

Senator Mark Green, MD Speaks at the Chattanooga Tea Party
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Mike: I'm not going to spend a lot of time on Senator Green's bio. You already probably saw it in the press release or in the Facebook announcement and so forth. Suffice it to say, though, this gentleman is extremely accomplished. We all know doctors have got to be smart, right? Which of you wants to go to a dumb doctor? Of course not. So, we know they're smart. We also know that guys who go out on battlefield are smart, too. They have to go through rigorous training. In fact, today I have spent the entire day with special forces guys at my farm. We've got a four-day course. Dr. Omar Harrada. He said to tell you hi. We have a special force Randy Kelly, who was Chris Cowl's right hand buddy, a sniper. He's at our ranch today and over the next several days. Several others, and these guys are incredibly intelligent. I'm taking people through a survival course at our place right now for four days.

It's incredible when you find a doctor who's also been on the battlefield who's also a business man who's also involved in government. I mean, where do you find people like that? Where do you find people like that who you can now come down and now meet? We don't know where, and I don't think Dr. Green knows where he's going either in the future. But, I have to believe if God [inaudible 00:01:48] if he continues to have tremendous opportunities for Dr. Green, I'm sure he's going to follow in that path. So, I'm really thankful to have Senator Green here tonight, and I hope you will give him your undivided attention. I hope he tells us a little bit about Saddam Hussein, too. Help me welcome Senator Mark Green.

Mark Green: Thank you. As he said, as Mike said, I had the unbelievable privilege to be a special operator and serve. I call them our nation's Jedi Knights. They are amazing, Delta Force and Seal Team 6, what we call tier one units. I got to be their physician during Iraq, early parts of Iraq and Afghanistan War. In fact, I wound up being the first doctor to go into Baghdad. I inserted with a Seal Team.

As I went in, my first mission when I got there was to find a vehicle that could work as an ambulance in the event that any of these guys got wounded. So, when we landed there at Baghdad International, I looked around the air field for a vehicle that I could commandeer to be an ambulance all in accordance with the Geneva Convention, I might add. We paid the Iraqi people back. But, I started looking around, and I saw this Nissan pick-up truck. I thought, "Man, this will be perfect. If any of these guys get wounded, I can throw them in the back, and we can take off to get them to a surgeon. Well, I go over to this truck, I ripped open the steering column, and I began to hot wire the truck. Now, I'm not a criminal. They teach you this stuff in special operations. But, as I'm sitting there completing the arch and about to hot wire this vehicle, this guy with a huge beard comes up and he grabs me. He spins me around. Let me just ask, has anybody here ever gotten caught stealing a car? Anybody? Well, I don't know about you guys, but I thought I was a

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dead man. I really thought he was going to cut my head off, but he told me very quickly the agency of our government that he worked for that he had already stolen that truck. That was his truck. I began to mope away thinking I had to tell the Seal Team commander I'd failed on my mission.

As I'm walking away, I guess the guy felt sorry for me. He said, "You know, buddy? Down at the end of the runway, there's this powder blue Nissan Maxima. It still has the keys in the ignition." Sure enough, I hoofed it down to the end of the runway, and the thing had plastic still on the seats. I hopped in. I hit the keys. Nothing happens. I lift the hood. Someone had stolen the battery. Again, I'm kind of moping back and thinking I've got to tell the Seal Team commander that I failed in my mission, and I don't know if you guys have ever seen Seals, Navy Seals, but their chests are like this big around and they make sounds like dolphins, and I did not want to tell this guy I had failed in my mission. But, I'm going back, and I pass that Nissan truck. The agency guy is nowhere to be seen. I'm thinking, "Nissan truck, Nissan Maxima." Look left. Look right. I made off with his battery, and it was a perfect fit. I remember listening to the Iraqi radio that first night as the rest of the city fell.

But, the story doesn't end there. Several months later, I'm in the post exchange. How many veterans do we have in the room? Let's give these guys and gals a round of applause. They know what a post exchange is, but for those of you who don't, a post exchange is like a Dollar General that travels around the battlefield with the soldiers. I used to say Wal-Mart, but Dollar General is a Tennessee-based company, so I'm saying Dollar General now. I'm standing in the check-out line, and in walks the bearded agency dude. He recognized me. He came straight up to me, pokes his finger in my chest and says, "Hey, buddy. Did you take my battery that night we came into Baghdad?" I said, "Yes, sir. I stole your battery." He said, "No worries, I had taken that battery out of that Nissan Maxima I sent you down to go get." With that, the guy walked away. I never saw him again.

Thank you so much for having me here tonight and just the opportunity to tell a few war stories, to talk about some of the war stories that happened in Nashville and in Washington D.C. and to just hear your thoughts about where our country and our state is right now. I will tell you first, thanks for having me. For the elected officials that are in the room, thank you for stepping in to the arena. It is tough to run for office today. It is an emotional roller coaster. You're driving down the road, and you see a new copy of your opponent's sign in someone's yard, and you get a pit in the bottom of your stomach. It is tough to run for office. But, I will tell you that I found a verse the other day when I was reading through the Bible that said trust not in yard signs and poll numbers. I think it was Isaiah 2 or something like that. Put your faith in God. That's what it said.

I grew up on a dirt road in Mississippi, country boy as country could be. My first job, in fact, was cleaning pig pens. At 13 and 14 years old, I'd put on a slicker suit, wrestle these

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big 200/300 pound feeder pigs. I would spray their pens clean, that methane-producing stuff down in to the catch pond. That was my job. My mom told me, "Son, you're going somewhere in life because there's nowhere to go but up." She was right. I wanted to go to a good school, so I went to West Point. I got a degree in economics and went into the infantry because if you're going to be in the army, be in the infantry. I went to Ranger School and did all that stuff. I wound up commanding in the 82nd airborne division.

While in command, my father had a traumatic event happen to him. A surgeon essentially saved dad's life. He was supposed to have died from this, but the doctor saved his life. It had a huge impact on me. It was between Desert Storm One and the global war on terror getting kicked off. I'm an infantry commander thinking, "What am I going to do?" This guy just saved my dad's life. I went to the army, and I said, "Will you send me to medical school? I know I'm a dumb infantry man, but will you send me to medical school?" They said, "Yes." Off to med school I went.

I was in my emergency medicine residency the last year, about a week or two from telling the army where I wanted to serve as an ER physician when 9/11 happened. I know everyone in this room, every time I ask the question, everybody raises their hand. But, do you remember where you were when those towers fell. I know I certainly do.

Very shortly after those two towers came down and those thousands of Americans lost their lives, I got a phone call from the Command Surgeon of US Army Special Operations command. He said, "Mark, are you that ex-Army Ranger who is now an ER physician?" I said, "Yes." He said, "There's two plane tickets in your mailbox. You're coming to the dark side of the forest." Off to Fort Campbell, Kentucky I went to interview for the 160th. If you saw Black Hawk Dawn, the movie Black Hawk Down, or Lone Survivor, the helicopter that crashes at the end of Lone Survivor is the 160th. All of the aircraft in the movie Black Hawk Down are 160th. So, special operations, working with our nation's, like I said, I call them our Jedi Knights. That's really how I came to meet my most infamous patient, Saddam Hussein. I will tell you it was as surreal as you can imagine that it would be, walking into the cell with the captured King of Babylon. I'll just tell you a story that's actually not on my script here, but I got there by God's design.

My dad is a southern Baptist preacher in South Mississippi. He sent a letter to all the pastors in our convention, in that convention. He said, "Let's fast and pray December 7th or 8th, or something like that, that they capture Saddam Hussein." My dad naively thought that if that happened, his son would come home. Well, the day came. My mom and dad fasted and prayed. They don't know how many of the other pastors fasted and prayed. But, some amount did. My mom adds to her prayer, "God, let Mark be a part of this" because she knew that I was on that team. Well, that Friday, December the 13th, we captured Saddam Hussein, only a few days after that event. Of course, I got to spend that first night with, again, what I call the captured King of Babylon, Saddam Hussein. He was charming. He was charming. I remember reminding myself in the middle of the interview with him, "Mark, don't become enamored by this guy. He would kill your

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family to extract even a false confession." He was that evil. You kind of have to ask yourself, "How does the human heart go from wherever he started to being someone like Saddam Hussein who could use chemical weapons on his own people? Several thousand." I think it was Halabja or something like that, a Kurdish town. Those images of a mother holding the baby after being killed by mustard gas, for those of you who are old enough to remember that, it's horrific.

But, that's who I was in the cell with. It was myself, Saddam, and an interpreter. But, I think the question that created the biggest teaching point for me ... I asked Saddam why he started the war with the United States? Why did you invade Kuwait? Basically, why did you start Desert Storm One? He gave me all of these justifications about who owned which oil field, where the boundary line for Iraq and Kuwait was. Then, he said something incredibly insightful and to the mind of a tyrant. Saddam held up his hand like this, and he pointed to his palm, and he said, "All of human civilization comes from the Tigris and Euphrates river. Every person on this planet is an Iraqi, and I'm the president of Iraq." Saddam was essentially saying, "I'm the king of the world. I can do whatever I want."

The thought that that left me with was this, that age-old adage that says, "Absolute power corrupts absolutely." Absolute power corrupts absolutely. Left unchecked as a totalitarian dictator, he grew into this monster. Our system of government is actually brilliant. It was envisioned by a guy by the name of Montesquieu, a French philosopher, who posed this thought that you could separate the powers of government so that they wouldn't be consolidated in one person. Then, you could hold them as equal and give them powers to be checks and balances on one another. Of course, our founding fathers read Montesquieu, and they created this great country where power is separated. It's divided. What scares me to death is that our current executive branch thinks that with a stroke of a pen, it can undo the work of the legislative branch. Let me tell you, that has got to stop and stop immediately.

In 2006, I got out of the army. In 2009, I was working for some hospital groups, one of which Omar works at. I just thought there was a better way to do this. I started a company in 2009 that God has blessed. It's now grown. We have about 900 medical providers working for us now. We're in 45 hospitals after the end of an acquisition we're doing right now in 10 states. All I did was took the lessons that I learned at West Point and vetted on the battlefields about leadership and applied them to this company, and God blessed it. We also have a foundation, a healthcare foundation. If any of you have churches here in this area that wants to start a medical clinic in the church, we have two now running, one in Clarksville and one in Memphis. We'll come start one in Chattanooga if you guys want it. Just let us know. We've got a foundation set up to do that.

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But, I got out. I started this company. I will tell you that if I've learned anything running a health care company, if I've learned anything, it is that the government is the biggest barrier to job growth and job creation in this nation. It is bureaucracy and red tape. I'll give you an example. You take Dodd-Frank, for example. Something that was designed to be a solution to a problem where the problem was that there were too many assets consolidated in the big banks. What Dodd-Frank did was consolidate the assets into even fewer banks. So, basically the federal governments way of fixing a problem is to take whatever the problem is and make it the solution.

They did the absolute same thing in health care. In health care, the third-party payer system is the challenging part that has to be addressed when people are blinded to the cost of medicine. They spend more than they do if they have a health savings account and that first dollar comes out of their pocket. But, what did Obamacare do? It essentially took the third party payer system and ramped billions of dollars through and exchange to the third party payer system. They basically took the problem and made it the solution. I would compare that to treating an alcoholics hangover with a margarita. I mean, it'll work, but eventually, it kills the patient. That's essentially what the federal government is doing.

If you look at what's happened under President Obama, right now in the United States our work force participation rate is, I think the last time I checked, worse than it's been in 63 years. There are more American's on food stamps right now than in the nation's history. That's successful government as far as the progressive liberals go. Successful government for them is when they're helping more people. Successful government for us, for conservatives, is when they don't need the government. But, that's their mentality. Unemployment amongst African-American teens, the very people who Barack Hussein Obama said he was going to help, is the worst it's been. It's almost 50%. In fact, an African-American teen stands a better chance of getting a job in Jordan than the United States of America. That's where government has destroyed economic growth and opportunity for Americans.

Look at our debt. At some point, that bill is going to come due, 19 trillion dollars in debt. Now, Republicans don't seem to be helping that much either. My party, the omnibus bill, pushed by Paul Ryan, adds at least 1.2 to 1.8 trillion more dollars to the debt over ten years. Continued increasing deficits are not going to make prosperous growth in this country, and it's an insane notion to think it will.

I think it was Einstein who said the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. They're insane. As a physician, I think I can make the diagnosis. I'm going to call it a new disease. We're going to call it Potomac Fever. It's something that these guys get when they go to Washington D.C.. The symptoms are slow and onset, but you see them. They begin to forget who they are. They forget where they came from. They forget some of the basic values, like how to balance a

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check book. Or how about this one? Thou shalt not steal. You can see the signs of the disease after they hit Washington and stay up there for a while. That's how even Republicans can do things like pass this crazy omnibus bill.

But, I will tell you, we don't need any D.C. down here in Tennessee because here with the leadership of, quite frankly, your Senator, who is spectacular, Bo Watson, and your other Senator here in Chattanooga, Todd Gardenhire, who are both conservative guys doing good things. I will tell you, I interact with the leadership a lot as a freshman. I mean, this is my first term in the Tennessee state senate. Bo Watson is a leader, too. He's not just a good conservative. But, he's a leader. People want to follow a guy like him. I just put that plug in. But, we're doing something different in Tennessee. Our debt we've actually lowered. Tennessee's debt, every year I've been in office, we now have the lowest per capita debt in the nation. We are second highest in job creation. Funny how those kind of go in opposite directions. I wish Washington D.C. could figure that out.

But, we also have cut taxes in the last four years five million dollars, half a billion dollars in tax cuts. What's happened? Last year we had a surplus in revenue of 770 million dollars. This year it looks like it's going to be 992 million dollars of surplus. We are proving Reaganomics to be true. If you lower taxes, more people will pay, and then you raise more revenue. I try to explain it to Democrats. I'm tell them, "Do you think Wal-Mart puts a sale on because they want to help people in the neighborhood? No, they lower the price, they'll sell a higher volume, and they'll make more money." It's amazing how liberals can't get that, but they can't. It's crazy. Either that or they don't care about what the truth is on that one.

I will tell you, 992 million dollars in surplus, this is a side note. Governor, I hope you're listening. We don't need a tax increase on our gasoline in the state of Tennessee with a 900 million dollar surplus. I've told Bill that, too. It won't be a surprise when he hears it from tonight. But, one of the things I'm very proud of that we did last session was pass a bill that I wrote and that I've written every year I've been in office. That bill was the bill to end the hall income tax. It is gone. We will sunset that thing, and at the end of 2021, there will be no more hall income tax in the state of Tennessee. It was a done deal. It's interesting, too, how many people don't get that concept. They're like, "Well, that's a tax cut for the rich." I'm like, "Well, 47% of the people who pay it make less than 50,000 a year. That's not a tax cut on the rich. That is a tax cut on people who've done the right thing and saved all their lives and when they're on retirement are now living on those dividends, and they're having to pay the state of Tennessee 6%."

It's an interesting thing. I believe it was Kiplingers who had Tennessee ranked 35th or 39th best state in the nation to retire last year. Suddenly, we jumped to 5th this year. I don't think the stream got any clearer. I don't think the mountains got any prettier. I don't think the golf courses got any better. I think what they realized is retirees won't have to pay that 6%, so come on to Tennessee. What does that mean if more retirees move to

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Tennessee? It means a demand for services. What does that mean? Jobs. The hall tax was a jobs killer, and we killed the hall income tax.

That doesn't mean, though, that we're done in Tennessee, either. There's still quite a bit to do. Our worker's compensation program, if you look at it from a prosperity standpoint, how do we improve the prosperity of Tennesseans, we can lower the cost of worker's compensation. There's some ways to do that. Right now, our franchise and excise tax in the state of Tennessee is actually a penalty to businesses in the state growing inside of Tennessee. Right now, if you add a person to your payroll, you have to pay more tax to the state. If you add a building, if you build a building to increase your business, you pay more franchise and excise tax before that building produces one cent in new revenue. That's crazy. We're actually penalizing people to grow inside Tennessee. I talked to the COO of Tractor Supply. He said, "Mark, that's exactly why we put our massive distribution center just across the border in Kentucky." There's a Tennessee company who is disincentivized to grow in our very state because of our crazy 1980s franchise and excise tax formula. It's got to get fixed.

The other thing I want to see happen in Tennessee is I want to see us put government in its proper place. Thank you. I'll give you an example. I passed a bill this last year called the right to earn a living. The right to earn a living law. I titled it that because when I tell you this, it's going to freak you out. Do you know that in the state of Tennessee, it takes 300 hours of training to have a license to shampoo hair. I shampooed my hair this morning. I didn't have the 300 hours of training. I hope to God I did it right. Three hundred hours of training to get a license to shampoo hair. That is a barrier to a person getting a job. That is how government gets in the way of business working and the growth in the economy. We have a bill now that passed last session that will look at every single one of the licensures in Tennessee, make sure that it makes sense, and if it doesn't make sense, we're going to throw it out. Now, it's right for a physician to have to prove that he's credentialed, prove that I've got the training. I understand that. But, do we really have to have somebody have 300 hours of training to shampoo hair? It makes no sense to me. As we'd say down in Mississippi, "That don't make no sense."

Okay, the other thing. I'm a physician, and I run a healthcare company. If you wanted to know the percentage of the time that one of my physicians gives Aspirin to patients who present to the emergency department with chest pain, I can tell you that on every doctor. I can tell you the time, the average time, from when a patient hits a bed, meaning they're through the front-end process at the emergency department. They're back in a bed, and a provider gets to them. Meaning, how long does a patient wait in a room before a physician gets there? I can tell you that score on every doctor in my company. Why can't we know how long this individual who works for government takes processing a license? Why can't we know the wait times at the DMV? You see the HCA hospitals post their ER waiting time. Why can't we do that in government? It is time for us to create a government scorecard for every piece of services that we provide because essentially,

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that's what government is. You're paying a tax, and we owe you a service. We owe it with a smile, and we owe it on time.

I'll tell you. I was arguing with the chief operating officer of Tennessee. He came in asking for more money for solar panels on some state buildings. I don't know. I just wanted to pick on him a little bit. But, I asked him about this one project about bathrooms for our state parks. The year prior, we had given them five million dollars to build new bathrooms at certain state parks. Well, it turns out it took something like 260 days for them to get a vendor selected. It took them another 180 days to break ground. I asked him, I said ... this is a guy who used to work for IBM. I said, "Do you understand the opportunity cost of money? What Tennesseans could have gotten out of that five million dollars that sat there for almost a year not being used?" Government should work at the speed of business. The speed of business is the speed of now. The only way we get there is with a scorecard that measures performance.

The last thing that I think I really want to help and continue to work with to make better for Tennessee is protection of Tennesseans. I know that no one knows this better than this community. Our second amendment rights are in jeopardy in this presidential election. We, as a people, formed a great nation by overthrowing a tyrannical government. It was the armed citizen who rose up and protected freedom. The armed citizen did that. Now, in the intervening years since that amendment was written, we've developed a truly standing army, as we would call it. This army defended us in the Spanish-American War. It defended us in World War 1 and World War 2 and Korea and Vietnam and Iraq and Afghanistan. That standing army has been tremendously successful in keeping the United States, the citizens, free.

But, now, with ISIS able to radicalize, they send out a hundred thousand tweets a day trying to radicalize people right here in our nation. There is no way the NSA, the CIA, the FBI, any of the three-letter agencies can protect us. We're back to where we started. The last line of defense in this country is the armed citizen. I will tell you my perspective on the second amendment is it's not just a right. For many of us who are able, it is a duty. So, I want you to know that I will protect that second amendment right with everything I have. Thank you. I think that's the only way we protect each other. We are back to where the country was at its beginning. It is the armed citizen who will defend this nation.

There's something else that we've got to protect ourselves from, and it is an overreaching federal government. The notion that Mr. Obama thinks that he can tell the state of Tennessee who can go into a men's bathroom or a women's bathroom is absurd. It is absurd. It's why I sent Governor Haslam a letter with 26 signatures on it from my fellow Senators telling him, "Go and sue the federal government on this issue." Of course, he joined the lawsuit, and I'm glad he did because it's the right thing to do.

Syrian refugees. It looks like the state legislature is going to go for it even though the Governor doesn't want to, and we are going to sue the federal government on this issue of them putting Syrian refugees in Tennessee. The fact that ISIS has captured the passport-printing facility in Syria should tell you, you can't vet these people. As Larry Gatlin would say, "It's not rocket surgery." It's not. Anyway, the fact that they want to push these individuals on us really has to create a question on their motivation because simply intellect tells you that it is a dangerous proposition to take them. They've caught now refugees in Germany and in Paris who were intending to do harm who came over as a part of the refugee program. The facts are the facts. You can't run from them. It's time. We have leaders in Tennessee who will stand up to the federal government and tell them we're not going to tolerate that. Thanks.

I will tell you, the federal government, particularly the progressive left, they have a different mentality than we do. It's a completely different mentality. They think that good government is when more people are being helped by the government. We think, as I said earlier, good government is when nobody needs government. They're all out there gainfully employed. We believe that with work comes worth. We believe, as conservatives, that if the dishwasher wants to own her own restaurant someday, she ought to be able to do that. We believe, as conservatives, that if the kid flipping burgers at McDonald's, if his American dream is to go to law school, he should be able to do that. That's what we believe as conservatives. They believe completely differently. It's why we cannot let them win the white house in 2016. It cannot happen.

I will tell you that I didn't support our current Republican nominee in the primary. I would imagine there are probably some folks in the room who did. There are probably some folks in the room who didn't. I will tell you, if Hillary Clinton gets to pick one supreme court justice, we are done. We have got to stand up and support the only candidate who has a chance to beat her and keep that from happening. I know this may put me a little bit at risk, but I am going to vote for and support Donald Trump. Hillary Clinton is a criminal. I have special forces friends who told me they were only hours from Benghazi. They heard it over the satellite radio. They've spun up, prepared to launch, and were told to stand down. Whoever made that decision, we shouldn't stop until we find out who that person is. They should be run out of office at a minimum. It's egregious that four Americans dies that night, and we could have saved them. I think it was Mr. Comey, the FBI Director, who used the words recklessness or a reckless carelessness or something like that to describe the person the democrats want to elect as the commander-in-chief. As I'd say again, what we say in Mississippi, "That don't make no sense." But, that's who they want to put forward. That's what they believe. It's crazy. It's unconscionable.

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Even Barack Obama the other day said that he thought the American dream was impossible. That's the president of the United States who said the American dream was impossible. I don't know about you guys. I'm willing to guess you're with me on this, but I believe like Ronald Reagan. I believe that we have every right to believe in the impossible. After all, we're Americans.

Now, I'll say one last thing, and I'll ask you this question. How do you make the impossible happen? Let me ask, and just shout out the answer. How many people walked on water? One? There were two. How many fisherman in the room? I'm a big fly fisherman. I love the Hiwassee. I love the Tellico. So, I've never been sitting in a boat by myself and thought, "Hey, I'm just going to hop out of the boat and walk on water." But, this guy Peter actually saw someone walking toward him on the water and decided he too would walk on the water. So, he hops out, and he starts doing the impossible. He is walking on water. As long as he had his eyes fixed on the light. When he took his eyes off the light, and he looked at the waves and the tumult around him, he sank. If this nation will put its eyes back on the light, we can do the impossible, and we can make the American dream happen for every American and every Tennessean. Thank you for having me here tonight.

We have time for questions and answers? Okay. So, this is open mic night, I guess. We're going to have some questions and answers.

Mike: Keep your questions short, okay? Make them questions, not statements.

Mark Green: It can be about Saddam Hussein. It can be about legislation. It can be about the democratic nominee or the republican nominee. I think this gentleman was first.

Man 1: If anyone hasn't seen Hillary's America, you've got to go see that movie. It's fantastic.

Mark Green: I have not seen it, and I want to. I'll have to do that.

Man 1: The concept means [inaudible 00:38:10], which means indigenous people rise up in a country that don't belong there, like Muslims in the United States. They fight us. There's going to be civil war in New York. That's what we're talking about. They don't have any guns with them. That's why [inaudible 00:38:30].

Mark Green: Thanks.

Man 1: Question.

Mark Green: Yes, sir.

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Man 1: Why didn't the republicans stand up more strongly against Obama that has happened in the past four years?

Mark Green: That's a great question. Honestly, I think they're afraid of the American voter. These guys make decisions. I think a lot of them are based on retaining power. I think it's sad. But, I genuinely believe that this guy should not be our president.

Man 1: He's not even a citizen. If he was, where's the birth certificate? He is not an American citizen.

Mark Green: Even if he were, he's not competent to be the president of the United States. Let's give somebody else another chance, and then I'll come back to you, sir, if there are no other people who want to ask questions. Yes, ma'am?

Woman 1: This is on education.

Mark Green: Yes, ma'am.

Woman 1: And we have a threat. It's a national threat, but here in Tennessee it's even more so. You took a stand on the Syrian refugees. We need to take a stand on the indoctrination of Islam in our public schools. It is alive and well.

Mark Green: I agree. I'll just say about that, I went to the AFL-CIO, and I said, "Here is a book from Bristol, Tennessee where they're teaching how to pray like a Muslim. Are you going to sue?" "No." So, that should tell you about that organization. Interestingly enough, I saw a t-shirt the other day that had three devils. You know, the guys with the pointy ears. They were red. They had little pitchforks. They were standing around a chalkboard. The first one said, "Devils who are politically involved." There was a line through that. Then, "Devils advocating for certain principles." There was a line through that. Then, there was the AFL-CIO. The caption read, "The finally picked a name for themselves." I'm going to tell you ... Yeah, let that sink it. I'm going to tell you that if they were a consistent organization who has sued many times when they thought Christian-principles were being taught in schools, they would have sued over that issues, but they didn't. We're fighting in my school district to get a textbook thrown out that is one of the textbooks approved by the state of Tennessee that has a chapter in it that at a minimum I'd say it glosses over. If you're going to teach Islam, we have to teach it the history of the Ottoman Empire, and we have to teach Mecca, Medina and all of the assault of Islam out into the Levant and North Africa and into Constantinople. I think it was 1492 when Constantinople fell to the Muslim hoard or whatever you'd want to call it. Those things should be taught. They should also teach that in Islam it's different because they actually marry their religion and their

political faith together. But, when you start teaching the pillars of Islam, and when you start teaching how to pray as a Muslim, that is over the top. We will not tolerate that in this state. Sure. You want to follow up? Sure.

Woman 1: Cleveland Middle School today, "Muslims believe that Islam began when God created Adam and Eve. As this belief increased, God sent many thousands of messengers and prophets to the world to guide mankind to become righteous and true Muslims. Prophets, including Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. But, the final and most important prophet was Mohammed in the 7th century AD, who was entrusted with the mission of spreading the holy word of God of Islam in his revelations now found in the Quran." Cleveland Middle School.

Mark Green: Yeah, can I get a copy of that? I will just tell you. We're in an interesting place. We will not tolerate that. We're not going to. If you'll give me a copy of that, I'd greatly appreciate it. But, I will tell you this. I studied Islam when I left West Point. I thought I was going to be a missionary to the Middle East. I didn't think I'd be a politician. I had no clue I'd ever do this. I never thought I'd be a physician. Actually, at the academy, I took the LSAT, Law School Admissions Test. But, I thought I'd be a missionary to the Middle East. So, I went to Pakistani section of Toronto and lived there for the first 60 days, because you get a long leave after West Point, just learning how to relate to Muslim people. I read the Quran and all of that stuff. They believe Jesus was sinless. They don't believe he was born from a virgin. There is very interesting and subtle differences. They believe, if you read the Quran, there's the story of Noah. There's the story of Moses. Unfortunately, they don't believe ... This is my faith, so I can't push my faith on you anymore than I would want them pushing their faith on me, but I believe that Jesus Christ is who he claimed to be. I believe that he died on a cross and that his blood and death replaces my penalty for my sin. Because of that, I don't have to die. I get reconnected to God past that separation of my sin because of him. That's what I believe. They don't believe that, but I want them to. I think the young lady in the back had the next question.

Woman 2: David Fowler's recent lettering of the FACT-

Mark Green: Yes, ma'am. I'm a FACT champion and a good friend of David Fowler.

Woman 2: [crosstalk 00:44:59] Tennessee is doing to the public schools that's very iffy about some of the things they're teaching.

Mark Green: I don't know if it's iffy.

Woman 2: They can't opt out. They can't opt out. It's some emotional-

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Mark Green: Yes, ma'am. Thank you for bringing that up. If you aren't familiar with this, the department of education is now going to grade students on their social skills, their ability to interact. I was a late bloomer. I'll just tell you. I was a late bloomer. I didn't really start connecting with people until I was older. But, it happened to me. I can't imagine being held back because I didn't meet some individual's perception of what my social development should be. I'm not sure that we've trained the teachers to do this. I'm not sure that it's their job. It's not their job. That's really the parent's job. I think you'll see the legislature push back on that big time, just like with common core. I think we'll be stomping on that one. I can't tell you what every legislator is going to do. But, I know what I'm going to do. But, I will also say this. Talk to your guys about it, and make sure they know how you feel. Yes, sir? Back here.

Man 2: Senator Green. I appreciate all the comments tonight. It seems like you're a champion for keeping government in its proper sphere so that freedom can flourish.

Mark Green: Yeah. That's right.

Man 2: I provide broadband in Ray County and-

Mark Green: That's where I remember you from.

Man 2: Just this week, we turned up more customers on privately owned, private investment broadband from a small family business. One of the threats my business faces is from the city of Chattanooga, who wishes to expand their broadband. They expect the Chattanooga citizens to pay to go into rural areas. That is a threat to the way that we operate as a business for the last 20 years. I just wanted to get your comment on that.

Mark Green: 12% decrease in the number of jobs since net neutrality was passed in that industry, 12% decrease in total jobs. It's somewhere around 60,000 jobs lost nationally because of that net neutrality bill. Federal government has no business, no business, doing anything that's in the Yellow Pages. If it's done in the Yellow Pages, the federal government should never compete with our private industry. I'll give you a massive story from my experience in my district. Have you guys heard of hemlock semiconductor? Remember Tennessee gave millions of dollars to this company to come to Tennessee, Clarksville, my district, and build a semiconductor plant. Well, because Barack Obama initiated a war on radial tires deal with China, China, a tax-payer-back entity. I guess you could call China that, a tax-payer-back entity ... dumped polysilicon in the market at 25% of cost. Basically, no company could compete with that. A company can't compete with a tax-payer-back entity. It's ridiculous to think that they can. That plant that was built for a cost of 1.2 billion dollars never opened its doors. The hundreds of jobs that were supposed to be there never happened because a tax-payer-based entity competed in the marketplace backed by those tax payers and lowered their price to where nobody could compete. It is wrong. It is unconscionable to allow these broadband companies that are

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tax-payer-back to compete with private business. You know how loud I am on that issue. Yes, ma'am. Right here.

Woman 3: Thank you for being here this evening.

Mark Green: Thanks.

Woman 3: It was very informational. Back to what this lady was saying, I recently had a meeting with Senator Gardenhire and Mike Carter and Mark [inaudible 00:49:02], State Representatives and several of the principals here in Hamilton County. They confirmed that the five pillars of Islam are being taught in our public schools, as well. I ask you to please do all you can band together to stop that. Then, I had two questions.

Mark Green: Fire away.

Woman 3: One: With six billion dollars infrastructure, mainly road projects, needed in Tennessee, and I'm glad you don't support a gas tax increase. How do you propose to fund those projects? That's my first question. Number two: I wonder where you stand on the de-annexation legislation that might Mike Carter and Bo Watson are working on?

Mark Green: Okay. So, I'm excited to answer all of those. First, on the gas tax two things I want to say. I'm not so sure six billion dollars is the right number. I know that's what the people asking for the tax are saying, right? So, the guys that are asking for the tax are saying, "Hey, there's six point ..." I can tell you that in West Tennessee, there are four lane highways that barely have people on, and in Nashville, Hillsboro Pike is five miles an hour, bumper to bumper. If they don't get their act together at TDOT, they don't need more money from us. Let's build the roads where there are supposed to be roads. Let's build appropriately. I think some degree of oversight is needed there. I don't know what that's going to look like, but we're not going to be handing over billions more dollars and not have some say in it. Now, in terms of six billion dollars, again, the other point I wanted to make ... We are going to be five, ten years ... I don't want to predict. But, at some point we're going to have autonomous technology on the road. The plant right here in Chattanooga, the Volkswagen guys work very closely with me. Nissan worked very closely with me.

General Motors out of Spring Hill worked very closely with me to build a bill last year that defined what autonomous technology is and allows on the roads in Tennessee. But, at some point, these vehicles are going to be able to get a lot closer. I know Tesla's event in the last two days is a tragedy, anytime someone loses their life. But, the technology will eventually get there. I mean, it will. They say that it will decrease the volume on the roads by as much as 80 to 90%. Just imagine, we go and build six billion dollars of roads, and then it's not necessary. So, we've got to make sure that the roads we build are for the

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demand five and ten years from now. I'm not so sure six billion dollars is the right amount.

But, if we continue to produce surpluses of 992 million dollars, I think a considerable portion of that needs to go to the roads. Infrastructure does create jobs, so when you do infrastructure development, there are good-paying jobs that come out of that, so if the government is going to spend money, then that's the best place for the government to spend money. There are places where we've got to fix the traffic problems. Driving from Clarksville to Nashville every day, I see it all the time. For now, I say let's use surplus dollars on a pay as you go basis and get chipping away at that six billion dollars. Eventually, we're going to find out how much of that is real. Wait, you asked me another question. De-annexation. I partnered with Bo on that. In fact, the amendments had my name on them.

This actually made nation news when I said this. But, I said, "Annexing against someone's will so that you can increase your tax base of a local government is not far from the Soviet Union running into Poland to fuel its economy." It's unacceptable. Those guys that got forcibly annexed, like Cordova. Shelby County Memphis just came out and grabbed those. They ought to be able to vote, whether or not they stay or not. Now, if the city has spent money, let's say the city built a school. Those guys need to pay the city back when they break free. But, that will be a decision. That's part of the metric when they make the decision. But, they vote on it. They make the people make the decision. Yes, sir?

Man 3: Senator, again, thank you for being here.

Mark Green: Oh, yeah. My pleasure. Thank you.

Man 3: I'm very concerned about property rates. That's been a thing with me. I've been studying for about four or five years now. One agency I mentioned in the beginning, HUD, has deemed themselves the authority at this point to decide who your next door neighbor is going to be, decide who the child is that's going to sit next to you in the classroom, beside the size of the acreage that you can have a home on, a plot, number of bathrooms, so on and so forth.

Mark Green: Watership Down.

Man 3: Well, yes. The question is two questions. How close is this on your radar in the senate? I'm working with people in the house right now. We're going to be coming up with some legislation. Very interesting working on the senate. I have no real contacts over there, so is that on your radar? Where do you think you might go with that?

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Mark Green: Yes, actually I was speaking at the Tea Party in Loudon County. One of the gentlemen there brought that up to me just three or four weeks ago. When you flashed your DVD, I said, "I'm getting one of those." I want to get your perspective on that. I'll watch your presentation. But, we have got to figure out a solution to that problem. That can't be allowed to happen. Yes, sir.

Man 4: Senator Green, you might be able to help me. I'm very confused. When I see a person who refuses to say ban to Islam and who refuses to say ISIS [inaudible 00:54:49]. On the one hand, he is entering the [inaudible 00:54:52] of dangerous people and opening refugees to come from Syria. What's the hurry with sending a billion people that's going to harm us and sending others to freedom to come back. I would say, "That man must be of Islam." Is he or is he not an Islam? Are we safe?

Mark Green: I can't answer that question. But, we're getting past the circumstantial evidence phase that he doesn't really care about what's best for this country. When you allow people who potentially could harm us in, I mean, look at the southern border and the ports. They're basically telling the border patrol agents to pull back. I want every person in the world to have the standard of living that we have. But, if we bring every person in the world to here in the inappropriate way, none of us will have that standard of living, right? The best way for us to export what we have is to be very careful about how we allow people in. We have to be very careful. Enforcing the law would be the first place to start, but this president, head of the executive branch, who is supposed to execute the laws of the land, is not doing so. Yes, sir? And thank you for being in the trenches. You're the city councilman?

Man 5: Well, there are nine of us.

Mark Green: Okay.

Man 5: I'm usually never on the winning side of any contingency issue. But, I'm wanting to know if this is on the legislatures radar because **I'm hearing that there has been a tremendous increase in registration of Latinos in this counties district, so much so that an ESL teacher at one of the high schools is saying, "I don't understand the dialect that you're speaking." Here you have a Spanish-speaking teacher saying that she's having a difficult time processing the students because they're coming from Honduras or Guatemala or wherever. I'm wondering where all these students are coming from.**

Mark Green: They're being bused here, probably. I don't know. All I can say is that we are going to sue the federal government over the refugee issue. When it comes to enforcing the federal immigration laws, there is talk amongst legislators to make it illegal in Tennessee to have violated the border, basically, to be here illegally, so that it's not only a federal violation, but it's a Tennessee state violation. There are

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lawyers who are looking into our ability to do that right now. Then, we can prosecute people for violating our law if the federal government isn't going to enforce our law or let us enforce their law. So, that's being researched right now. Yes, sir. Right here. Yes, sir. Then, I can come back to you.

Man 6: How do you put the toothpaste back in the tube? Let me explain. The lady read the Bradley County Middle School lesson. The children read, are studying, are going to be tested on that lesson. How do we take it back?

Mark Green: Well, there's-

Man 6: Let me just continue real quick.

Mark Green: Yes, sir.

Man 6: Who permitted it to happen? Where is the accountability?

Mark Green: The local school board decides on the material. I'm sorry.

Woman 1: They're not helping because Mike Carter reached out to a school board member, and she would not help.

Man 6: My suggestion is as much as you can publicize that aspect in the newspaper or any other medium, shame them into getting their act together. Number two: I submit that we have a problem at the state level, in the state education department. I submit that those in that outfit is being run by progressives. You guys up there that are conservatives better take he or she by the throat and shake them around a little bit. Put it in their face that this ain't going to happen in our state.

Mark Green: You know, it's very interesting. There are lots of great things that have been done here in this state. But, some of the senior leadership came on as republican and put some conservative commissioners in place in various departments, but they didn't go very deep into those departments. A lot of those departments had other appointees and hires from previous administrations that were liberal as the day is long. If you really want to fix it, you're going to need an administration that will go in and go deep to clean up those departments, whether they're education or TDOT or THP. There are a lot of places where in the state of Tennessee, where in the executive branch, as you come down that organizational tree, there are people that don't have the same values as you and I. Yet, the state of Tennessee, with 73% of the vote going to Cruz or Trump, pretty darn conservative. Yes, sir.

Man 7: You didn't mention TDEC in that group. I didn't know if you're going to be able to rein in their ability to do everything. It reminds me of when democrats were in charge, they just passed legislation and overrode the governor when they wanted to do

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something. I know the governor has been with you on some things, but why not just take the majority that you've got in the legislature and do some of it. If we need to reorganize these departments, let's do it.

Mark Green: I'd say that we're doing that on a lot of different things. But, we need the list. I mean, TDEC is a great place to start because I will tell you the building in my district has been a problem. Now, the way we fix it is we went to TDEC, and they fired the guy who was the particular problem in this one county in my district. But, they couldn't get authorizations to build. It was crazy. So, that was how we fixed that. I just went to TDEC, and they fired the guy. But, in terms of changing the legislation, bring me the idea, and I'll write the bill. But, I'll bet your guy would be willing to do that, too. You've got a good one. I promise to go to you next. Yes, sir.

Man 8: On your remarks, obviously, you understand Islam. Is it true that our top military leaders don't understand Islam? Do the special forces guys understand Islam?

Mark Green: I think the vast majority of them do. I think the vast majority of them want to do what's right. But, I will tell you that I was talking to a great friend of mine, a recently retired 06 colonel in the United States Army, an ex-special operator, an ex-special operations aviator. He had been in the war plans department in the pentagon. He told me, "Mark, there are three star generals in the pentagon who won't send an email without a lawyer reading it." Now, I don't know about you guys, but I think our department of defense has one purpose. That is to kill our enemies and break things. That's it. Nation building should belong to the Secretary of State. The department of defense should be able to crush our enemies. I'm going to tell you. We don't want them to have a fair fight. We don't want it to be a fair fight. We want to give them every single thing they can and they go crush our enemies. But, right now, in this administration, we've bred general officers who are afraid of their shadow. We need a warrior ethos back in the United States Military. I don't know, maybe if Donald Trump wins, I'll ask to be his Secretary of Defense. Yes, sir.

Man 8: This is on my mind. I wonder if you know how our middle level military people ... I know how the top people go up there. But, the middle level and the listed man and the career person, how do they feel about the social revolution being imposed upon them by this government.

Mark Green: Remember who they are. They're millennials. The young troops are millennials. So, for them, they don't really care. Most of them are ambivalent to it. "Oh, a gay guy wants to fight for the country? Let's let him." If you poll up to ... and I can't tell you the age limit, but I saw a poll the other day that said 86% of

millennials are okay with transgender people. If you polled the psychiatrists, they're going to tell you that transgender is a disease. It is a part of the DSM-6, I think it is, the book of diagnostic psychological diagnoses. It's very interesting to see what's happening in our nation. But, you ask about how do we fix it? How do we get the toothpaste back in the tube? I've got to tell you, it's going to start with me being the salt and the light to the people around me. If you really want to bring this back to who's at fault, we've got to look a little bit inwardly. We've tolerated immorality. We're not reflecting light. So, anyway. All the way back and then right.

Man 9: I'd like to get your response to just a statement. I hear a lot of people complain about government, but I don't see a lot of people doing anything and getting involved. But, this is at the local, state, and federal level. We just went through a round of elections here. Mark, I think you can tell me. But, I think we've got 186,000 registered voters in Chattanooga area. I think less than 16% actually voted.

Mark Green: In my district, it was 8% voted.

Man 9: We've got a lot of people who are complaining, but if we're going to go and put a tax on people, we can tax people for not having health care, let's move the bill to tax them for not voting.

Mark Green: I like that. That's a brilliant idea. You know, it's not the candidates who are dropping that ball because we're calling people, asking them to go to the polls. We are knocking on their doors, asking them to go and be involved in the process. My dad, who's a pastor, I think I mentioned that earlier, had an old saying. He used to say, "It's sheep begets sheep." Everybody wants to make it the pastor's responsibility to grow the church, right? But, really, it's the flock that kind of goes out and sheep begets sheep. It's the same politically. There's only so much that the candidate themselves can do. In this regard, as it relates to 2016 and the presidential election, I want to say this. Then, we'll get your question. Right now, there is a soldier in Iraq. There is a soldier in Afghanistan with a weapon manning a post for our freedom. The least we can do is reach into our pockets and get a little more money. The least we can do is make a few calls. The least we can do is knock a few doors and give that man or woman a decent commander-in-chief. I will tell you, that isn't someone who flippantly sends classified information on an email server. Yes, sir.

Man 10: You know, we have a gathering storm, and I think we all know it. That storm is our federal government. The clouds are there. They're a real threat. They're tyrannical at this point. The challenge we face, though, is that we talk about congress. They haven't done their job. We talk about how important the next supreme court justices are going to be as far as being appointed. The truth is the judicial system is already shot. It's broken, and it's beyond repair, I believe because the supreme court hears only a few cases. The rest of the judicial system hears ten hundreds of times more cases, and it's infiltrated with

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progressives and liberals who are going to push their issues. Honestly, we've already lost that battle in my view. So, the solution has going to be state solutions, in my view. So, I asked Senator Bo Watson about this two or three weeks ago when I was meeting with him. He didn't really have a solution.

But, I have to look to you guys, honestly, to come up with, as some of the brightest guys in our state, to come up with solutions because the federal government is dangling carrots out here with all the money. How do we resist that? How do we take control of our state? How do we say, "No, you're not going to pass these unconstitutional laws and enforce them on us?" At some point, it takes a governor, and it takes legislators to say no and figure out how we can say no so we're not bankrupt. Are you guys thinking? Are you coming up with solutions? Are we becoming creative? How do we stop this intrusive, overbearing, tyrannical government?

Mark Green: Well, just like at the nation's founding. You start with some civil disobedience. Ultimately, really what you're talking about is what happens when the federal government says, "No, it's going to be this way," and the state of Tennessee says, "No, it's going to be this way." You start with civil disobedience. The governor could do stuff like that. "No, we're not going to issue marriage licenses to gay people because our state voted differently. Okay, Supreme Court. You said it. I don't care." I'll back you up. School districts, you want to have a bathroom that's separate for all of the guys or gals with question marks. You set up your own bathroom and the AFL-CIO is going to sue you. Well, I got your back, school district. We will support you as a state. There's actually a law suit in Hendersonville. So far, the state hasn't stepped up. I guess I mention that part in my comments about protecting Tennessee and the 10th amendment because I genuinely believe in the next four to eight years the senior leadership of the state has got to be willing to say, "Enough is enough." I don't know. Very sophisticated people are having this conversation. What happens?

For arguments sake, let's say they decide infanticide is okay. "Let's use taxpayer dollars for infanticide. If you don't want your down child." That's absurd, right? We would think, "They'd never get there." But, thirty years ago, that's what they thought about two guys getting married. So, at what point do you just say, "I drew this line in the sand and no." I was talking to the CEO of a multi-billion dollar hospital company. This is a sophisticated individual talking about the Tennessee flag being at the top of the flag pole. How did we get here? These are conversations people are having now. It's shocking. But, we're going to need leadership that's willing to stand up. Yes, sir.

Man 11: I just wanted to add something, actually pick up on something that Mark had mentioned there, if I got you correctly. He also talked about taking the money. The communities taking the money. The reason this gentleman and this whole section over here has a problem with common core is because the state wanted the money. They knew

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if they didn't say yes to common core, they didn't even know what it was yet, they weren't going to get the stimulus money. More and more pressure is there. The real question is what can we do in Nashville to say no to this money.

Mark Green: Bo and I, your Senator, I went to speak in Athens, Tennessee at their Reagan Day Dinner. "Hey Bo, I'm coming through. Can you swing up and let's talk about Beth Harwell's sneaky plan to do Medicaid expansion?" That sneaky plan that says, "Hey, we're going to do this for veterans. Don't you want to take care of veterans?" I'm a veteran, and I want to tell you, I'm insulted by that, that they would use me and my brothers and sisters who went and fought for this country as a way to tease in their Medicaid expansion. I can't speak for every veteran. Maybe other veterans feel differently. But, I see it as just that. He and I were talking, and he said, "Okay." This was Bo. This was his idea. He said, "Let's just pay for the whole thing in Tennessee dollars." "Oh, you want to take care of veterans? Okay. We'll pay for the whole thing from our surplus, 150 million dollars. We'll ensure them. Okay. Good."

This is an example of a state solution to a progressive left-leaning idea to sneak more federal dependence into the state of Tennessee. We're at a place in Tennessee, though, where we still, I think, get more from the federal government than we send up there in income taxes. It will be challenging to pick through this and get to the point where we can untie ourselves from that, continuing to have the state's economic power and grow will be an important strategic piece of that. But, I'll give you another example. My first year in office, this is where I realized ... and this may sound like heresy to some of you, but this is where I realized our founding fathers made some mistakes. I wrote a bill to allow the judge to be the final arbiter of who decides in child placement, not some bureaucrat. Well, we get federal funding for this process. The federal regulation says very specifically that it will be a bureaucrat that makes that decision, and it can't be a judge. That's them saying, "Okay, you want some money? You have to do it our way." That's how federalism has been undone. They have the ability to tax. Justice Robert said that. This is a tax. They can tax. Right? Founding fathers put that in there. Then, they can give back if you comply. It's an undoing of federalism. It's a flaw in the original document. It would be great if we had a republican president, 60 plus votes in the senate because you can't govern in the senate unless you get 60 votes, and a majority of the house, and then maybe we could reverse some of this stuff like a balanced budget. Don't spend more than you take in. Can we do maybe one more question?

Man 12: Thank you for your service, first of all.

Mark Green: Thanks.

Man 12: I appreciate you. Are you familiar with the convention of states project?

Mark Green: I am.

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Man 12: What, as a legislator, what's your thoughts on that?

Mark Green: It's interesting to me that this issue so divides the right. People on the right just either come down one way or the other on this one. I don't get it. I'll share my perspective. I may get a tomato or two. I don't know.

Man 13: Define the problem. For those of us who don't know, can you define the problem?

Mark Green: Oh, yes. The Convention of States, the part of Article 5 in the US constitution that says a convention of states can be formed as a means of adding an amendment to the constitution. It's the other way to get an amendment to the constitution. There's this movement to form this convention of states to get an amendment. Some people are saying term limit. Some people are saying a balanced budget amendment. There are others who are afraid that you can't limit it to one issue. Once you open a convention of state, they can rewrite the whole document. That's the fear, in a way. But, I am a firm believer that if we don't get to appoint where the balancing the budget is mandated in the law, they'll never fix the problem because they are overspending like crazy.

I believe it was Ronald Reagan who said, "Drunken sailor, but you have to apologize to the sailor because they're at least spending their own money." That's not what they're doing in Washington D.C.. They're spending our children's money. This is the tragedy. We have broken the contract with the generations. Your parents, my parents, my parent's parents, their parents had it in their mind that they wanted to leave an America better off for their children. We are living one that is debt ridden and far worse than it was when we inherited it for our children to take over and shoulder that debt. We have broken the contract with the generations. Quite honestly, it's a shameful thing to have done. I don't know if I answered your ... Oh, as far as that goes, I think it's the only solution. Well, thanks guys for having me here tonight.