

A VOTER'S GUIDE TO THE GILBERT TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION 2011

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Past behavior is the best predictor of future performance.

Town elections are critical for our safety and quality of life. Yet very few care to study and vote. This guide cuts through the campaign rhetoric and uses classical political science models and tables to understand where candidates stand on issues.

I'm recommending people vote for Victor Petersen and Jordan Ray due to their practical and conservative approach to fiscal and social issues.

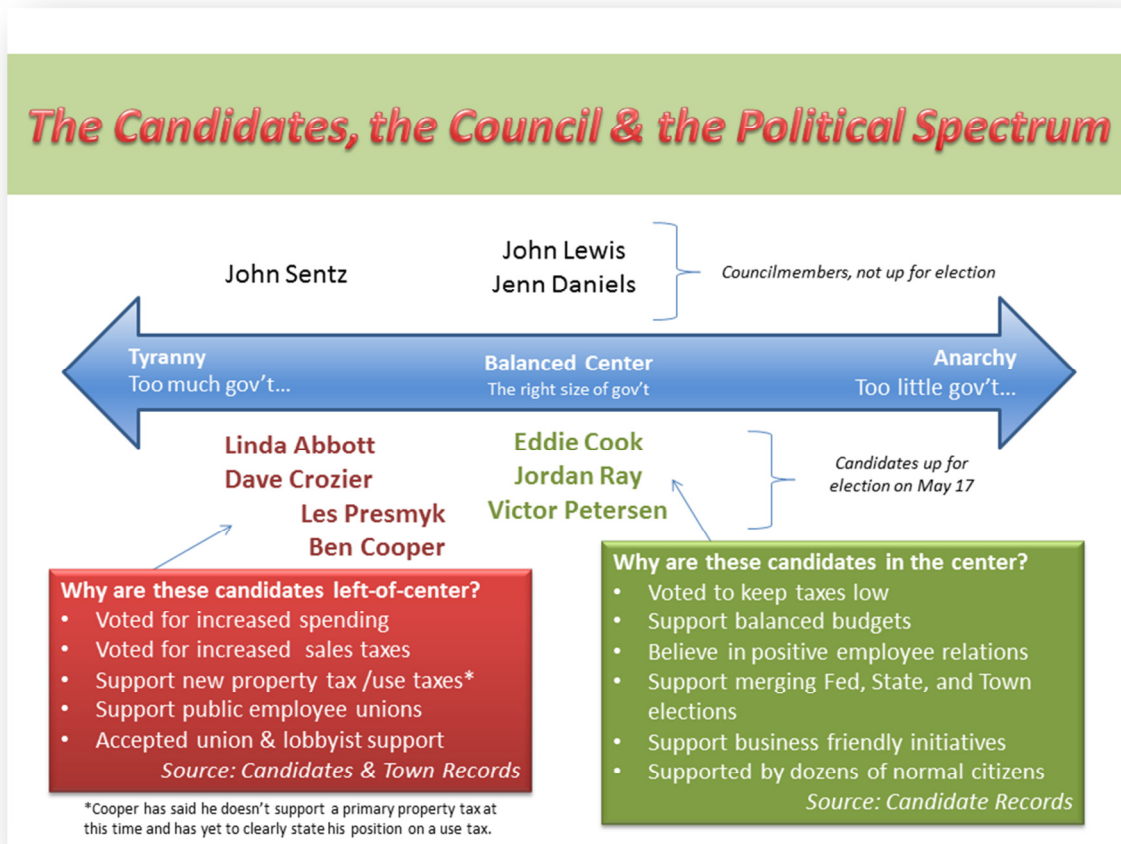
But don't take my word for it, study all the candidates and make your own decision. I hope this guide will help you make an informed decision.

This website hosts contact information for all the candidates:

<http://www.gilbertaz.gov/clerk/candidates.cfm>

The Political Spectrum

The Founding Fathers wanted to see America’s government fixed in the center of the political spectrum, between the *tyranny* of too much government and the *anarchy* of too little government. What you see in the following illustration is the political spectrum that the Founding Fathers used, and how all of our Council Members, including those and other candidates up for election on May 17, 2011, fit into that spectrum. Their position on the spectrum is based on their votes and/or support for certain critical issues. For example, Jordan Ray and Victor Petersen align with Mayor Lewis and Councilmember Jenn Daniels for a balanced government: not too large, not too small.



George Washington said, “there is a natural and necessary progression from the extreme of anarchy to the extreme of tyranny.” (Fitzpatrick, John, *Writings of George Washington*, 26:489)

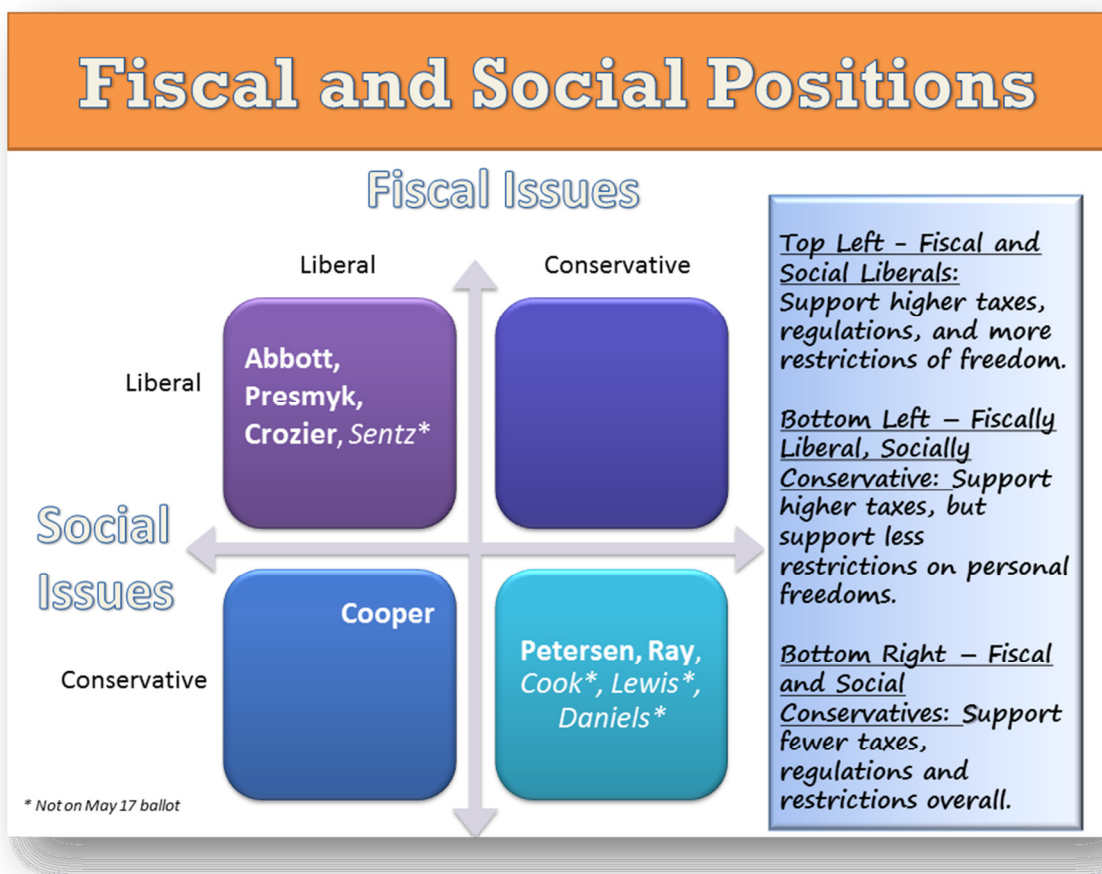
Jefferson said it a different way that identifies where we should be at the end of the day, “We are now vibrating between too much and too little government and the pendulum will rest finally in the middle.” The middle is the right balance of government to maintain safety, but protect liberties. (Ford, Paul, *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson*, 5:3)

Fiscal and Social Positions

In politics, issues typically are of a fiscal or social nature. Politicians can be understood in each context when plotting them on this classic political science grid. Here you can see where the candidates are plotted as compared to those not on the ballot. The selected box is based on an individual's votes and/or support for both fiscal and social issues.

Abbott, Presmyk, Crozier, and Sentz have a pattern of voting for more taxes, regulations, and restrictive ordinances. Although Cooper does not currently support a primary property tax, he has supported initiatives like Prop 406 to increase sales taxes. He is more conservative on social issues such as property rights and individual liberties thus his position as slightly fiscally liberal but relatively socially conservative. His support for local elections in the fall of odd years will cost an extra \$500,000, suppress higher voter turnout, and give pro-union votes extra weight.

Petersen, Ray, Cook, Lewis, and Daniels consistently support positions for less taxation and regulation, thus their position as fiscally and socially conservative.



Issues Table

This table outlines some of the major votes or positions of each candidate as expressed in their writings, speeches, or conversations. The purpose is to illuminate the record of behavior on key issues that may forecast future votes.

Candidate	Yes	No	Not Clear
Voted/Supported Raising Sales Taxes			
Petersen		X	
Ray		X	
Abbott	X		
Cooper	X		
Crozier	X		
Presmyk	X		
Supports Use Tax			
Petersen		X	
Ray		X	
Abbott	X		
Cooper			X
Crozier	X		
Presmyk	X		
Pro-Union			
Petersen		X	
Ray		X	
Abbott	X		
Cooper	X		
Crozier	X		
Presmyk	X		
Accepted Union & Lobbyist Support			
Petersen		X	
Ray		X	
Abbott	X		
Cooper	X		
Crozier	X		
Presmyk	X		
Voted for or Justifies Zinke Land Deal			
Petersen		X	
Ray		X	
Abbott	X		
Cooper	X		
Crozier	X		
Presmyk	X		

Sources: Candidates website, communications, articles and Town records.