

ANDY APLIKOWSKI - Candidate Responses—Senate District 35

OVERVIEW: This questionnaire should be completed and turned in at the Candidate Interviews during the Search and Nominations meeting on Nov. 3 or Nov. 5, 2015. It will be forwarded in its entirety (with no modifications) to all SD 35 Delegates and Alternative prior to the Nov. 14 Endorsing Convention.

1. Explain your views on Right-to-Life issues:

I believe that life begins at conception. I would work to defund Planned Parenthood and all taxpayer funded abortions. Abortion clinics should face the same scrutiny as any other medical venues including inspections and licensing. The recent news that the U of M has purchased baby parts is absolutely reprehensible. I will vote against ALL funding to the U of M until an investigation clears the matter up. Finally, I am concerned that a euthanasia initiative will be brought up in the near future. I believe end-of-life plans are best handled by the family, and will oppose any legislation or efforts to create “death panels”, or mandate quality of life measures for medical procedures.

2a. What is your definition of Marriage?

Marriage is only between one man and one woman. When the Star Tribune ran the story how Sen. Petersen was co-authoring the bill to legalize gay marriage, I showed up at his office, in person, the next day to express my disappointment with him. I was on the 2012 Nominating Committee and we specifically asked about marriage. He had promised us he supported traditional marriage. He let us down.

2b. How strongly will you work on legislation relating to maintaining our Religious liberties?

Very. We must protect the rights of individuals. I am deeply concerned that churches, bakers, photographers, venues, and others who perform wedding services are going to be targeted and sued. From my business experience I know first-hand that Government provides grants to send secret shoppers out to entrap businesses for Fair Housing and finance laws with huge penalties. Government agencies “secret shop” for alcohol and tobacco violations to level fines and revoke licenses all the time. I’m concerned that Government will try to target people for their deeply held religious beliefs in order to bring high profile discrimination suits based on activist court decisions. I will support a religious liberty protection bill like RFRA (Religious Freedom Restoration Act) to protect individuals and their businesses from being prosecuted under the First Amendment.

3. Do you support the Second Amendment (the Right for citizens to “Bear-Arms”)?

Yes. I have a permit to carry and own several firearms. I enjoy recreational shooting and believe that every law-abiding citizen has the right to self-defense. I would fight to prevent any attempt of gun registration or ammunition tracking. The Second Amendment is also a fundamental right to restrain tyrannical government and is one of the most important Amendments to the Constitution. It shall not be infringed by any level of government.

4. What is your position on legalizing marijuana?

I do not support further legalization of marijuana for any use and we should study the current medicinal marijuana program in Minnesota and see if it is working or not. Because Minnesota is a border state, and has several major interstates running through it, attempts to sell, distribute, traffic, or grow marijuana need to remain serious crimes. My wife and I donate to Minnesota Teen Challenge to help get those struggling with drug abuse get back on the right path.

5. If elected, name one action item you plan to do in order to reduce the size/cost of Minnesota government:

If I could pick just one I'd pick: Abolish the Met Council. It has grown far larger and more intrusive than it was ever intended, and it is the poster child for government growth in Minnesota. What started as a regional council to make sure sewer pipes lined up is now a massive agency social engineering the metro area through light rail and high-density housing. With 21st century advances, cities and counties can easily plan sewer and road alignments online. We don't need an unelected multi-billion dollar bureaucracy with 4,000 employees, and the powers to tax and regulate telling cities what they can and cannot do, or forcing low-income housing into the suburbs.

6. What other political party endorsements are you seeking? (Such as Libertarian or Constitution Party.)

None. I would only accept additional endorsements from like-minded conservative groups (Such as MCCL, MN Gun Owners PAC, NRA, etc.). I will not accept endorsements from groups that fundamentally disagree with small government principles and seek to expand the obligations of government (Such as Unions, liberal lobbyists, etc.)

7. Did you vote for a majority of Republican candidates on your ballot in 2012 and 2014?

I vote a straight GOP ticket in general elections, and vote for the endorsed candidates in the primary. More importantly, I've been helping Republican candidates earn and defend the endorsement for the last 13 years. I've also worked for endorsed Republican candidates in Primaries and the General since 2002.

8. If you do not win the Republican Endorsement for Senate District 35, will you support the Endorsed candidate regardless of who it is? Furthermore, will you pledge not to run in a Primary against the Endorsed candidate, or as an independent or write-in candidate in the general election, nor seek or accept the Endorsement of any other party.

I will abide by the party endorsement. If someone else is endorsed, I will not force a primary. I am a Republican, I would never consider running as anything else.

9. Has everything you've stated in this questionnaire "true and correct," to the best of your knowledge?

Yes. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process. It's been very different to be the candidate after volunteering for them for so long, and the democratic process is a privilege we as Minnesotans and Americans are blessed to have.

	<i>Andy Aplikowski</i>	
<i>Your Signature</i>	<i>PRINT Your Name</i>	<i>Date</i>