

Addendum #3 Sample Proposals

Proposal No. 0101

Author: Commissioner Alpha
Delegation: YMCA

TOPIC OF CONCERN:

This proposal calls for the actual purchase and ownership of the publicly and privately held utilities; natural gas, electric, and water, by the United States Government.

JUSTIFICATION:

The constant flux of utility prices is hurting the American Economy and every American citizen. It is estimated that for the fiscal year of 1999-2000 that rolling blackouts and other such utility shortages cost American Businesses 50 billion dollars in lack of productivity. If these utilities could be owned and controlled benevolently by the U.S. Government (Who would act in the interests of its citizens) instead of malevolently controlled by such utility companies as Pacific Gas and Electric or Southern California Edison (Who are merely out to make profit), the consumer would benefit from low, stable, fair utility prices. Take for example the U.S. Postal Service. Every one trusts the Postal Service to carry their mail to their desired destination quickly, efficiently, and carefully, anywhere in the world, for low and standard prices. This is an example of the kind of stableness and security that the U.S. Government can give companies when they own them. Once the Utilities are owned, every American citizen can wake up assured that their gas stoves will heat, electric lights will light up, and water will run.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

The purchase and ownership of all utility companies by the United States Government. Federal standards, prices, and production created and implemented to ensure fairness, equality, and stability to the Utilities.

Proposal No. 0102

Author: Commissioner Beta
Delegation: YMCA

TOPIC OF CONCERN:

The increase in the accessibility of oral contraceptives.

JUSTIFICATION:

Overpopulation, welfare spending, unplanned pregnancies and the debate over abortion are all problems that could easily be assuaged by increasing the accessibility of oral contraceptives. Each year, a larger percent of our population is becoming sexually active and far too many of these people are not protecting themselves. 40% of all pregnancies are not planned and the majority of these surprised mothers feel that the reason is because it is too difficult to get daily birth control pills or the "morning after" pill.

Out of all western industrialized nations, the United States has the highest rate of teenage pregnancies. Many teenagers are sexually active, yet they will not get their parents' required consent so that they can obtain the oral contraceptives needed to avoid pregnancies.

Science has provided us not only with female birth control pills, but those for males, as well. By making all oral contraceptives over the counter, the price for these products will drop allowing them to be purchased by more people. These types of oral contraception are not abortion pills for they prevent the fertilized egg from attaching itself to the uterus lining. This would exclude such abortion pills as RU-486.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

Congress shall pass legislation mandating that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) add all forms of oral contraception (for men and women) to the over the counter list.



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Proposal No. 0103

Author: Commissioner Gamma
Delegation: YMCA

TOPIC OF CONCERN:

This proposal will change US foreign policy, so that financial aid, as well as global marketing opportunities, will not be allowed to countries, which violate the basic human rights.

JUSTIFICATION:

In the world today, many governments abuse, brutalize, and sometimes, slaughter their peoples without punishment. In Iraq, the government has been oppressive to various social groups within. The Kurds, for example, have been attacked variously by chemical weapons, launched by the government in which they obtained citizenship. In India, many of the young women are forced into slavery, and the government has done nothing to intervene. These are not rare cases, or flukes, in fact, according to Amnesty International, 35% of countries violate people's human rights, on a wide scale. This should not be allowed. Currently, there is no real punishment for this. In fact, the relationships with some of these countries and the US have grown as opposed to diminished. Though China commits human rights violations on a daily basis, the trading between China, and the US has only increased. In the political world today, many countries are still trying to develop their technological capacities, among many other goals. In order to allow this development, the country relies on its economy. Because of this, our main tactic for punishment of these countries that cause these violations should include an attack on the economy of the country.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

Specifically, we should cut off all foreign aid to all those countries found to violate basic human rights. Basic human rights include, but are not limited to: right to live, right to eat and equal opportunity rights. This restriction would be sustained until they are found to have discontinued these violations. Secondly, the countries found to violate basic human rights will also have all goods trading with the US to be cut off.

It is very difficult to make an accurate estimate of the cost of this proposal, but my rough estimate is that this would cost the US 3 billion dollars to implement. It must also be taken into consideration that this would be a good long-term investment, because generally, countries that have strong human rights standards, usually also have stronger economies, which means increased trading revenues between those countries and the US.

Proposal No. 0104

Author: Commissioner Delta
Delegation: YMCA

TOPIC OF CONCERN:

Destruction of Federally Protected Land

JUSTIFICATION:

Drilling for oil in the Tongass National Forest will buy us a slim 25 years in the race for fuel. This section of already federally protected land, is a myriad of species of trees, vegetation, mammals, insects, and fungi coexisting in one of the largest and most viable natural forests in the Northern hemisphere. Drilling for oil involves the construction of roads, emission of pollutants near the mark of 200 tons, desecration of habitat, and direct violation of previous sanctions placed on the National Forests in Alaska. The Tongass is only one of hundreds of National Forests at risk of detrimental construction and stripping of resources. The efforts of preservation and restoration are being erased by the work of timber, oil, and road excavation through areas already deemed shielded from such devastation.

The price for a small amount of an already dwindling natural resource, is the destruction of old growth trees and canopy life and a severe and irreversible staunch of biodiversity. Although society's conservatives often question the relevance of environmental problems, the unique ecosystems such as the Tongass forest in southeastern Alaska, have already proven to be a source of medicinal and ecological progress. The conservation of wild lands is essential for their own development and evolution as well as developing humanity's ability to be interdependent with our environment. The fight for conservation is futile if environmental protection can be undone. America, as well as the world and its entire species, is at risk of forever losing precious land and building an environmental nightmare for our future.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

All road construction, site building, and drilling action or plans on any federally protected habitat will be ceased immediately upon approval of this proposal. Any area of habitat, currently or under future law, deemed federally protected is guaranteed that designated preservation indefinitely without possible disturbance from roll back legislation voiding or limiting the conservation.



Addendum #3 Sample Proposals

Proposal No. 0105

Author: Commissioner Epsilon
Delegation: YMCA

TOPIC OF CONCERN:

Canceling the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program and transferring funds used for it to school activities such as art, theater, music, and sports programs in schools.

JUSTIFICATION:

A three year, \$300,000 study concluded that the effect of DARE's core curriculum is statistically insignificant in preventing drug use. According to a Research Triangle Institute study commissioned by the Justice Department, \$750 million a year is spent on DARE.

Children involved in extra-curricular programs such as art, theater, music, and sports have been shown to be less likely to take drugs, than those involved in no extra-curricular activities. Many schools have been forced to cut back programs because of lack of funding.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

Cancel the DARE program and transfer the funds used by it to extra-curricular school programs such as art, theater, music and sports.

Proposal No. 0106

Author: Commissioner Zeta
Delegation: YMCA

TOPIC OF CONCERN:

Voting age should be lowered to 16 years of age.

JUSTIFICATION:

Lowering the voting age to 16 would increase the interest in politics among young people and they would become more active if they were able to cast a real vote for candidates and proposals.

A voting age of sixteen could be the most effective way for long ignored problems for both young people and adults to be better addressed. . Young people have a strong interest in improving education, reducing poverty, preventing crime and protecting the environment. Lowering the voting age is one of the only successful ways for teens to have their voices heard and politicians to listen to their concerns.

Sixteen-year-olds are mature enough to make the right decisions on which candidate or proposal to vote for at the polls. Young people are mature enough to have a driver's license, mature enough to work at a paid job and old enough to be charged for an adult crime in the Justice System. An adult is a person of age 18 or older, yet the justice system can charge a 16-year-old with an adult crime. If young people can be charged with an adult crime, the voting age should be lowered to sixteen.

Lowering the voting age to sixteen can be a small but meaningful step in raising voter turnout in the United States. A lower voting age will encourage young people about the political process and can increase their interest in voting. This increased interest will be passed on to their parents through after-school and dinner table conversations. Nonvoting parents will be encouraged by their children's enthusiasm to vote.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

The Voting age in the United States should be changed and lowered to age 16 for all elections starting January 1, 2002.



Addendum #3 Sample Proposals

Proposal No. 0107

Author: Commissioner Omega
Delegation: YMCA

TOPIC OF CONCERN:

Election of members of the House of Representatives under a Mixed Member Proportional voting system.

JUSTIFICATION:

The House of Representatives was established as a means of representation for the common people. However, under the current voting system, legislative seats are not distributed in proportion to the share of the popular vote. Our system, called the plurality or “winner-take-all” method, gives the seats to those candidates who receive a majority of the votes, therefore “throwing out” all votes cast in favor of the losing candidates. The result is a legislature that is mainly composed of Democratic or Republican white males. Third parties, women, and racial minorities are under-represented. Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) combines two forms of voting systems, creating a more diverse House which better represents the opinion of the population. Each citizen receives two votes: one for a district representative and another for their favorite party. They also rank the candidates from their party’s list. First, one representative is elected in the “winner-take-all” fashion through the district vote. This assures equal geographic representation of each district and state. Next, the other representatives are determined by proportional representation (PR): each political party is given a number of seats proportional to the number of votes it received. The candidates with the most votes become their parties’ representatives in the House. For example, in a one hundred-seat legislature, if thirty Democrats were elected in district elections and the Democratic Party received forty percent of the vote, then the Democrats will occupy a total of forty seats in the House. Thirty of these are district representatives. From the Democratic Party’s list, the ten candidates who were most highly ranked will fill the remaining seats.

In countries where forms of Proportional Representation are used to elect candidates into office, voter turnout rates are much higher than in our nation. It is common for European democracies to have seventy-five to ninety percent of eligible voters cast ballots. In the United States, however, voter turnout is around fifty percent. Many citizens feel that their votes will

not affect the outcome under our current voting system. With MMP, people will be more likely to vote knowing that they can choose both a district representative and a party candidate. Also in these countries, the percent of voters who elect candidates of choice are typically high. In Germany, where an MMP system is used, over seventy-five percent of the eligible voters actually voted candidates into office, while in the United States only twenty-three percent of eligible voters elected their candidates of choice. MMP combines proportional results and geographic representation to determine the winning candidates. Fewer votes are required to elect representatives in the PR system; therefore, third parties, women, and racial minorities are virtually guaranteed seats in the House.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

The House of Representatives shall conduct elections for office under a Mixed Member Proportional voting system. Voters will be more likely to elect their choice candidates, and voter turnout will increase by as much as forty percent. Third parties, women, and racial minorities will be better represented in the House and will work to create legislation that benefits them.

