

My name is Stephen Christopher and I've been asked to represent the Conservative Party in the Mayoral race.

In recent years many Americans and New Yorkers alike have become alarmed by what could be called "government on steroids." As government grows, we lose our freedoms and our prosperity. The founders of our republic believed that "that government governs best that governs least." We have forgotten that concept but have been recently reminded of its validity.

Government at all levels is spending with the reckless abandon that shows a callous disregard for not only the financial well-being of this generation, but for generations to come.

Good parents endeavor to provide their children with a brighter economic future than they had for themselves. Your

government, however, seems to care not one bit about your children's financial future. Most of those who govern us have devolved into creatures that seek only their own political future.

There is a growing awareness by many average citizens that those who govern us have lost touch with the common man. They have forgotten, if they ever knew, what it is to struggle to pay a mortgage, to scrimp in order to save for a car, or to make small sacrifices to provide the family with a modest vacation. As they pay lip service to the poor and middle class, they squander our tax monies like financial imbeciles. Then they ignore our pleas for wiser government and call our frustration and anger mob-like. They pander to the middle class. I, my fellow citizens, am middle class.

May I suggest to you that if we are ever to have more suitable governance, then we must have a paradigm shift. Thoreau

said, "There are a thousand that are hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the root." Others tell us that they want to reduce our taxes and give us more of our money. They are hacking at the leaves. I will attack the root. We need to reduce the size, scope, and reach of government. As citizens we need to see government as the last resort, not the first.

Here are some of the policies that I would seek to implement:

Re-create a business-friendly environment. Over-regulation and an anti-business attitude have created a shrinking job market. Jobs don't grow on trees. They are created when the entrepreneurial capabilities of private individuals are released. High taxes and strangling regulations inhibit business. At present, New York City is overly dependent on the investment and banking sectors. We must

diversify for the future. I am not suggesting that government needs to do any more than provide a favorable environment for business.

Our citizens are being harassed by hordes of ticket agents. I would seek to restrict the activity of these officers to what is necessary for the safety and well-being of the citizenry. The writers of the Declaration of Independence complained that King George had "sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance." Do you sometimes feel that we are enduring a similar situation?

Restore the traditional use of eminent domain. The United States Supreme Court has made it legal for government to confiscate the property of citizens in order to make it available to private interests to increase the tax base. It may be legal, but it isn't morally right, and I will end it.

Establish private ad hoc committees to find the waste in every department of City government and propose solutions. These would evaluate programs and departments, eliminating those that are not sufficiently useful, consolidating redundant programs, and reducing others.

Support the rights of the unborn in any way possible. In every abortion a human being dies. Why is an unborn baby denied the right of life?

Marriage has a traditional-historical, legal, and cultural definition which should be preserved. In western society marriage always has, and always should be between one man and one woman. In its present form, marriage is a bulwark against the legal recognition of all manner of non-traditional relationships such as triads, polygamy, and heaven knows what else.

I invite you to visit my website at christopher09.com to explore more issues and to peruse a more complete development of those that we have discussed.

With your help we can create a more citizen-friendly government for New York City.

Thank you.

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