

DOTHAN EAGLE QUESTIONNAIRE

ANSWERS BY BOBBY N. BRIGHT

NAME: Bobby N. Bright, Sr.

AGE: 55

PLACE OF RESIDENCE: 246-G North Court Street, Montgomery, Alabama, 36104

MARITAL STATUS: Wife: Lynn Clardy Bright

Children: Neal – 25

Lisa – 22

Katie – 19

PARTY: Democratic

PUBLIC OFFICE EXPERIENCE (IF ANY): I was elected Mayor of the City of Montgomery in 1999, and I am currently serving my third term.

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT: Member of Kiwanis Club of Montgomery; Former member Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Montgomery; Member of Hugh Maddox Inns of Court; Member of Sons of the American Revolution; Member in Good Standing of the Alabama State Bar Association; Former member of the Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Alabama State Bar Association; Member in Good Standing, Supreme Court of Alabama; Member in Good Standing, all Federal Courts in State of Alabama; Member in Good Standing of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, Atlanta, Georgia; Member in Good Standing of the Supreme Court of the United States of America; Former Member, Board of Trustees for St. James School, Montgomery, Alabama; Serves on Board of Directors for Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce; Serves on Advisory Board for Auburn University at Montgomery; 2001 participant, United States Department of Defense, Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC); 2004 Graduate of Leadership Alabama; Former Member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors; Member, Governor's Homeland Security Taskforce; Vice-Chairman of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission for Alabama; Member of Wright Flyers (civil support group for Maxwell/Gunter Air Force Base); Member, Committee of 100 (100 Business men and women of Montgomery); Board of Directors, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, Alabama; Board of Directors of the Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, Alabama; Honorary Chairman of the Board for Teen Pregnancy Commission; Honorary Member of Southeastern Livestock Exposition; Chairman, Metropolitan Planning Organization for Montgomery, Autauga, and Elmore Counties; Charter Member of the Board of Directors of Envision 2020 (community planning organization); Serves on Board of Directors for Metro YMCA – 2000 to present; Member of Alabama League of Municipalities; served on Legislative Committee 2003-2004; Executive Committee 2004-2007; and served as Vice Chairman Legislative Committee 2007-present.

CHURCH AFFILIATION: Member and Deacon of the First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama

(1) Do you support the United States' continued involvement in Iraq? If so, why, and to what extent should the U.S. remain involved? If not, why not, and what would be the best way to withdraw the troops?

Yes, I support our troops continued involvement in Iraq but only to the extent necessary to bring the situation to a point where our troops can leave with dignity and honor. I am so proud of the men and women who have served our country heroically. They have done everything we have asked of them. We are in the sixth year of this war. There have been over 4,000 American lives lost and we have spent over half a trillion dollars. We must change course in Iraq because the status quo is unacceptable. We must require the Iraqi government to take immediate steps to assume their rightful role as a sovereign nation. As long as they are allowed to remain dependent on us with an open-ended commitment to stay by the United States, it will be more difficult to formulate a plan for our departure. I support a responsible plan that will bring our troops home with dignity and honor. Any further resources which our nation spends for the defense and rebuilding of Iraq should be in the form of a loan secured by the vast petroleum resources owned and controlled by the Iraqi government. Our economy is being significantly impacted by the cost of this war. We need those dollars here in America.

The war in Iraq has had a serious impact on our military and our brave men and women deserve all the support possible. All activities of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) should be limited until the war is ended. The capabilities of our military should not be reduced or compromised during wartime. In Congress, I will be steadfast in my support for rebuilding and strengthening our military.

(2) Do you believe the government should be involved in providing assistance to lending institutions harmed by the sub-prime lending crisis? Please explain. Should assistance be provided to borrowers in danger of losing their home to foreclosure?

It is not the duty of government to bail out or reward the irresponsible actions of individuals or businesses. Government assistance to lenders should be considered only for those lenders who have acted without intent to defraud and only as necessary to stabilize our economy and protect our nation's financial structure. We should investigate and when appropriate prosecute those lenders who committed fraud against innocent families.

In an effort to assist deserving borrowers who are victims of this crisis, assistance must be limited to homeowners, not speculators, and must not reward people who were irresponsible at the expense of those who were not. I would consider any proposal based on its cost and benefits. We should offer help to innocent homeowners who face foreclosure in the form of new fixed rate mortgages guaranteed by the government.

If we commit government assistance we must require reforms to ensure we do not face this issue again.

(3) Do you support a change to the current health care structure in the United States? If so, in what areas?

Our health care system is broken and our goal should be quality healthcare for every American. The question is how to achieve this. I do not believe we need to risk the stability and quality of our health care system by implementing a potentially overreaching government based program in the immediate future.

There are some smaller steps we can take including tax credits for employers; double tax credits for families who do not have access to employer-based insurance and have to purchase private insurance; and creating insurance pools so individuals can take advantage of reduced rates.

I do support the continuation of the State Children's Health Insurance Program(S-CHIP) to the extent that it is available to the children of families who cannot afford health insurance.

I will work tirelessly for our rural hospitals, especially ensuring the federal government full reimburses Medicare and Medicaid cost. We must protect Medicare for our seniors and expand it to fit today's needs.

The federal government should be required to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies to provide prescription drugs for Medicare recipients. In Montgomery we have reduced the cost of prescription drugs for our city employees and retirees through a program which we implemented as the first in the nation. Employees and retirees may participate in an international prescription drug purchasing program and receive drugs at no cost to them. This not only saves the employee the high cost of prescription drugs, but it has also saved the City of Montgomery between \$300,000 and \$500,000 annually.

We must look for innovative ways to reduce the cost of quality health care. While there are no simple solutions to the health care problem, we must begin working in a bi-partisan manner to find solutions.

(4) Should the government do anything to address illegal immigration? A fence on the border? Amnesty? Please explain.

We need to get our borders under control and fix our badly broken immigration system.

In the last 6 years more than 5 million illegal immigrants have flooded our borders. Our open borders threaten America's economic and national security.

I would never support amnesty for illegal immigrants. It's not fair for folks here illegally to get preferential treatment over tax-paying Americans and those waiting in line for their legal shot at the American dream. We are a nation of laws and we are a nation of immigrants.

In Congress, I will fight to secure our borders and make sure that workforce laws are enforced and benefits are not received by anyone in our country illegally.

(5) What is your view on abortion?

I believe in the sanctity of life. I believe that we as a nation should cherish innocent life at all stages of development. I will support a culture of life for all Americans. This includes defending the ban on partial birth abortions, and supporting efforts to reduce abortions. I do not support the right to abortion except to prevent the loss of the life of the mother or in extreme cases involving rape or incest. Abortion should never be allowed as a routine birth control method.

(6) Do you support the continuance of the Patriot Act? Please explain.

I support the purpose of the Patriot Act and do not support its repeal. However, I do believe it needs to be implemented in a manner that protects Americans from the violation of individual freedoms, while protecting our nation against terrorist activity.

(7) What, if anything, should the government do to address rising gas prices? Would you support drilling for oil off the coast of Florida? In the ANWAR area of Alaska? Should the government be involved in providing incentives for alternative energy initiatives?

It is clear that something must be done to reduce the cost of gasoline. Our nation's economy is at great risk when truckers cannot move goods on our highways yet oil companies are reporting enormous profits in their pockets. I would move to investigate the imbalance immediately.

I would support drilling in protected areas only as an absolute last resort if required to maintain the stability of our nation's economic structure or to protect our national security.

We must immediately address alternative energy sources such as solar, wind and water. We should also increase nuclear production, with increased regulations, available through today's technology.

In Montgomery, we implemented a program which was the second in the state to fuel our city equipment and vehicles with biodiesel fuel made from processed used cooking oil.

(8) Do you believe there is evidence to support global warming? If so, should the government establish regulations that would reduce its affects?

We need to protect our environment for the benefit of generations to come. That begins with all of us being aware of what pollutants are doing to our earth and how our actions affect our environment.

There is a great body of evidence to support the claim that greenhouse gas emissions are harmful to our atmosphere and lead to climate changes. How much warming of the earth's atmosphere is

caused by mankind and how much is occurring naturally may be debated; but any steps we take to reduce such emissions will benefit our environment and our overall wellbeing.

No matter what science may one day further prove or disprove regarding global warming, our bold actions today to protect the earth can only do good and may very well have an enormous impact on the lives of our children and grandchildren.

(9) Would you support a proposal similar to President Bush's that would allow U.S. citizens to invest a portion of their social security contributions in private markets?

Or what do you feel is the best way to ensure those who retire 30 years from now will receive social security?

Social security is a promise to our senior citizens. It is a promise we can not afford to break as a strong America. I will not support the privatization of Social Security and risk the retirement that millions of American seniors have earned.

(10) What can be done from Washington to speed up construction of an access road connecting Dothan to I-10?

As a Congressman the construction of an access road connecting Dothan to I-10 would be a priority.

I am from the Wiregrass and am familiar with the need for this connector. As a representative in what appears will be the party in control in Congress for the next years, and as a lifelong resident of District 2, I will fight to make it happen. I believe I am the candidate who will have the ability to get the project funded and deliver it to the District.

