Who Represents Me Essay

Representation at Three Levels

* Federal Level: your U.S. House member
  + Can pick a residence, and write the paper from that residence (parents mailing address)
    - i.e. The Southlake representative
* State Level: your state House member
* Local Level: your city council member
  + Take dorm address and figure out local ward, with corresponding council member
* Ask yourself: if I registered to vote, what address would I use?
* Base your research off of this decision
* If you’re not from the U.S., go with local address

The Rubric

Out of 5 points

* 0.5 = Local representative
* 0.5 = State rep
* 0.5 = Federal rep
* 1.5 = Research
  + Who these people are and what they stand for
  + Don’t have to talk equally about them all, but must discuss all
  + Most will have websites
* 1 = Student position match with representatives
* 0.5 = Writing and grammar
* 0.5 = The “Wow!” factor
  + Try to impress the GTA’s

The Specs

* 2 to 3 pages, double spaced
* Due at the start of class on Monday, September 14th
* 1 copy in person, 1 copy on D2L
* Remember: penalties for lateness, eventual penalties for no D2L or no in person copy

Kenny Marchant

Giovanni Capriglione

Brandon Bledsoe

Votesmart.org

Area: Southlake, Tx 76092

* U.S. House Rep
  + Rep. Kenny Ewell Marchant (R)
  + Stances:
    - Education
      * Supports expansion of college student loans and accountability system for public schools to stress excellence.
    - Abortion
      * Pro life
    - Budget and Defense spending
      * Against income tax on any tax bracket. Against reducing defense spending
      * Does not support federal spending to promote economic growth.
    - Health Care
      * Supports repealing 2010 affordable care act
* State House Rep
  + Rep. Giovanni Capriglione (R)
    - Brief bio: He is a small business owner. He supports anything that will improve small businesses in any way.  Owns a private equity management company focusing on businesses located in Texas
  + Stances:
    - Pro life
    - Pro traditional marriage
    - Against benefits to illegal immigrants
    - Supports right to bare arms. Member of the NRA
    - Strongly against raising taxes. Signed the Americans for Tax Reform Taxpayer's Protection Pledge
* Local City Council Member
  + Brandon Bledsoe
  + Stances:

Works Cited

* Marchant Education Position - <http://votesmart.org/galaxy/#/Kenny-Marchant-5549/Education-27/speeches>
* Marchant political galaxy - <http://votesmart.org/galaxy/#/?pct=5549>
* Capriglione speeches - <http://votesmart.org/candidate/public-statements/117464/giovanni-capriglione#.VfRe6flVikr>
* Brandon Bledsoe - <http://www.cityofsouthlake.com/index.aspx?NID=428>
* Bledsoe bio - <http://www.electbrandonbledsoe.com/bio.aspx>

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American Federal Government 1113-030

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Who Represents Me in *76092*

Representatives for the city of Southlake, Texas on the federal, state, and local level 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, still share some stances on various political issues.

Kenny Marchant, elected into office in 2005, has released statements on his stances 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. 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. 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, and, as can be seen from his membership of the NRA, 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.

Local Southlake city council member Brandon Bledsoe has served on the council since 2009, and currently serves as 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. 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>

Brandon Bledsoe

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