

## Founding Board

**George McGovern**  
*Fmr U.S. Senator*

**Barry Goldwater**  
*U.S. Senator*

**Geraldine Ferraro**  
*Fmr U.S. Representative*

**Michael Dukakis**  
*Former Governor*

**Bill Frist**  
*U.S. Senator*

**Bill Frenzel**  
*Fmr U.S. Representative*

**Peggy Lampl**  
*Fmr Executive Director, League of Women Voters*

**Jim Leach**  
*U.S. Representative*

**John Sununu**  
*U.S. Senator*

**Charles Mathias**  
*Fmr U.S. Senator*

**Edward Brooke**  
*Fmr U.S. Senator*

**Barbara Lee**  
*U.S. Representative*

**Claudine Schneider**  
*Fmr U.S. Representative*

**Kenneth Adelman**  
*Dir., US Arms Ctrl & Disarmament Agency, Reagan Admin.*

**Chaka Fattah**  
*U.S. Representative*

**Jon Trachta**  
*Attorney*

**Marvin Cohen**  
*Fmr FAA Chair, Civil Aeronautical Board, Carter Admin.*

**William Lacy Clay, Jr.**  
*U.S. Representative*

**Irene Natividad**  
*Fmr Pres., National Women's Political Caucus*

**Pat Schroeder**  
*Fmr U.S. Representative*

**Gordon H. Smith**  
*U.S. Senator*

**Tom Chandler**  
*Attorney*

**Adelaide Elm**  
*Historian*

**William Clinger**  
*Fmr U.S. Representative*

**Dan O'Neill**  
*Attorney*

**William Proxmire**  
*Fmr U.S. Senator*

**John Hagelin**  
*Fmr Pres. Candidate, Natural Law Party*

**Susan Brandes**  
*Community Activist*

**Mary Dent Crisp**  
*Fmr Co-Chair, Nat'l Republican Party*

**Newt Gingrich**  
*Fmr U.S. Representative*

**Sonia Jarvis**  
*Fmr Exec. Dir., Nat'l Coalition on Black Voter Participation*

**Marianne Jennings**  
*Professor of Business Law*

**Brent Steel**  
*Political Scientist*

**Kyle Dell**  
*Political Scientist*

**John Echohawk**  
*Native American Rights Fund*

**Henry Kenski**  
*Political Scientist*

**Richard Kimball**  
*President, Project Vote Smart*



# PROJECT VOTE SMART

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## Wyoming Candidates' Political Courage Tested

*Great Divide Ranch, MT*—Project Vote Smart released the 2008 Wyoming Political Courage Test results today for the Wyoming general election candidates. Only forty-three percent (43%) of congressional candidates and twenty-nine percent (29%) of the state legislative candidates were willing to reveal their positions on the issues that are of top concern to Wyoming voters through the Political Courage Test. The Test covers such issues as budget, taxes, environment and energy, health care, immigration, and international issues.

A ten year national study of candidates' willingness to expose their positions on the issues was completed in 2006. The study revealed that since 1996, when 72% of congressional candidates were willing to answer issue questions, they have become less and less likely to expose their positions through the Test, with a national average of only 48% for the 2006 election cycle. Moreover, in 2006, only 26% of incumbents responded to the Test. The congressional return rate for Wyoming has dropped from 100% in 2002 to its current level, but this still marks an improvement from the low of 33% in 2004.

The Political Courage Test asks all candidates one central question: "Are you willing to tell citizens your positions on the issues you will most likely face on their behalf?" Candidates who reply "yes" to that question are presented with several issue categories in which they are asked to indicate support for given principles or reply using their own language entirely. In addition, candidates may leave up to 30% of the issue areas blank.

The Political Courage Test is just one of several resources available on Project Vote Smart's website ([votesmart.org](http://votesmart.org)). Also available are campaign finance data, biographical information, voting records, special interest groups' ratings, candidate speeches and public statements, and contact information on close to 40,000 candidates and elected officials at the presidential, congressional, gubernatorial, state legislative and local levels.

Since 2000, Project Vote Smart has found that party leaders and consultants from both major parties are advising candidates not to respond to the Test for two primary reasons: it will limit the candidates' ability to control their campaign messages, and it will expose them to opposition research.

(continued)

(Partial Listing)

Richard Kimball, president of Project Vote Smart responds to this cynical attitude. “While Project Vote Smart doesn't need the candidates' cooperation to get the goods on them, the public is always interested in finding out which of their candidates have enough courage to expose themselves to their opponents in order to help voters. One campaign consultant told us, ‘Our campaign only answers issue questions if they come with a campaign contribution or endorsement.’”

The Political Courage Test has been created, designed, and drafted by more than 200 of the nation’s most prominent journalists, political scientists, and leaders of the major and third political parties.

The results of each candidate’s Political Courage Test may be obtained from:

- The toll-free Voter’s Research Hotline (1-888-VOTE-SMART)
- The Vote Smart Web site ([www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org))

Project Vote Smart is a national research organization founded by national leaders such as Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, Michael Dukakis and Newt Gingrich. It is funded entirely through foundation grants and the individual contributions of 45,000 members.

Following are the results of the 2008 Wyoming Political Courage Test.