

LIFESPAN 2016
TOWN HALL MEETING
FIRST SESSION
September 15, 2016

1. Presidential politics this time around are different than ever before.. We have a choice between two hyper negative candidates- - and in reality one of them is going to be our next president- - whether we like it or not.
2. But the real choice is not between the lesser of two evils in the candidates.. The real choice is exactly what do we think that government in a democracy such as ours should be all about.
3. Here are several questions that we should ask ourselves:
 - a. Just what is the role of government, after all?
 - (1) To provide for the safety and security of its people?
 - (a) Against foreign threats?
 - (b) Against domestic crime and violence?
 - (2) To provide for the economic necessities of its people?
 - (a) How best to do this- - private enterprise or government control of the economy? - - modest vs. total regulation- - or degrees in the interregnum??
 - (b) A governmental safety net- - yes or no?
 - (c) Health care- - proper governmental role?
 - (3) To provide an environment where the people can do these things for themselves?
 - (a) What does this mean, exactly?
 - (b) What would such an environment look like?
 - b. How should government finance itself?
 - (1) Taxation philosophy- - income vs. consumption taxes?
4. Whatever the answers to these questions may be, which of the two- - or three- - or four- - political philosophies [Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, Green Party] - -rampant in our land today is best suited to accomplish whatever it is that we want our government to do?
5. And, remember, ours is a federal system with a separation of powers.
 - a. Horizontal at the Federal level- - -- executive, legislative, judicial
 - b. Vertical- - from bottom up- - e.g. States vs. Federal allocation of powers.
6. The key to a successful Town Hall Meeting this year will be to attack the issues that most of you want to discuss and learn about. Tell us what those issues are, and Ray and I will do our best to research the various positions on these issues and bring that to you in as non-partisan a manner as possible.