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“Who Represents Me” in *76092*

Representatives for the city of Southlake, Texas on the federal, state, and local levels include U.S. house representative Kenny Marchant, state house representative Giovanni Capriglione, and local city council member Brandon Bledsoe, the former two identifying themselves as republicans. These three, even in their varying levels of government and political ideology, still share some stances on various political issues.

Kenny Marchant, elected into office in 2005, has released statements on his stance on subjects such as abortion, budget and defense spending, and education. According to a 2012 poll, Marchant has identified himself as being pro-life, not supporting government spending to promote economic growth, being against lowering defense spending, and allowing states and local districts to have more control on their respective schools rather than the federal government. The first of these stances, his position on abortion, can be accredited to his long standing personal belief in supporting pro-life ideals. He has stood behind numerous bills and acts that have been against abortion, including the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, and the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act. The second stance, not supporting government spending to promote economic growth, is based on his belief that economic growth is achieved through tax cuts for businesses, not higher taxes and increased regulations. His stance on defense spending is strongly based on Marchant’s vehement belief in a powerful and effective military. He is an active member of the Anti-Terrorism Caucus, and believes that the U.S. should increase missile defense development funding to further improve the nation’s ability to fend off possible attacks from countries such as North Korea. Finally, his stance on education being more in the hands of states and local districts is outlined by his support of the Student Success Act, which is meant to limit federal control of education in Texas.

Giovanni Capriglione, the District 98 state house representative, has released his position on stances similar to Marchant’s, such as abortion and government spending. He has also released positions on traditional marriage, the 2nd amendment dispute, and immigration. Much like Marchant, Capriglione has stated that he is pro-life, for many of the same reasons as Marchant. Additionally, Capriglione is against raising taxes to help improve the economy, as seen by his support of the Americans for Tax Reform Taxpayer’s Protection Pledge. He is against non-traditional marriage, seen by his recent vote on senate bill 2065, which is meant to allow religious organizations the right to decline performing marriage services. As can be seen from his membership of the NRA, he is a strong supporter of the right to bear arms. He is very much against illegal immigration, and supports removing all illegal immigrants from Texas. All of these beliefs are reflections, for the most part, of the district he represents which is also mostly Republican.

Local Southlake city council member Brandon Bledsoe has served on the council since 2009, and currently holds the position of deputy mayor. Before election, Bledsoe had a 23 year long career in the real estate banking industry, an area where he continues to work. Additionally, he served as president of the Southlake Program for the Involvement of Neighbors. During his time as a council member, he has served as the vice president of the Planning and Zoning Commission, a position which holds great importance in the rapidly expanding and highly influential Southlake area.

Although these three are supposed to support me on the local, state, and federal level, my own personal beliefs on the subjects stated above are for the most part dissimilar. Kenny Marchant and Giovanni Capriglione both identify as Republican. I personally consider myself to be middle/left on the political spectrum, and hold many beliefs that oppose those who represent me. I am an advocate of pro-choice, am open to non-traditional marriage, support federal spending to improve the economy, and do not support deportation of illegal immigrants. Some stances I do share, including Capriglione’s view on the right to bear arms, as well as Marchant’s stance on limiting federal involvement in education. I have no opposition towards Southlake City Council member Brandon Bledsoe. I believe that through his past experience in the real estate industry, he is a good addition to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Council as a whole. Summarily, although I support Bledsoe, I believe that the current representatives for Southlake do not accurately represent my own beliefs.

Works Cited

Kenny Marchant:

* <http://votesmart.org/galaxy/#/Kenny-Marchant-5549/Education-27/speeches>
* <http://votesmart.org/galaxy/#/?pct=5549>

Giovanni Capriglione

* <http://votesmart.org/candidate/public-statements/117464/giovanni-capriglione#.VfRe6flVikr>
* <http://votesmart.org/bill/20154/52946/117464/giovanni-capriglione-co-sponsored-sb-2065-authorizes-religious-organizations-to-decline-to-perform-marriage-services#52946>

Brandon Bledsoe

* <http://www.cityofsouthlake.com/index.aspx?NID=428>
* <http://www.electbrandonbledsoe.com/bio.aspx>