



TOM DALEY

For U.S. CONGRESS

Dallas Morning News Questionnaire

The Dallas Morning News posed the following questions to all Candidates for Federal office. These are Tom Daley's responses to the questionnaire.

PERSONAL DATA

Name	Tom Daley
Street Address	3001 S. Hardin Blvd, Suite 110-211
City/Town	McKinney
State	TX
Education/Degrees	BA Economics, Hendrix College, Conway, AR (1986) JD, Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, Fort Worth, TX (2007)
Date of Birth	January 29, 1964
Campaign Office Phone	214-234-1611
Email Address	Tom.Daley@TomDaleyForCongress.com
Campaign Web Site	www.TomDaleyForCongress.com
Length of Residency in District	8 years
Occupation/Main Source of Income	Attorney/Investor/Entrepreneur
Current civic involvements/accomplishment highlights	Legal Aid of North West Texas Thomas J. & Ava P. Daley Foundation First United Methodist Church, McKinney
Previous civic involvements/accomplishment highlights	Texas Wesleyan Equal Justice Program Communities in Schools Foundation Communities Walker Elementary School
Previous Public Office	None
Arrested?	No
Funds raised?	On-going
Top 3 Contributors	Owners of Small Businesses

POSITIONS

Who should take the lead in expanding access to health care: Washington or the states? If Washington, should the federal government require employers to provide insurance for workers? Or should Washington require individuals to buy it for themselves? In return for everyone buying insurance, must insurers offer coverage to all people regardless of preexisting conditions?

The federal government pools our resources to accomplish important objectives that we cannot accomplish as individuals or as states. Portability of reasonable access to quality healthcare is a key dimension of national strength and therefore an important objective. We cannot provide health care access to each other as individuals and states cannot address interstate portability. Thus, as an important objective underpinning national strength, which we cannot otherwise accomplish, our national government must lead on this issue.

A reformed method of providing access to health care must ensure portability across employers and spans of no employment.

The creation of a national pool of risk must be accompanied by an elimination of discrimination based on preexisting conditions.

Should Congress return to reforming immigration laws? If so, what should it do?

Yes. Employers and workers have reached some equilibrium of supply and demand with respect to labor. Unfortunately, Congress has passed laws and quotas that have forced employers and workers to reach this equilibrium outside of the law. Immigration policy must be driven by the demands that businesses have for a sustainable, reliable work force.

How should Congress deal with climate change? For example, should it pursue a cap-and-trade system to control emissions?

Cap-and-trade, which allows polluters to take advantage of differing marginal abatement costs (MAC), is an important part of a short- and medium-term solution. It is better than command & control approaches because it provides flexibility to plant owners while achieving our overall objectives of reduced emissions.

EPA regulations that grandfather environmentally dangerous plants set unfairly high caps for those polluters. The caps should be based on units of fuel consumption as an objective measure of scale.

Do you think Medicare and Social Security need reforming? If so, please be specific about which reforms you favor. For example, do you favor changing any benefit levels? Which program deserves attention first?

Medicare can be reformed as part of the program to create universal access to health care. We need to insulate retirees from Medicare cost increases that exceed the CPI and provide incentives for practitioners to accept Medicare patients.

Social Security checks must not be reduced. I would not increase the retirement age.

I do not favor privatization of any part of the existing Social Security premium paid by employers or employees. However, I do favor encouraging people to save on their own.

If Congress doesn't renew the No Child Left Behind Act, how would you guarantee schools have demanding standards? How would you make sure children are doing math and reading at grade level?

Academic standards should be set by the individual states. An educated work force is an important element of a stronger America and a stronger economy. Therefore, states have sufficient incentive to guarantee demanding standards. Allowing parents to send their children to any public school in their taxing district would put some free-market pressure on underperforming schools.

Simple progress testing, which has been done for decades, provides parents with the information they need to make adjustments in their children's academic programs.

Are there specific steps Washington should take to reduce the national debt?

Yes.

- **Petroleum Subsidies:** The current price of oil provides sufficient incentive for oil exploration.
- **Farm subsidies:** When the farm-subsides were first enacted, agricultural science was not able to produce such hardy and prolific crops as we grow today. Futures markets and crop insurance had not been fully developed to help farmers hedge against yield-impacting disasters. Today's agriscience, commodity, and futures markets solve the problems that farm subsidies rightfully address. Therefore I believe farm subsidies paid to farmers should be phased out. The over \$1.3BB in subsidies paid to non-farmers should be eliminated immediately.
- **Transportation initiatives:** Our current transportation system in the Third District is too reliant on individual oil-burning vehicles and expensive, congested roads. An effective transportation system, while expensive to plan and construct, is precisely the kind of infrastructural investment that will further our common interests and have a positive impact on our lives, our economy, and our environment.
- **Defense:** The United States is a large commercial republic whose interests have expanded beyond its sovereign territory. We must protect the most vital of those interests; some of that protection must be in the form of military force using effective and efficient methods and programs.

There are programs that are wasteful and contractor arrangements that are too expensive or fail to provide the needed level of service. These programs must be reformed or cut.

Ensuring that our military reach does not exceed our practical interests would reduce the cost of military readiness.

- **Tax Cuts:** The Bush Administration and the Republican Party have spent us into a shameful level of debt. We are going to have to pay taxes and cut spending to pay down this debt. Once we have "right-sized" our role in the world and strengthened our infrastructure, tax cuts are a good option.
- **Education:** Dollars spent on education save multiples of those same dollars in reduced social costs. Investing in education furthers the creation of a ready workforce able to meet

the needs of business. Cutting education reverses these benefits. Therefore, I would not cut spending on pre-college education.

All people who want to do so should be able to attend college either with their own money or money borrowed and guaranteed by a third-party (most often, the federal government). We need college graduates in order to create and sustain the workforce of the future, upon which local businesses are dependent.

- Earmarks: I believe that earmarks should be greatly reduced.

What tax policies would you favor in a new administration?

I favor letting the "Bush Tax Cuts" expire.

Do you believe the alternative minimum tax should be reformed? If so, what are your ideas for overhauling it? Should Congress replace any revenues lost from the reform?

Yes. The first reform is that the AMTI threshold should be reset to its 1969 level in real-dollar terms and indexed to inflation thereafter.

AMT discourages investments in municipal securities and real estate. Encouraging these types of investments could help our budget-strapped municipalities and relieve some pressure from our real estate markets.

Congress will have to offset any lost revenues because we are operating too closely to the fringes of our fiscal abilities.

Should the U.S. reverse itself and engage in dialogue with leaders of so-called rogue states such as Iran, Venezuela or Syria?

Engagement works. We must engage—it is proof of our greatness.

If the White House fails to pressure a country that egregiously violates international human rights treaties, trade accords or environmental norms, should Congress require the government to take action? Why or why not?

Yes. International treaties are the supreme law of the land. If the President is failing in his or her duties to see to it that these laws are faithfully executed, Congress has its constitutional recourse.

Congress can also tie extension of "most favored nation" status to the President's credible certification of certain levels of compliance with our nation's human rights values and environmental priorities.

What policies should the next president and Congress pursue to stabilize the situation in Iraq?

Outcomes we must avoid are the closing of the Strait of Hormuz, and further disruption of the Iraqi oil supply. We have a moral obligation to prevent Iraq's neighbors from invading Iraq while it pulls itself together. Pursuit of these more limited interests suggests a type, size, and duration of deployment of military force that is much smaller and less expensive than the one we have now.

I do not believe we have the duty to prevent an Iraqi civil war. The choice of whether to engage in civil war over differences in sectarian affiliation is a choice to be made by individual Iraqis and does not require the presence and endangerment of U.S. troops.

What is Congress' oversight responsibility when it comes to foreign policy? Where has it fallen short or overstepped its bounds?

Congress has the constitutional responsibility to oversee the military that it is empowered to raise and Congress has the sole power to declare war. Congress has oversight responsibility for all the federal agencies including intelligence, an agency whose work product drives many foreign policy options and decisions. Perhaps most importantly, Congress controls the nation's budget.

Congress, under Republican majorities, has failed to perform necessary oversight of a flailing executive branch. Congress has begun to reassert itself as a co-equal branch of government with fiduciary oversight responsibility under Democratic majorities.

Please be specific about where you have moved a team towards the achievement of a goal.

The pattern of my professional career has been to imagine simple solutions to impossible problems, convey the solution to the stakeholders, secure their commitment, and then guide a team to successful delivery of the solution. The most precious accolade that I have ever received has been, "Tom Daley gets it." A lot of people have worked very hard, sometimes under difficult circumstances, to make my projects succeed. Their loyalty and genius have been the keys. My claim to success is that I built the teams, inspired their loyalty, and directed their genius.

What political leaders do you most admire, and why?

I admire James Madison and Alexander Hamilton for doing the hard scholarly work required to formulate a vision for our government. I admire George Washington for resigning his military commission after the Revolutionary War. I admire Abraham Lincoln for building, in Doris Kearns Goodwin's phrase, a Team of Rivals and making it work.

Each of these icons of American greatness worked diligently for the good of the country, whereas too often today party loyalty in Washington trumps institutional integrity and constituent representation.

That is precisely why I am running for Congress. Voters all over the United States have spoken and are continuing to speak: Change is coming. The question for us in the Third District is how we will be represented during this time of change. The incumbent has not effectively represented our particular needs as we transition our economy, health care system, transportation systems, immigration policies, environmental practices, and right-size our role in the world. I will be effective because I understand the need for change and will be a part of the majority party in the next Congress.

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