

Alabama Eagle Forum Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Thank you for offering yourself for public service through elected office. Since only an informed electorate can make sound decisions, we ask you to state your positions so that we can distribute them to your potential constituents. Please indicate your position with an A (Agree) or D (Disagree), fill in appropriate blanks, and sign each page. If you wish to clarify or expand on any question, please do so with an attachment. Only fully completed questionnaires will be shared by Eagle Forum of Alabama.

Candidate Name _____ Rick Pate _____

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Phone _____ 334-300-0700 _____ Email _____ rick@patelandscape.com _____

Candidate for _____ Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries _____

PLEASE RETURN BY April 15, 2018. You may mail to: Eagle Forum of Alabama, 4200 Stone River Circle, Birmingham, AL 35213. You can also scan and e-mail the questionnaire to deborah@alabamaeagle.org . For clarification or questions, call 205-879-7096.

State Government

1. There is a great need to control government spending and reduce waste in government programs at every level. I pledge to reduce spending and increase accountability in state government spending. Here are three state government programs or agencies I would cut in Alabama.

- Agree 1) *AL ABC Board* 2) *Funding state lobbyist* 3) *state funding w/o means testing*
 Disagree

2. The 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution limits the powers of the federal government by reserving all powers not explicitly granted to it for the states. I will oppose all federal grants or any legislation seeking control or involvement from the federal government.

- Agree
 Disagree

3. *I do not support calls for an Article V convention*, which could put the rights guaranteed by our U. S. Constitution in jeopardy. I understand that while the states can request a convention, Article V says that the convention must be called by Congress and therefore Congress would set the rules for the Convention, not the states. I oppose state legislation which claims to control any proposed constitutional convention.

- Agree
 Disagree

Sanctity of Life

4. An unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. I pledge to work to fully defund Planned Parenthood at the state level and all other abortion providers receiving state funding. Life clearly begins at conception. I disagree with the majority opinion of Roe v. Wade. I support its being overturned by the United States Supreme Court.

- Agree
 Disagree

pg. 1 Candidate: _____



Alabama Eagle Forum Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Family Issues

5. Gambling corrupts government, adds no product to the economy, is not a dependable source of government revenue, and is addictive and detrimental to family and community life. I oppose all efforts to expand gambling, and I support enforcement of present criminal laws.

- Agree
 Disagree

6. Preschoolers prosper best in the consistent loving care of parents or relatives. I will oppose any proposals that mandate attendance at a universal state baby-sitting program in the guise of prekindergarten. I will also oppose expansion of pre-k to include earlier years of a child's development.

- Agree
 Disagree

7. I support the protection of parental rights regarding any underage child who wishes to pursue transgender identity and/or treatment against the will of the parent.

- Agree
 Disagree

Education

8. Parents have a fundamental right and responsibility to direct the education of their children. Schools should therefore be required to get prior informed consent from parents (opt-in, not opt-out) before they can conduct any surveys, physical or psychological exams, or provide immunizations, medication or referrals.

- Agree
 Disagree

9. I support local/state control of education curriculum and therefore oppose the Common Core State Standards Initiative (renamed in Alabama as the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards) that centralizes education decisions at the national level. Therefore, I commit to vote for the repeal of Common Core (ACCRS). Instead of improving academic achievement nationally or in Alabama, by every measure common core has drastically lowered student scores, reversing an upward trend in our state. There is no Constitutional authority for national standards, national curriculum or national assessments. Schools should be accountable to parents and students. I commit to work for repeal of Common Core and advocate on this issue in my position.

- Agree
 Disagree

10. I support passing legislation at the state level to provide privacy protections for students and their families. I oppose the creation of any type of state longitudinal data system regardless of what state agency controls the system. I oppose the collection of PII (personally identifiable information) unless it is directly used for a legitimate academic purpose with consent.

- Agree
 Disagree



Alabama Eagle Forum Candidate Questionnaire 2018

11. Alabama statute (16-40A-1) requires abstinence-based education whenever sex education is included in public school curricula. I fully support this law and the requirement of abstinence education for our students. I do not support groups such as Southern Poverty Law Center or Planned Parenthood teaching any classes or providing lesson plans in Alabama's schools.

- Agree
 Disagree

12. Parents and all voters have the right to vote for their elected members of the State Board of Education and thus to hold them accountable for the policies they enact. I oppose all efforts to remove this right from the people by moving to an appointed board.

- Agree
 Disagree

Property Rights

13. Private property rights and private ownership of real property must be protected. I support an amendment to the Alabama Constitution and/or statutory changes to ensure private property rights are protected from eminent domain abuse.

- Agree
 Disagree

Taxation

14. I will oppose all tax increases including a gas tax, infrastructure tax, or education tax instead I will support cutting wasteful government programs to meet needs. Our state government agencies and programs have grown too large and most should never have been created in the first place.

- Agree
 Disagree

15. Tax incentives and economic regulations should be applied to all companies equally so that no companies benefit while others bear the financial burden. Crony capitalism violates free market principles by allowing select businesses to benefit from government regulation. The free market system can only work when we cut government regulations and ensure businesses have the freedom to fail as well as the freedom to succeed. The free market when allowed to flourish results in greater economic prosperity for all.

- Agree
 Disagree

16. We must eliminate many occupational licenses because they interfere directly with a private citizens' right to work and keep families in poverty. Name one occupational license that currently is a requirement in Alabama that you would eliminate now.

- Agree
 Disagree

1) ~~BAAP~~ Cosmetology



Alabama Eagle Forum Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Second Amendment

17. I recognize and fully agree that the Second Amendment guarantees each individual citizen the right to bear arms for personal security and as a check on government abuse. I support a Constitutional Carry bill (concealed carry). Citizens should never pay a fee or for a license to exercise their Constitutional rights.

- Agree
 Disagree

Health Care

18. I oppose all government health care mandates at the state and federal level controlling individual health care decisions. I support free market solutions in health care. Health care decisions should be made by private citizens and their doctors without government interference. I strongly support the right of private citizens to buy insurance across state lines. I will do all I can at the state level to support a free market health care system without government interface or obstruction to care.

- Agree
 Disagree

Freedom of Religion and Speech

19. No Alabama business owner should be forced by the state or federal government to violate a deeply held religious belief. The First Amendment protections for freedom of religion and freedom of speech in the Bill of Rights mean that a Jewish baker should never be forced through government coercion to bake a cake with a neo-nazi symbol. I will fight any state action or legislation which compels speech or forces individual citizens to violate their deeply held religious beliefs.

- Agree
 Disagree

20. Only unwanted speech needs protecting. I will not support a hate crime law or hate speech law at the state level because they target speech, not criminal activity. They give the government the authority to ban as well as target certain types of speech in violation of the First Amendment. The government would abuse this power and act arbitrarily. Diversity and free speech are paramount in a free society and government should never have the authority to control the free market of ideas. I will support legislation that ensures the First Amendment is fully respected on college campuses in Alabama.

- Agree
 Disagree

