white supremacy group in defense of a young black man accused of rape. My Daddy not only inherited the intelligence of his pioneering ancestors; but, he also inherited their bravery. He taught me to fight for what is right and good and just.

**Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

The last three generations of my family are extremely conservative except for a few radical outliers. Before that... Southern Democrats!

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

Some are amused when I wheel into the primaries wearing a tie-dye shirt and Birkenstocks and ask for the Republican ballot; however, most conservatives take me as I am with no comment.

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

Hostility and disbelief. Outrage that I would abandon "my people". Snarky comments about the "selfish" nature of conservatives.

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

Honestly, being conservative is just an extension of who I am and who I was raised to be.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

Simply put: to "establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity". Anything outside the parameters set forth by our Constitution is illegal and needs to be halted immediately.



In addition, most Americans are ignorant of Amendment X: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

**What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

Liberals want the government to fix everything. Conservatives believe in self-reliance. Liberals are apparently completely ignorant of the ground rules set forth by our Constitution. Conservatives are a tad less so.

**Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

Most liberal policies involve taking away the freedom and earnings of the American people. My ancestors fought hard for that freedom during the Revolutionary War. They thought a 2% tax on tea was unacceptable. And now we have liberals who don't bat an eye at taxing citizens 10% who earn less than \$18,450 a year!

**Are there any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?**

Though I am a longtime Libertarian, I have voted the Republican ticket most of my life due to a sparsity of good real Libertarian candidates. I am an ideological Libertarian and not always in agreement with the party (immigration & foreign affairs come to mind). My primary difference in opinion with Republicans is with social legislation. For instance, I am not opposed to gay marriage; however, I am 100% opposed to the government passing judgment one way or another. In other words, please feel free to get married; but, don't force churches or other establishments to perform the ceremony. I'm 100% against: gun control, the existence of the income tax and IRS, Homeland Security, and using drones to spy on citizens. Basically, I'm against social regulations for "our own good".

I do draw the line with abortion though. I believe it is out and out murder.

However, when it comes down to fiscal matters, I doubt if I could get more conservative. I proudly voted for Reagan & both Bushes (yeah, I'm old as dirt) purely due to their economic stances and have the experience to know that we are all far worse off under Obama than any other President in my lifetime. Unlike many, I greatly respect G.W. Bush because I feel though he made mistakes, he honestly cares about our country.

So basically I'm an extremely conservative Libertarian... LOL!

**What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

I'm all for it as long as there is a church, mosque or temple willing to perform it. I do NOT believe that any religious institution should be forced to perform a ceremony which violates their beliefs; therefore, I do not believe that the Federal Government has the right to legislate who may and may not be married. Marriage should in no way be within the purview of the Federal Government and the Supreme Court should stay out of it. If we need some form of legalized union between consenting adults, then it should NOT be called marriage which crosses over into the domains of churches. However, there should be NOTHING barring a man and a woman, two men, two women, or five men and two women from entering into a legal union as long as all

parties are of sound mind and legal age. If we need a legal union which is approved by the U.S. Government, then let's call it Civil Union or some other suitable synonym... NOT marriage.

### **Abortion?**

I'm 100 % against the murder of unborn infants and I really don't think anyone who has not had a baby should be able to decide for abortion. I have never experienced anything which even came close to the miracle of being pregnant and childbirth. How would you know how precious that life is in utero unless you have experienced it?

But many pro-abortion advocates argue that a fetus is only a clump of cells and not really a baby. Besides the biological impossibility of this, I would ask: if a fetus is not a child, what is it? At what point does a fetus become a person?

Is it the ability to breathe? I have sleep apnea and must sleep with a machine in order to keep breathing at night. Does this mean I am not human?

Is it the length of gestation? My daughter was born early... Does that mean she wasn't a child until the 9 months of gestation was complete?

Is it the ability to react to stimuli? The first time I definitively felt my daughter kick it was in response to music when I was about five months pregnant. Throughout my pregnancy, she continued to react to music and after she was born continued to respond to music by dancing every time music was played. In fact, it became clear that her in utero reaction was, in fact, a personality trait. She started dancing inside me and went on to dance on stage.

Now granted, it is more difficulty to determine if a fetus is going to be a scientist, a teacher, or a doctor; however, my point is I can pinpoint the DAY when my daughter first demonstrated to me her love for music.... in utero. Who knows how long she had felt affinity for it? At what point was she able to perceive and differentiate sounds? At what point did she become a person?

Many argue that the "blob of cells" becomes a baby when it becomes sentient and can feel pain. But what does sentient mean? According to Webster's:

sen·tient adjective \ 'sen(t)-sh(ē-)ənt, 'sen-tē-ənt\

: able to feel, see, hear, smell, or taste

Full Definition of SENTIENT

1: responsive to or conscious of sense impressions <sentient beings>

2: aware

3: finely sensitive in perception or feeling

— sen·tient·ly adverb

Okay, according to What To Expect(2) fetuses begin to hear at 16 weeks after conception. Susan Tawia of Monash University Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Victoria, Australia posits: "18 to 25 weeks is considered the earliest stage at which the lower boundary of sentience could be placed." (3)

Evidence has shown that fetuses feel pain by 20 weeks after conception (4).

But does that mean babies are not sentient before 16 weeks? Absolutely not! That simply means we cannot prove it! Every day, science seems to move sentience earlier in the development of the fetus. In 2013, during a hearing on a bill that would ban late-term abortions nationwide, Maureen Condic, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Neurobiology and Anatomy at the University of Utah and an expert on human embryonic development informed members of the committee that unborn babies have the capacity to feel pain as early as 8 weeks. "The neural circuitry responsible for the most primitive response to pain, the spinal reflex, is in place by 8 weeks of development," she explained. "This is the earliest point at which the fetus experiences pain in any capacity." Eight weeks. Two months. What kind of a monster would deliberately inflict excruciating pain and dismemberment on any living thing, let alone an infant? And yet, Abortions are performed on women every day!

Hand in hand with the abortion issue, is the question of Planned Parenthood funding which I'm 100% against. The fact that I am forced to turn over my hard earned money to an institutionalized eugenics program horrifies me no end.

The irony is that Planned Parenthood has PROVEN that the fetus (which literally means "little one") is NOT just a "ball of cells" by selling the organs of the children. If the fetus were just a ball of cells, there would be no value in the organs.

I have had countless miscarriages and have seen on the fetal monitor the difference between a living fetus and just a clump of cells. I've given birth to a child AND I've had uterine cancer. There is a WORLD of difference between the two.

As for the human part... I would like an Abortion Advocate to show me ONE instance of a human naturally giving birth to a giraffe... Or a horse.... Or a dragon.... Female humans ALWAYS naturally give birth to humans so as soon as that heart begins to beat, it is no longer just a "ball of cells".

So, uh, yeah. I am passionate about this issue. Shouldn't we all be?

### **Welfare?**

This is the topic with which conservative Christians get attacked every single day.

First off, yes, I am a devout Christian. Secondly, conservative Christians ARE NOT against helping people financially. We are opposed to robbing someone else to pay the government to "help people". As a severely handicapped female artist with a family and two elderly handicapped parents, I am fully cognizant of the trials involved with trying to make my way. We are scraping by with the only taxpayer "assistance" being my parents' Medicare, which, since they both worked and paid taxes almost their entire lives, I really don't feel guilty about.

What I AM against is government welfare. Shoving off the responsibility of taking care of the poor onto a government which cannot even balance its own budget is irresponsible at best. We have example after example of the government misusing our money. And liberals want to give

them more? These are the idiots who worked out a way to give themselves raises every year, even when the economy is tanking!

I don't know if it still holds true; however, about twenty years ago, only 25¢ of every \$1 in taxes actually went toward its designated target. The rest went to bureaucratic BS. Given the way our POTUS throws money around, I would be surprised if this amount hasn't decreased. Yeah, you know the limos, and jets, and million dollar vacations? BUT, if you take that dollar and just hand it to the person in need, both of you are MUCH better off. Heck, if you just hand 50¢ over to that person, they are twice richer than they were on government assistance! Plus, you have the added bonus of personal connection as well as being assured that the person you are giving it to isn't just working the system.

One misconception which many people possess is that the government has piles of money just laying around for them to hand out. They don't. Our government is currently operating at a huge deficit. They are so far in debt that some economists have suggested that even our descendants several generations down the line have no hope of paying it off. Where does that money come from? The taxpayer's pockets! So every time someone suggests raising the minimum wage or "helping the poor", they are actually saying, "Let's further impoverish another segment of society." Because, right now, there is a large group of workers just barely making it. Increase their tax burden by as much as a penny and they fall over the fiscal cliff.

Many liberals fall back on the argument that charity won't happen without government intervention. That is a crock. The states, churches and private charities handled things without the Federal government's help up until the Great Depression. And to this day, charities, churches, neighborhoods, and individuals are the ones providing aid to all those who fall through the cracks or who are struggling to make it the right way.

A person's economic value in society is tied to whether or not they can provide something to society. Their personal value is an entirely different subject and according to Christians, we are all important in the eyes of God. However, if a person does not provide equal goods or services to what he or she is consuming, then he/she is creating an economic imbalance which must be absorbed by somebody else. In other words, if I can't pay for it, you have to.

Problem is, we are fast approaching the point where more people are on government assistance than are actually working. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 34.5% of the U.S. population was on Welfare in 2012 (5). That is more than a third of the population. And what happens when everyone who is actually earning their way gets fed up and joins the welfare rolls? Who will take care of everyone then? Take a look at Greece. Too many people dependent on government subsidy and not enough people putting back into the system.

The difference between conservative Christians and liberals is that conservative Christians believe in using OUR OWN money and volunteering our own time & energy to help others while liberals want to steal from their neighbors to pay the government to "help others".

So, no to federal welfare.

### **Discrimination laws?**

The problem with discrimination laws is they are inherently discriminatory. They assume that groups of people can and should be identified based on ethnicity and then given more or less rights based upon that identity. The mere fact that one must identify your race when registering for college or filling out any applications is racist and yet we have minorities clamoring for more laws which segregate instead of integrate.

### **Feminism?**

Feminism is much needed in third world countries; however, in the United States it is just a vehicle for misandry. I'm the mother of a teenage daughter and a staunch anti-feminist. Any movement which seeks to belittle people based upon their gender is **WRONG!** I am perfectly fine with a movement which educates society about the value and importance of women. Unfortunately, that is **NOT** what the current feminist movement is about. Infringing upon the rights of one individual in order to "correct" the inequality of another is just as heinous as the initial injustice.

The most basic issue I have with American feminists is that they jump up and down about making things equal between the sexes. Women **AREN'T** the same as men and thus there is no equality to be had. Women are physiologically different. Period. Trying to level the playing field is inequitable to **BOTH** sides. Plus, I don't **WANT** to be treated like a man. Men do not suffer through a week of hell every month. Men do not get pregnant and have a tiny human take over their bodies for nine months culminating in a watermelon sized infant forcing its way out of their who has. I expect to be accorded a measure of respect for enduring all that.... Why should men be accorded the same respect for something they cannot (and in most cases would not) do?

Equality is **NOT THE ANSWER**. There is no such thing in nature! If there were, I would not have been born with spinal issues which have put me in a wheelchair. Trying to force it makes **ALL** parties miserable. What is more appropriate is that men and women be celebrated and honored for those qualities which make them unique.

No, I am not suggesting that women are only good for breeding and keeping house. Anyone who knows me, knows that the latter part of that equation is **NOT** my forté! I am suggesting that income, etc., be based on the efforts and achievements of the individual. **NOT** on sex or, as feminism would have it, on redistributing equally. If you get right down to it, feminism is a Marxist construct because what you receive is **NOT** based on what you earn; but, on what you "need". Unfortunately, our country is already full of those who "need"; but, can't seem to work and it is sinking us.

Go listen to Rush's song, "The Trees". Very simple song with a very deep message.

### **Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

I believe in allowing immigrants to enter after careful vetting and in a slow controlled manner. I do not agree with the Obama administration's current policy of allowing illegals to flood our streets. If an immigrant cannot pass our vetting process, then he or she has no business in our country period. And Amnesty is a huge slap in the face of the millions who came here through

the correct process, who work their tails off to be good citizens, studied for citizenship and passed the test.

Many liberals argue that all illegals are busily building and working to make our country better **WHEN THEY JUMPED AHEAD IN THE LINE** of all those who are currently **FOLLOWING THE FREAKING LAW** in order to legally obtain citizenship. So no. Sorry, not sorry. I personally know way too many **LEGAL** immigrants who are offended and enraged at the influx of illegal criminals being granted asylum. The illegals did **NOT EARN** their spot and it is an insult to all who did!

Not only that; but, the current policy allows for the rapid influx of questionable characters from countries who have frequently professed their hatred for Americans. Hello? Why are most of the Syrian refugees men of fighting age? Do we really **WANT** the kind of men who abandon women, children, and the elderly in a war zone?

What are your thoughts on foreign policy? What were the good things we have done in the last 15 years in foreign policy, what have we done wrong?

Since there is little that I agree with regarding the Obama Administration, I find this question problematic at best. Benghazi, the Iran deal, our declining relationship with Israel and Obama's support of Palestinians... Obama's Middle Eastern policy should have him up on charges for treason. Everything he has done in the Middle East has undermined the power of the U.S. and her allies.

**Is there anything I didn't ask about in this section that you think is important?**

Yes. Economics, taxation, & gun control are extremely important subjects to me.

I don't like ANY income tax because

- 1) It is involuntary;
- 2) It does not encourage savings;
- 3) It penalizes the honest and rewards those who make their money illegally;
- 4) It requires the IRS to be the government's bully and consequentially, allows the government to bully certain segments of the voting public
- 5) Collection is extremely costly, time intensive, and inefficient.

The only **FAIR** tax is a sales tax which only collects money with which the taxpayer can afford to part. And guess what? The multimillionaire who buys luxury cars, luxury furnishings, designer clothes, etc. ends up paying **MORE** than the single mom who is buying necessary items.

As for gun control, it should be readily apparent by now why I am thoroughly against gun control (if my ancestors had not owned guns, odds are, this country would still be governed by England). But here are some additional considerations:

- 1) There are already stringent laws in place forbidding murder. Have they eliminated murder? Why do liberals think more laws will reduce the illegal use of guns when there are already

regulations upon laws upon bureaucracy regarding the use of firearms? Logically, who are the people affected by additional legislation?

2) The US Constitution, the ULTIMATE law of this land, guarantees every American citizens right to bear arms. That is because our forefathers understood that an unarmed population is less likely to be victimized by both foreign and domestic threats.

3) Firearms are the great equalizer. It is an incontrovertible fact that the average man is stronger than the average woman. Firearms take brute strength out of the equation and gives the smaller weaker (or in my case, handicapped) individual an important form of defense. This personally affects me because my teenage sister was able to scare off an intruder with a shotgun. The idea that someone wants to remove access to the very thing which saved her from physical assault infuriates me. And there is only one reason that I can conceive of for someone to want to take my "equalizer" away. Not cool. Not cool at all.

4) It has been proven over and over that firearm prohibition actually increases crime. Google Kennesaw, GA, a community which requires gun ownership. I've been following their impressive crime stats since the 90s and have not been disappointed.

**What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

For one thing, making fun of the intelligence of the opponent, while fun and often satisfying, alienates instead of calling people to our cause. The nastier we are, the worse we look. I learned something very important from a Phillipino neighbor once. She had endured a lifetime of discrimination and yet was one of the sweetest people I've ever met. She told me, "There is only one way to truly beat your enemy. You have to 'kill' them with kindness. When other people see how kind you are in the face of opposition, they will champion you."

**Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

No. Conservatives need to be able to explain how excessive government hurts minorities and how limited government can help.

**Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

Definitely not.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain how the views of Republicans/Conservatives benefit your demographic?**

Yes. Outreach through the arts, literature, and music.

**What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change?**

Trying to legislate morality.

**Sydney**

**What is it about yourself that makes you a “minority conservative”?**

I am 18 old, lesbian and Buddhist.

**Why did you become a conservative?**

I grew up extremely conservative and as I got older and was able to form my own opinions, [I] decided that it still made the most sense.

**What would you say your political beliefs before that were? If any.**

Mainly that a less involved government is a better government. They shouldn't have any say in people's day to day personal life.

**What age were you when you became a conservative?**

Around 14, again I was raised very conservatively and that was around the age I started forming my own opinions

**Are your parents/family/friends mostly conservative or mostly liberal?**

All of my family is conservative, and my friends are a mix of liberal and conservative their political beliefs normally don't play a part in the relationship.

**As a minority conservative what has the reaction been from conservatives?**

A lot of questioning, why do believe this, that means you're not conservative if you believe in A,B,C. There has only been a small number of negative reactions and those normally include my sexuality and how that invalidates everything else I believe in.

**Similarly what has been the reaction from liberals?**

Liberals are overall more accepting of my views socially, but when government gets involved they normally take it very personally and question why I can support Conservatism as a whole when i disagree with multiple key points it has.

**Do you feel like being a conservative has had an effect on your personal life?**

It hasn't had too much of an impact, I normally don't discuss government or what I believe because the area I lived it is extremely liberal.

**What do you consider to be conservative principles?**

Personal responsibility  
Limited government  
Free markets  
Individual liberty

**What topics are you most questioned on by liberals/conservatives because of your minority status?**

The role the government should play in people day to day lives and homosexuality.

**What do you believe the job of the federal government is?**

Their job is to protect the people's rights and provide the freedom to pursue goals, that really should be their only job.



**What differences do you see between liberal and conservative views?**

Conservative views are normally backed by religion and the idea of that it is the individuals responsibility for what they do and how their lives go, Liberals normally rely on the government to take care of that responsibility and the government should play a large part in people's lives, they normally aren't affiliated with any specific religion.

**Why do you disagree with liberal political views?**

I don't think it's the governments job to plan on how my life turns out, I should be the only one responsible for my life, if I want something, I will work for it, until I achieve that goal. It isn't the governments job to give me handouts nor should i need their approval of things I do in my life; getting married, owning a gun etc.

**Are there are any topics you disagree with conservative views/agree with liberal views?**

Gay Marriage; marrying the love of my life doesn't affect any one else or their beliefs and I should not be expected to live my life trying to avoid offending anyone.  
Legalizing Marijuana for recreational and medical uses; neither tobacco nor Alcohol is illegal so why should weed be? All of the dangerous effects of cigarettes are published and people are allowed to make an educated or uneducated decision, the same should be allowed for weed especially since it has medicinal advantages. As a free American I should be able to make that decision myself.

**What is your opinion on Gay marriage?**

I see no problem with it, again if I want to get married then I should be allowed to and if someone doesn't agree with me because it's against their religion that's great, they don't have to agree with me. That's the great thing about opinions, we don't have to agree nor share them. Many religions agree that sex outside of wedlock is a sin, but no one is trying to make that illegal. It's the same concept, as a free individual i should get to decide these things for myself.

**Abortion?**

I don't agree with it at all, I believe that it is wrong, that being said my opinions should not affect anyone else. If you choose to murder your child than that is on you, however tax payer money should not be involved and the government should be involved as little as possible. It should not be covered by any kind of government aid because it is not a necessary part of life. I do think there should be some kind of regulation on if the father of the child wants to keep the baby, it isn't just the woman's decision and it shouldn't be treated like it.

**Welfare?**

I understand that majority of individuals will fall on hard times at some point of their lives and sometimes there isn't a thing to be done about it. So I have no problem with there being a welfare system put into place, however, I do think that it should be more stringent on who can be a part of it and for how long. I think there should be mandatory drug tests and you shouldn't be able to buy alcohol or cigarettes with it because it's meant to be a stepping stone, not something you rely on. There are too many people taking advantage of the welfare system.

**Discrimination laws?**

I believe that everyone should be treated equally, I don't agree that I can be fired simply because I am attracted to women, but at the same time schools and jobs are deciding who gets hired or accepted so that they can have the most diversity and not be accused of discrimination, so the laws backfire sometimes because they are trying to attain that equal playing field for people of all backgrounds. I think there is a time and a place for them, but I don't think that they should be very stringent but that hirings/acceptances should still be based on qualifications.

### **Feminism?**

I really don't see the need for Feminism in this country at this point in time. Yes, there was a need back in the 50's when women were fighting for equal rights, but now women in the eye of the law are equal. If a man is treating you lesser than him then you have every right to walk away, but I don't think women are at any point of disadvantage in the U.S. Feminism in other third world countries where women are still fighting just to be treated as human beings and not property I completely support, but not the radical Feminism that is in the U.S.

### **Immigration/Amnesty/Border Security?**

I think border security should be tighter, so that illegal aliens can't come into the U.S., but I do think there needs to be some reform so that it is easier for immigrants to come to the U.S. legally. I have no problem with immigrants coming to America because that's what America was, immigrants looking for a better life.

### **What are your thoughts on foreign policy/American involvement overseas?**

I am honestly not well educated when it comes to our foreign policy, but what little I have learned, it seems like America is expected to be the world's police and intervene whenever something happens. Yes, it's great to help (time and place) but we can't be the only one doing it, especially when we are so far into our own debt. I think we should concentrate on our own issues before we try to fix everyone else's.

### **What can Republicans do better/different in their outreach to minorities?**

I think they need to take religion out of it and be more specific in their policies. Explain what having a small government means and list the pros of having the less government intervention and how long term its better because if you just tell someone, especially young people, that they will be given something for free they will automatically think it's a good idea because they are being told that they be taken care of, what they aren't being told is how they'll be paying for it, and everyone else through taxes. Conservatives are stereotypically older, very traditional, religious adults. If you separate religion from it you would already have more people on board. If I am completely against Christianity and not educated on conservative policies, why would I want to support ideas that originally expanded from religious beliefs?

### **Do you feel like the Republican party/conservative do a good job of explaining their views to voters?**

I honestly can't really speak on this because I have not been keeping up with politics recently.

### **Do you feel like Republicans and conservatives do enough outreach to your demographic?**

No, the LGBT community is generally not conservative, a reason i believe again has a lot to do with the ties to religion it still has, why would I support something that tells me I'm evil and going to hell.

**Do you think there is a better way to explain how the views of Republicans/Conservatives benefit your demographic?**

Again, breaking down he polices for the younger generation and breaking it's with religious backgrounds. What parts of the Republican Party do you think need to change? The idea that the majority is based on religious beliefs. If there was no ties between politics and religion then there would not have been the whole debate about gay marriage because religion would not be tied to politics. Conservatives can be just as close-minded as liberals, i think there should be more of a balance with what I believe and what is my business to control others people's lives.

## Conclusion

*'Do you know, I always thought unicorns were fabulous monsters, too? I never saw one alive before!'*

*'Well, now that we have seen each other,' said the unicorn, 'if you'll believe in me, I'll believe in you.'*

*-Lewis Carroll; Through the Looking Glass*

During the 2016 GOP Primary Jeb Bush was verbally harassed by a can of walking spray tan and ignorance for answering a question in Spanish.(1) Now my feelings on the Bush family and Jeb's policies to the side, I applaud his attempts to reach out to minority voting blocs. The fact is that minority voters, especially among the racial minorities that I interviewed, all acknowledged a lack of outreach to their demographic as being part of why Republicans are having a problem pulling significant numbers from these demographics in elections. It's not that these demographics are unreachable or somehow inherently hardwired to vote for Democrats, as this book's existence shows, but they have been hoodwinked by generations of bad PR from conservatives, which includes both incompetent leadership and branding from our own side and consistent misrepresentation of the conservative message by liberals.

We are capable of overcoming this stigma and moving forward into a generation where one day the idea that someone who is black, female, gay (or any other number of "minority" statuses) will be able to set their political affiliation on Facebook as "Republican" or "Conservative" and not face an endless stream of questions as to "how they could possibly vote for *those* people" from the rest of their community.

We've already started on that path, with politicians, celebrities, and pundits like Mia Love, Marco Rubio, Caitlyn Jenner, Stacy Dash, Richard Grenell, Kelly Ayotte, and Nikki Haley. The concept of minority conservatives is slowly becoming more visible and less absurd. Condoleezza Rice and Clarence Thomas aren't the only names out there that come to mind anymore.

We're moving forward but there's more we can do to open Reagan's big tent further and welcome everyone who believes in the broad strokes of conservative ideology to come in and work with us to fix this country and insure it exists, in the spirit the Founders intended, for our future generations. We don't all need to look the same or even hold completely identical priorities or ideals for us to work together on that, we just need to agree on the most important things and work together to promote the ideas that will fix this country for everyone.

# Index

## **Chapter One: Being a Minority Conservative**

(1) <http://www.advocate.com/current-issue/2016/1/05/education-ms-jenner>

(2) Of all the things it might be reasonable to criticize Jenner or her family for, her gender, sexuality, and political stance are not one of them.

(3) And Jenner, who said “The media has kind of labeled me as the spokesperson for the trans community. That is not the case. I am only a spokesperson for my own journey.” in that same interview with Matthew Breen at The Advocate.

(4) By the way, the title of my blog was a satirical title that I dreamed up for the sheer pleasure of how much it pissed off liberals who found my blog. I actually have zero use for “gay pride” or “straight pride” or “white pride” or whatever other pride group you can come up with.

(5) [http://www.therebel.media/i\\_came\\_out\\_as\\_a\\_gay\\_conservative\\_in\\_vancouver](http://www.therebel.media/i_came_out_as_a_gay_conservative_in_vancouver)

(6) Combine the fear of ostracism from their community with the fear of ostracism from family, friends, or religious leaders that are more socially conservative and the fear of isolation becomes twice as strong.

(7) Consider that, regardless of how I feel about their policies, our party had at least one of each of these demographics running for the GOP Presidential Primary in 2016.

## **Chapter Two: What Does ‘Conservative’ Mean?**

(1) Individualism: the belief that the beliefs and needs of a single person are more important than the needs or beliefs of an entire society, community, or country.

(2) Collectivism: the belief that the needs or beliefs of the community, society, or country outweigh the importance of the needs or beliefs of the individual.

(3) Hence it is that such democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property; and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths. Theoretic politicians, who have patronized this species of government, have erroneously supposed that by reducing mankind to a perfect equality in their political rights, they would, at the same time, be perfectly equalized and assimilated in their possessions, their opinions, and their passions.

A republic, by which I mean a government in which the scheme of representation takes place, opens a different prospect, and promises the cure for which we are seeking. Let us examine the points in which it varies from pure democracy, and we shall comprehend both the nature of the cure and the efficacy which it must derive from the Union.

The two great points of difference between a democracy and a republic are: first, the delegation of the government, in the latter, to a small number of citizens elected by the rest; secondly, the greater number of citizens, and greater sphere of country, over which the latter may be extended.

The effect of the first difference is, on the one hand, to refine and enlarge the public views, by passing them through the medium of a chosen body of citizens, whose wisdom may best discern the true interest of their country, and whose patriotism and love of justice will be least likely to sacrifice it to temporary or partial considerations. Under such a regulation, it may well happen that the public voice, pronounced by the representatives of the people, will be more consonant to the public good than if pronounced by the people themselves, convened for the purpose.

- James Madison

(4) <http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/v1ch13s7.html>

(5) Which is one reason why the 17th Amendment was the dumbest decision ever.

(6) <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/amazing-chart-shows-thanks-to-capitalism-global-poverty-is-at-its-lowest-rate-in-history/article/2562224>

<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2011/04/why-does-economic-freedom-matter>

<http://www.aei.org/publication/charts-of-the-day-another-look-at-how-americas-middle-class-is-disappearing-into-higher-income-households/>

(7) I'm going to be getting audited after this book comes out, just watch.

### **Chapter Three: Outreach**

(1) and yes, I know the initiative this is part of was formed in 2013, but let's be honest here...we haven't seen much from the Growth and Opportunity Project since it was announced 3 years ago.

(2) Don't take my gratitude here as absolution for the absolutely abysmal way you've run the RNC in years previous...or absolution for how little backbone you had in standing up to Donald Trump while he destroyed the reputation of our party. One step forward and a whole dance number back on your part.

(3) So was Ayn Rand and we still read her books.

### **Reputation**

(1) Mostly in that the 1st amendment protects you from the government infringing on your freedom of speech, not your employer. Duh.

(2) Oh please, you all know which Bill I'm referring too.

(3) I would like to clarify that I don't sit in my house all day watching PBS and listening to classical music. I can rock out to top 40 as much as anyone.

### **Media**

(1) No, I'm not kidding, the whole last act (not to mention the kidnapping of Lau for interrogation) is about the Patriot Act/warrantless wiretapping. I wrote a damn good term paper on that fact and I got a great grade on it.

(2) <http://www.wired.com/2012/07/batman-guns/>

(3) [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-slayton/superman-illegal-alien\\_b\\_3268906.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-slayton/superman-illegal-alien_b_3268906.html)

(4) <http://www.nationalreview.com/feed/354064/bono-we-need-capitalism-end-poverty-greg-pollowitz>

(5) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAjKyEGDIXA>

### **Messaging**

(1) If you haven't heard of the Defenestration of Prague (The second one. Yes there were TWO famous defenestrations in Prague...Czechs hate windows apparently) then, I don't know, brush up on your Protestant reformation era history.

(2) <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/425212/donald-trump-eminent-domain-wonderful>

(3) <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/07/29/graphics-slideshow-changing-attitudes-on-gay-marriage/>

### **Community Organizing**

(1) <http://eml.berkeley.edu/~groland/pubs/IEA%20papervf.pdf>

(2) Basically find someone they won't want to shoot. Regardless of the saying, people love to shoot the messenger.

(3) <http://www.nber.org/papers/w17381>

### **Interviews**

(1) The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;--And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

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(2) [www.whattoexpect.com/pregnancy/your-baby/week-16/ear.aspx](http://www.whattoexpect.com/pregnancy/your-baby/week-16/ear.aspx)

(3) <http://informahealthcare.com/doi/abs/10.3109/14767059209161911>

(4) <http://www.doctorsonfetalpain.com/>

(5) <http://www.cnsnews.com/commentary/terence-p-jeffrey/354-percent-109631000-welfare>

## **Conclusion**

(1) Trump, I'm talking about Donald Trump.

## Author Bio



Meredith is a slightly politically obsessed podcast host and writer. She can't go a day without checking her news feed or talking about politics somewhere on the internet. Besides politics she has an obsession with fairy tales from around the world and is a DC comics fan.

She lives in Arizona with her family, a dog with anxiety issues, and 3 asshole cats that she didn't want, but somehow adopted anyway.