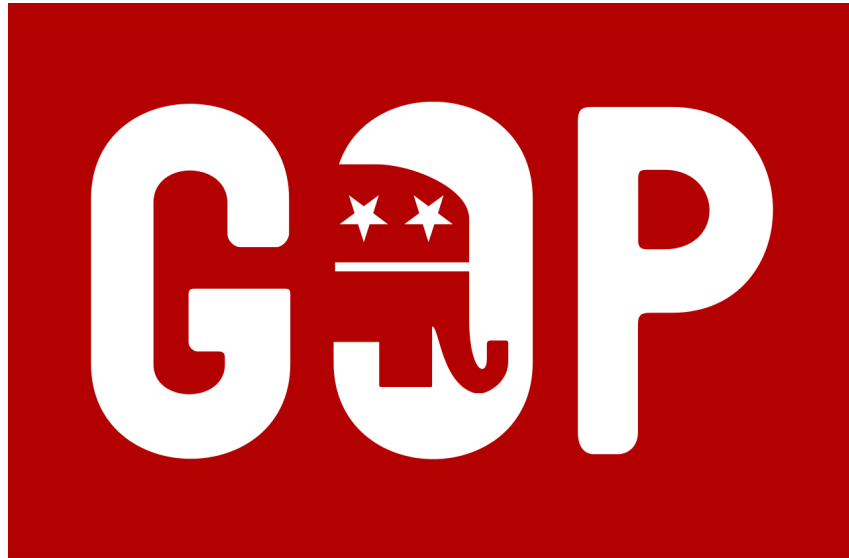
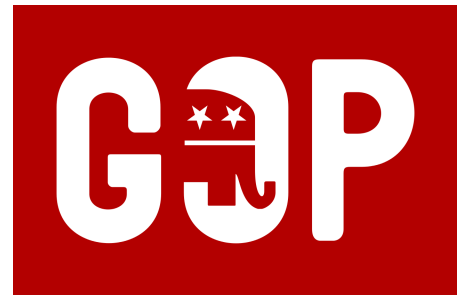


WestwoodMUNC II



**GOP 2018 Midterm Elections
Crisis Committee**



Dear Delegates,

My name is Jack Stebbins, I am the creator and Chair for the GOP Crisis Committee. I am in my senior year at Westwood High School, and in my second year of our Model United Nations Club. I am very excited to be bringing this committee to all of you, and I look forward to your brilliant strategies in both preparation and participation.

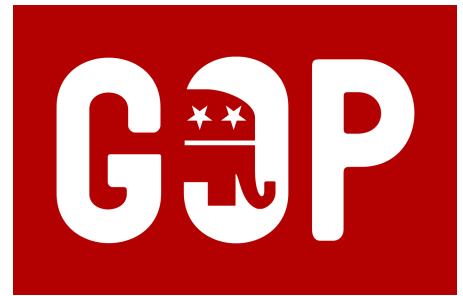
You will be exploring the nuance and complexities that lie within the modern Republican Party. The current state of the American government is fascinating, with a slew of contrasting opinions and motives all lying under the guise of two homogeneous political parties. The Republican party is specifically interesting due to their current control of all three branches of government. You will have to face the currently divided party in a hope to maintain power in the upcoming 2018 midterm elections.

Much is to be considered when approaching this conference. Each member of committee has a unique outlook on what a perfect Republican Party looks like. Some individuals are willing to compromise, while others hold staunchly with certain positions. You will have to consider personal positions while working as a group to further the outreach and improve the image of the Republican Party, and , in turn, succeed in the upcoming elections.

The background guide below will have information for your position and the committee on a broader scale. Your effort in preparation is vital to the success of this committee for all participating members. Be sure to contact me with any questions you may have. I look forward to working with you all.

Best,

Jack Stebbins
Chair: GOP Committee
Westwood High School '18
18jstebbins@wpsstudents.org



Delegates,

Since Westwood MUNCII is being run as an entirely crisis-based conference, it is important for newcomers to the format to be familiar with the rules of procedure, as it does diverge from some of the more traditional General Assembly procedures. Please see below for a quick rundown of most of the rules we will be following for the duration of the conference:

I. Overview:

Crisis committees are run differently from “normal” Model UN committees. Because they are run at a very fast pace, each committee is run in a perpetual moderated caucus. This means that instead of a Speakers’ List, the chair will set the speaking time and the topic at the beginning of the first committee session. The rest of the committee follows normal parliamentary procedure with a few notable exceptions.

II. Format:

As previously stated, the format of debate differs slightly from a general assembly in a crisis simulation. There is no speakers list and therefore, the default method of debate is the moderated caucus. It is encouraged that the first motion be a round robin so as to ascertain the positions of others in the committee. This will serve as a good jumping off point for seeing who delegates are most likely to work with and who is most likely to get in the way of achieving their goals. After that, delegates will be able to motion for the “traditional” (un)moderated caucuses, round robins, straw polls, moving into voting procedure, etc. In order to make any of these motions, a delegate must be recognized by the chair by raising their placards. Points and motions may be made between speakers.

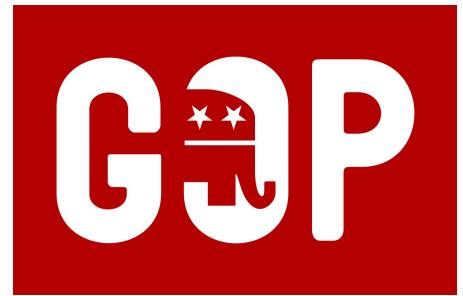
III. Directives:

Delegates **do not** work to pass resolutions. Rather, they will pass a series of *directives* that are binding, take effect immediately and can potentially alter the course of events for the entire crisis simulation. A directive is a specific action that the committee wishes to take.

VI. Personal Directives & Portfolio Powers

Additionally, individual members of the committee may pass *personal directives* depending on their “portfolio powers.” Portfolio powers are special privileges that are specific to a position, which will either be assigned in the Background Guide or at the start of committee. These powers can range anywhere from allocating funds for military development to taking military action and carrying out assassinations.

These actions do not need to be passed by the committee at large and their effectiveness is determined by their feasibility and the crisis staff. It is suggested that delegates refrain from sharing what personal directives they are planning taking as they should be used to achieve personal objectives that might not always align with the interests of the committee as a whole. Delegates with the ability to spend money will be updated on their budget at the beginning of



each committee session. Budgets will not increase unless that individual is specifically allocated additional funding by the committee.

V. Communication:

Communication is an essential part of any crisis simulation. At the beginning of the conference, delegates will be provided with a pen and a pad of paper. They may use the paper to write notes to each other, write up directives, or organize thoughts. Regarding note passing: delegates may pass notes to each other during committee while other members are speaking, but this privilege may be revoked by the chair should it distract from the debate. Specifics about note passing will be addressed at the beginning of the first committee session by the chair.

VI. Conference Prep:

In order to prepare for this conference, it is **strongly** recommended that each delegate consolidate their thoughts and strategy by writing a position paper. Delegates that do not submit a paper by the deadline below will not be eligible for awards. Position papers should:

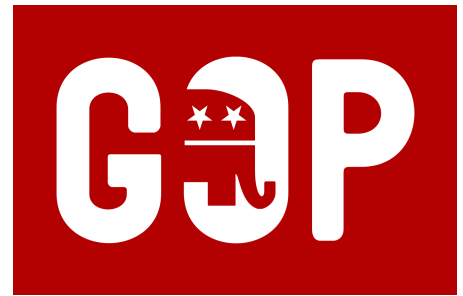
- Be 1-2 pages in length single spaced, 12 point font
- Address specific questions from the Background Guide that are relevant to your character
- Outline your character's likely optimal resolution and steps you need to take to achieve it
- MLA or Chicago style citations along with a Works Cited or Bibliography

Please email your position paper to your chair no later than **11:59 pm on Sunday April 22** so that they have adequate time to read them.

Once again, please feel free to email your chair or crisis director with any questions you may have regarding conference policies or procedures.

Best,

WestwoodMUNCII Staff



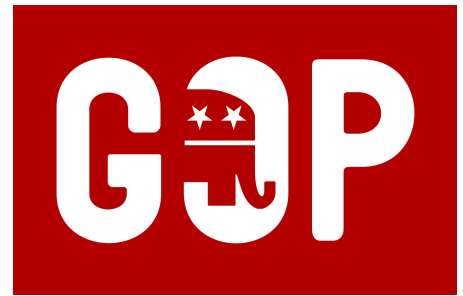
General Crisis:

It is two weeks until the 2018 midterm elections; a divided Republican Party is meeting after a series of polls showing diminishing support for the Right. The group is attempting to leverage their control of Congress in order to unite and push their far-right agenda through Congress before they risk losing their majority. The divide in the party is present as establishment Republicans and groups like the House Freedom Caucus remain at odds about the point at which ideology should be traded for votes. Additionally, lobbyists and individuals like the NRA and the Koch brothers continue to direct the actions of the GOP to benefit their own fortunes. In the face of the loss of power, the Republican Party must unite to remain in charge.

Background Guide

The Republican Party remains a party factioned by interests and goals. Conservatives in Congress remain divided across many groups with varying definitions of the word “conservative.” The House Freedom Caucus (HFC), a far-right group, and one of the current perpetrators of the GOP divide, was formed in 2015 as a reaction to what many far-right Congressmen labeled as “establishment Republicanism.” Many founding members of the HFC believed that the reigning GOP leaders favored corporations over taxpayers, and money over legislation. The Freedom Caucus appeared in 2015 and is credited for the resignation of former Speaker of the House, and “establishment Republican” John Boehner. The caucus is a group of about 40 republicans, whose goal is to push an anti-government and socially conservative legislation through the House of Representatives. The members are largely anti-government and tend to be extremely socially conservative. Following the resignation of John Boehner, Paul Ryan took the role as Speaker, with backing from the Freedom Caucus, where he remains. The GOP continues to try and utilize its majority in attempting to pass bills. However, these bills struggle to pass either due to Moderate Republicans voting against because the bill is too conservative, or more extreme Republicans voting against bills that are deemed too liberal. The recent Republican health care bill, the American Health Care Act, scraped through the House before being halted in the Senate. In response to the introduction of the bill, the Freedom Caucus pledged to vote against the bill, which, by HFC standards, required too much government intervention into the lives of individuals and into the free market. “Moderate” conservatives on the issues include individuals like John McCain who voted against the bill because it did not provide adequate coverage for individuals.

The GOP political leaders continue to be deeply affected by the lobbyist groups and individuals that provide most of their funding. This includes groups like the National Rifle Association, Robert Mercer, and the billionaire Koch brothers, all of whom have their own agenda, and have the capital to bring that agenda to a reality. The GOP remains in a chaotic



balance, as factions maintain significant power over each other, either through political leverage, or with power in capital. The Democratic Party is gaining support with messages against the overbearing power of the rich, and their amplified effect on politics. Additionally, the fight for equality among many minority groups, the Republican outlook on social justice is beginning to be looked upon negatively. With contradicting agendas, and dwindling constituent support, the Republican party must face their potential doom.

Current Situation

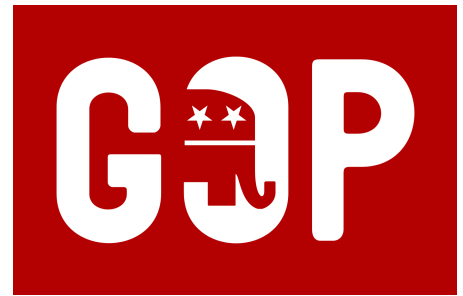
After constant congressional failure despite their majority, and Donald Trump's tirades against essentially every group of people (women, LGBTQ community, football players, football fans, veterans and their families, *every* racial minority), polling is showing a steep drop in approval for the Grand Old Party. A Gallup Poll shows a staggering 70% approval rating for the liberal agenda. The Republican party appears to be at risk of losing legislative power. Seeing these numbers, as well as his own 29% approval, Donald Trump tweeted saying,



In response to this, the moderate-right in Congress has begun shifting to, and working with the left in order to appeal to a more liberal constituency. The Republican Party begins to split as the far-right doubles-down on their extremely conservative agenda, in a hope to prove the strength of the Republican Party before the election. The GOP is also increasingly reliant on billionaire donors, both donating to campaigns and conservative think tanks. The liberal agenda is gaining traction in favor of campaign finance reform, and social justice reform. Both are in absolute opposition to general Republican agenda. With an unpredictable Republican President Trump, who remains unbound by party lines, willing to turn on any individual for his personal benefit, the powerful Republicans in the United States are forced to guide the future of their party.

Committee Members

Mark Meadows



- Representative from North Carolina's 11th District, Mark Meadows is most notably the chair of the House Freedom Caucus.¹ As such, he is strongly in favor of the implementation of core Republican values. He stands against gun control and in favor of a strong free market.²

Jim Jordan

- Jim Jordan is the Republican Representative for Ohio's 4th Congressional District. He is one of the founders of the House Freedom Caucus, and often stands against his own party, in the belief that their policies are not conservative enough.³ This includes issues like healthcare and tax reform, in which he calls for more aggressive change.⁴

Jeff Flake

- Jeff Flake is a Senator from Arizona. He is known for his open opposition to President Trump, and is one of the few Republican Senators not running for reelection in 2018. This being the case, Flake does not have incentive to align with Republicans with whom he does not agree. He remains one of the few Republican Congressmen openly criticizing President Trump, and legislating without fear of retaliation from the rest of the party⁵.

Bob Corker (not running in 2018)

- Bob Corker is a Tennessee Senator. He is another Senator not running for reelection in 2018. He notably voted against the Republican Health Care Bill and the Republican Tax Bill in 2017. He is another Senator not affected by the Republican Party, guided only by his own conservative values⁶

Mitch McConnell

- Mitch McConnell is a Senator from Kentucky, and current Senate Majority Leader. McConnell is a closely aligned with the traditional Republican dedication to cutting taxes and growing American industry.⁷ McConnell yields much power and influence over the Senate. His opinions often reflect the general positions of

¹ "Issues Home." United States Congress. 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018. <https://meadows.house.gov/issues/>.

² OnTheIssues.org. "Mark Meadows." Mark Meadows on the Issues. 2015. Accessed February 11, 2018. http://www.ontheissues.org/NC/Mark_Meadows.htm#Gun_Control.

³ "2017." United States Congressman Jim Jordan // Representing Ohio's 4th District. 2017. Accessed February 11, 2018. <https://jordan.house.gov/>.

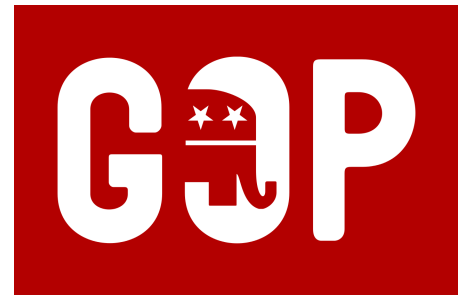
⁴ OnTheIssues.org. "Jim Jordan." Jim Jordan on the Issues. 2015. Accessed February 11, 2018. http://www.ontheissues.org/OH/Jim_Jordan.htm.

⁵ "The Voter's Self Defense System." Vote Smart. 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018. <https://votesmart.org/candidate/key-votes/28128/jeff-flake#.Wi3VptWnG00>.

⁶ "Robert Corker Voting Record." Vote Smart. 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018. <https://votesmart.org/candidate/key-votes/65905/robert-corker#.Wi3VmtWnG00>.

⁷ "Mitch McConnell." U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell. Accessed February 11, 2018. <https://www.mcconnell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/home>.

the Republican Party, although he remains hesitant to fully embrace Donald Trump's reflection of the Republican Party.⁸



Orrin Hatch

- Orrin Hatch is a Utah senator and President pro tempore of the Senate. He holds fairly standard Republican values (absolute free market, anti-abortion, anti gun control). It is notable, however, that he has announced he will not be running for reelection in 2018. These upcoming elections will not affect him deeply, and his policy positions may reflect that.

Charles Koch

- Charles Koch is a billionaire donor and longtime supporter of the Republican Party⁹. He, along with his brothers, inherited his wealth from his father's success in the oil industry. Charles is currently CEO of Koch Industries, and continues to endorse a party that advocates for a free, unsuppressed market¹⁰

Steve Scalise

- Steve Scalise is the Majority Whip in the House of Representatives, he represents Louisiana's 1st District. Scalise holds many basic Republican values.¹¹ He is known for his opposition to gun control measures, despite being shot at the Congressional baseball practice in June of 2017.¹²

Jeff Sessions

- Jeff Sessions is a former Alabama Senator, and current Attorney General. He is defined in his positions as highly conservative, and often looks towards religion to inform his views. He has been harsh on progression of Civil Rights, and is famously tough on crime. It is also notable that the Attorney General has recused himself from the Trump-Russia investigation.¹³

Steve Bannon

⁸ "Mitch McConnell Voting History." Vote Smart. 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018.

<https://votesmart.org/candidate/political-courage-test/53298/mitch-mcconnell/#.Wi3dL9WnG00>.

⁹ Mayer, Jane. Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right. S.I.: Doubleday Books, 2016.

¹⁰ "Charles Koch." Forbes. 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018.

<https://www.forbes.com/profile/charles-koch/>.

¹¹ OnTheIssues.org. "Steve Scalise." Steve Scalise on the Issues. 2015. Accessed February 11, 2018.

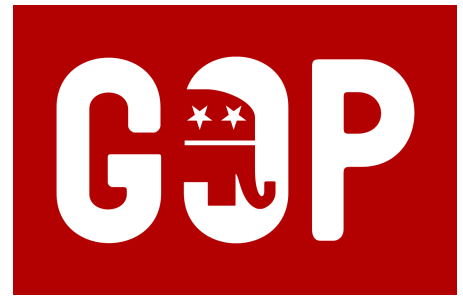
http://www.ontheissues.org/House/Steve_Scalise.htm.

¹² Shabad, Rebecca. "Steve Scalise to undergo planned surgery as part of recovery from baseball shooting." CBS News. January 09, 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/steve-scalise-to-undergo-planned-surgery-as-part-of-recovery-from-baseball-shooting/>.

¹³ OnTheIssues.org. "Jeff Sessions." Jeff Sessions on the Issues. 2015. Accessed February 11, 2018.

http://www.ontheissues.org/Senate/Jeff_Sessions.htm.



- Steve Bannon is the former chief strategist for President Trump, and former executive chairman of Breitbart. He is considered a Republican adviser, and has backed multiple Republican candidates in their run for office, including Roy Moore. He also made news for his comments berating President Trump, in the West Wing gossip book “Fire and Fury.” These comments led to his stepping down from Breitbart News.¹⁴

Robert Mercer

- Robert Mercer is a former IBM coder, and current political donor. He backed Donald Trump, and donated \$25 million to his 2016 presidential campaign.¹⁵ He also was a former donor to Steve Bannon’s Breitbart, but cut ties after the release of Michael Wolff’s “Fire and Fury.”

Wayne LaPierre (NRA)

- Wayne LaPierre is executive vice president and CEO of the National Rifle Association. The NRA is a group that lobbies against gun control, and in favor of free gun ownership.¹⁶ The NRA donates heavily to pro-gun congressmen, including John McCain, who has received almost \$8 million from the group.¹⁷

Ted Cruz

- Ted Cruz is a Texas senator and was a presidential candidate in 2016. He is strongly in favor of the freedom of the 2nd amendment, and has long stood for the repeal of Obamacare.¹⁸ It is also notable that he was public about his initial resistance to endorsing Trump as the Republican candidate, but he eventually relented.¹⁹

Marco Rubio

- Marco Rubio was a presidential candidate in 2016, and is a current Senator representing the state of Florida. He focuses mostly on the development of the American economy. He was a victim of much name-calling and bullying from

¹⁴ Peters, Jeremy W. "Steve Bannon Steps Down From Breitbart Post." The New York Times. January 09, 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/09/us/politics/steve-bannon-breitbart-trump.html>.

¹⁵ "Robert Mercer." Forbes. 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018.

<https://www.forbes.com/profile/robert-mercer/>.

¹⁶ "About the NRA." NRA.ORG. 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018. <https://home.nra.org/about-the-nra/>.

¹⁷ Leonhardt, David, Ian Prasad Philbrick, and Stuart A. Thompson. "The Congress Members Receiving the Most N.R.A. Funding." The New York Times. October 04, 2017. Accessed February 11, 2018.

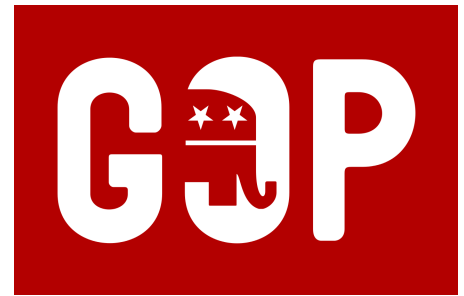
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/10/04/opinion/thoughts-prayers-nra-funding-senators.html>.

¹⁸ OnTheIssues.org. "Ted Cruz." Ted Cruz on the Issues. 2015. Accessed February 11, 2018.

http://www.ontheissues.org/Senate/Ted_Cruz.htm.

¹⁹ Schroeder, Peter. "No Trump endorsement from Cruz: 'Vote your conscience'." TheHill. July 21, 2016. Accessed February 11, 2018.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/presidential-races/288607-no-trump-endorsement-from-cruz-who-tells-gop-vote-your>.



President Trump in the primary, and continues to criticize the president for any hypocrisy.²⁰

Chuck Grassley

- Chuck Grassley is an Iowa Senator and is the Chairman for the Senate Judiciary Committee.²¹ Senator Grassley holds strong economic values, believing in the growth of the American economy through the creation of jobs. He is not overly radical in his positions, but remains a leader among the party, as one of the oldest and longest-serving Senators.²²

Lindsey Graham

- Graham is a Senator from South Carolina. He is one of the highest ranking and most outspoken members of Congress. He is fairly standard as a Republican on major issue,²³ but has been generally separating himself from Trump, and the Republicans who swear by him. He has been more open to compromise with Democrats, and has shown resistance against some of the major Republican bills that have been proposed.²⁴

Lisa Murkowski

- Lisa Murkowski is an Alaska Senator and an important Republican figure in the Senate. She holds many strong positions pertaining to her state. She is chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Alaska's unique qualities allow for Senator Murkowski to play a unique role within the Senate.²⁵

Trey Gowdy

- Trey Gowdy is a Representative for the 4th District of South Carolina. He is the Chairman for the House Oversight Committee, and recently stepped down from his position as chairman for the House Committee on Ethics.²⁶ He cited his reason for stepping down as a heavy workload, likely due to the recent wave of sexual assault accusations that have plagued Congress.²⁷

²⁰ "Issues." Marco Rubio for Senate. 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018. <https://marcorubio.com/issues/>.

²¹ "Committee Assignments." Chuck Grassley. 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018. <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/about/committee-assignments>.

²² OnTheIssues.org. "Chuck Grassley." Chuck Grassley on the Issues. 2015. Accessed February 11, 2018. http://www.ontheissues.org/Senate/Chuck_Grassley.htm.

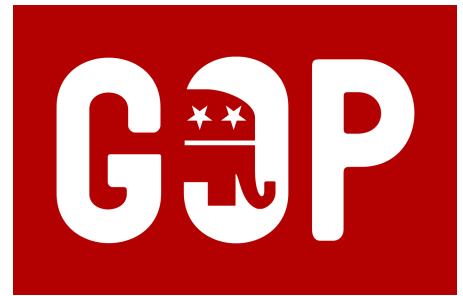
²³ OnTheIssues.org. "Lindsey Graham." Lindsey Graham on the Issues. 2015. Accessed February 11, 2018. http://www.ontheissues.org/Senate/Lindsey_Graham.htm.

²⁴ "Lindsey Graham." United States Senator Lindsey Graham. Accessed February 11, 2018. <https://www.lgraham.senate.gov/public/>.

²⁵ "Issues & Priorities | U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska." Issues | U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018. <https://www.murkowski.senate.gov/issues/issues-and-priorities>.

²⁶ "Congressman Trey Gowdy." Congressman Trey Gowdy. 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018. <https://gowdy.house.gov/>.

²⁷ Stracqualursi, Veronica. "Rep. Gowdy resigns from House Ethics Committee." CNN. January 13, 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018. <http://www.cnn.com/2018/01/13/politics/gowdy-steps-down-house-ethics/index.html>.



Mike Pence

- Mike Pence is a former Indiana Senator and current Vice President of the United States. Pence pledges core Christian values, and is outspoken in his positions on issues like abortion. Pence's values deeply contrast the often erratic and seemingly non-Christian actions of President Trump. He remains an important figure of evangelical Republicanism.²⁸

Susan Collins

- Susan Collins is a Maine Senator and has made news in recent votes against the Republican attempts at passing a healthcare bill.²⁹ Collins has wavered in her support for the general establishment Republicans that tend to align with Donald Trump.³⁰

Tom Cotton

- Tom Cotton is a Republican Senator for Arkansas. He has voted with most of the major Republican bills brought forth this past year.³¹ In general, Cotton remains an important and consistent figure in the Republican party, and has had little issue taken with the rest of the party.³²

Sean Hannity

- Sean Hannity is a Fox News talk show host. He hosts "The Sean Hannity Show" and is considered a close advisor to President Trump.³³ Fox and especially Hannity have been considered an extension of the Trump White House, as they often reflect each other in message and purpose.³⁴

John McCain

- John McCain is an Arizona Senator. He was the Republican Presidential Candidate in 2008. McCain has made news criticizing the goals and methods performed by Trump and his administration. He was the deciding "nay" vote

²⁸ "Michael R. Pence." The White House. 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/people/mike-pence/>.

²⁹ Bycoffe, Aaron. "Tracking Susan M. Collins In The Age Of Trump." FiveThirtyEight. February 09, 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018. <https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/congress-trump-score/susan-m-collins/>.

³⁰ "Senator Susan Collins." Sponsored Bills | Senator Susan Collins. 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018. <https://www.collins.senate.gov/about/sponsored-bills>.

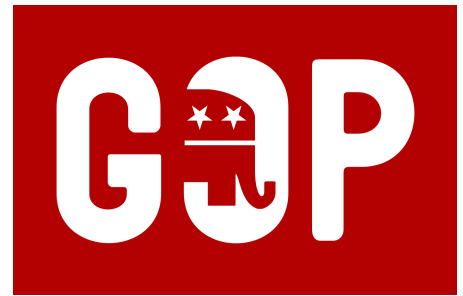
³¹ Bycoffe, Aaron. "Tracking Tom Cotton In The Age Of Trump." FiveThirtyEight. February 09, 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018. <https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/congress-trump-score/tom-cotton/>.

³² <https://www.cotton.senate.gov/>

³³ "Sean Hannity." Sean Hannity. 2018. Accessed February 11, 2018. <https://www.hannity.com/>.

³⁴ Bump, Philip. "Analysis | Sean Hannity's rambling defense of Trump, visualized." The Washington Post. October 31, 2017. Accessed February 11, 2018. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/politics/wp/2017/10/31/sean-hannitys-rambling-defense-of-trump-visualized/?utm_term=.2774f5f0a5f0.

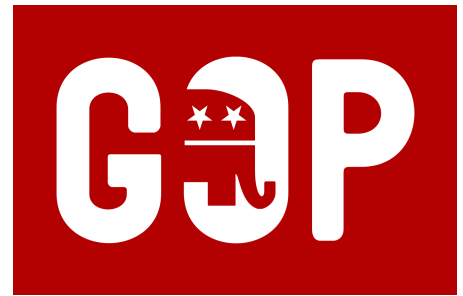
against the Republican Healthcare bill. More recently McCain has been diagnosed with brain cancer, which, of course, has become his most important fight.³⁵



Questions to Consider

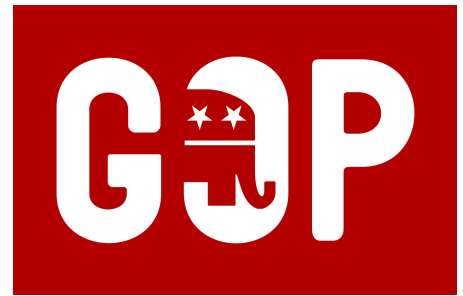
- ❖ **Is it more important to stick to traditional values, or appeal to voters and remain in power?**
- ❖ **Will supporting the president and general “Trump-ism” be the best strategy for success in the future?**
- ❖ **Should the current leaders of the Republican Party remain in their leadership roles?**
- ❖ **What is the best response to the Democratic call for campaign finance reform?**
- ❖ **Is Republican Party currently sticking to its core values, or is it skewed by donors and voters?**
- ❖ **What is the best course of action in the face of sexual assault accusations of people within the same party?**
- ❖ **Is GOP unification possible?**

³⁵ Gangel, Jamie, Sunlen Serfaty, and Eric Bradner. "McCain described as increasingly frail, Senate sources say." CNN. December 15, 2017. Accessed February 11, 2018. <http://www.cnn.com/2017/12/14/politics/john-mccain-illness-update/index.html>.



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<http://www.cnn.com/2017/12/14/politics/john-mccain-illness-update/index.html>.
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<https://www.murkowski.senate.gov/issues/issues-and-priorities>.

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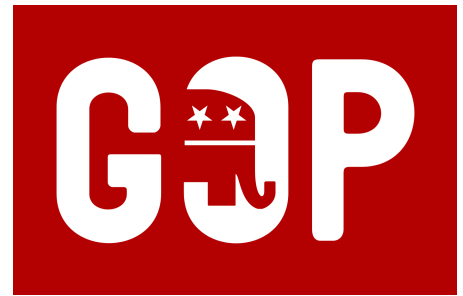
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