

Right to Life

Human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every stage until natural death.

Response: ***Strongly Agree***

Abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood, should not receive taxpayer funds or grants from federal, state, or local governments.

Response: ***Strongly Agree***

Under what circumstances should abortion be allowed?

Response: ***I firmly believe that the life in the womb should be protected. As many others, I have studied this issue in great detail. My position is that we should never kill a baby for the sins of the father or mother. As the father of a special needs child who passed away July 31, 2017 after a ten-year battle with a birth-related brain injury, I believe that all life is precious and children with disabilities are a blessing. Also, the womb should be the safest place for a baby.***

I drafted and passed SB 33 in 2016 that made it a crime to sell baby parts from an abortion. It imposed a 10-50 year sentence and \$50,000.00 fine for buying, selling and transporting baby parts. It was the toughest criminal law in the nation on buying, selling and transporting baby parts and contributed to the closing of the abortion clinic in Bossier Parish.

We also fought to increase support for Foster Children by extending the age to care for Foster Children from 18 to graduation from High School or age 21. The following year, it was extended to age 21 for all Foster Children. This bill has helped to keep these

children out of prison and sex trafficking. They are the most vulnerable. We must always continue to protect our Foster Children.

Economy

It is the government's responsibility to be sure everyone has a livable income.

Response: No, the American form of government does not have socialist DNA. It cannot make sure everyone has an income. While the poor and disabled should have a safety net, we cannot provide an income to everyone. Human nature would set in and folks would simply stop achieving greatness. There is a delicate balance between helping those that cannot help themselves and stifling ingenuity that can only emanate from hard economic times.

Free enterprise and the right to private property are essential elements of a productive economic system.

Yes, a productive economic system is judged by the number of transactions occurring in the market over a set duration of time. Government intervention slows that frequency down by creating unnecessary road blocks. For instance, in third-world countries, we are stopped several times on the roads to pay "tolls" to the local police- this actually slows the movement of people down and hence the economy. In Louisiana, we have to get government out of the way. I have drafted bills to delete unnecessary commissions and decrease government intervention in tax exemptions. I have fought for fair flat taxes.

Private property rights are very important. We can acquire wealth through property ownership. But private property

ownership with heavy tax burdens can result in a loss of wealth through over taxation. If taxes are necessary after cuts have been made, then fair flat taxes are the answer. Fair means everyone pays and flat means the lowest tax rate possible. I have worked to pass fair flat taxes to promote investment and wealth building in families.

Congress should pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

Response: Yes, we do this at the state level. Human nature is to pay for it later, and Congress does this better than anyone. The state must balance the budget. It is difficult and can take several special sessions, but it is worth it for the overall benefit of the citizens of Louisiana.

What is the best way to bring down unemployment?

Response: I've worked hard in my district to keep jobs here. I worked with Fibrebond in Minden to keep 750 manufacturing jobs in my district. That relationship and journey has given me a unique perspective on how to keep good jobs here. The company was very close to moving to East Texas, but we were able to build a bipartisan team to keep them here. This is hugely significant for the citizens of Webster Parish and our State.

Businesses wants clear tax laws, low government red tape and true insurance reform. All things I have worked for in the legislation I have drafted to keep the citizens of District 36 in mind.

What role should government play in boosting the economy?

Response: The government should have a clear tax plan and stick with it for 10-year intervals. Businesses plan on ten-year terms, and I believe the government should too.

Also, the insurance commission should regulate insurance. Last session, it was revealed that insurance companies are able to use our credit scores to set our rates. That practice must stop. I voted for SB 89 in committee that would have stopped this practice, but big insurance killed the bill. This would greatly help our local businesses.

Tort reform and premium calculation reform is necessary but must be actuarially sound. I have voted for these bills and drafted a few. Businesses are sick of big insurance controlling the reform debate. We will keep pushing for true reform.

Standardized tax collection in each parish and no double dipping on taxes. Fair flat tax structure.

Finally, and most importantly, remove corporate exemptions that have not been audited in 80 years. These total about 12 billion in tax forgiveness each year to companies that admit they are modernizing and laying folks off. We could reduce this by 25% and get rid of our income taxes for the middle class. This one item alone would spur the economy to new heights.

Religious Liberty

Governments should not discriminate against individuals, organizations or small businesses because of their belief that marriage is only a union of one man and one woman.

Response: ***Strongly Agree***

Governments should define marriage as between one man and one woman; no other definition of marriage should be legalized or supported with taxpayer or public funds.

Response: ***Strongly Agree - Religious liberty is at risk in the United States and deserves the highest level of protection in the law.***

Healthcare

It is the government's responsibility to be sure everyone has health insurance.

Response: ***Health insurance is a for-profit business that collects premiums for citizens. It enters into buying power reductions in medical costs from medical providers. It then passes the difference of the savings in the “retail” price and “wholesale” price to its shareholders. Medical Providers historically were the financial beneficiary of the process but recently health insurance has enjoyed large profits and doctors’ margins are falling. This cannot be sustained. Doctors live in the local economy and insurance companies are out of state. Our economy is better served by keeping the doctors and patients happy.***

The government’s responsibility is to make sure Big Insurance and their lobbyists do not take control of Doctors’ profits or patient care. Unfortunately, the victory tips in favor of big insurance. I have doctors with a treatment plan and a patient in agreement with the plan being asked questions about the care by a non-doctor insurance auditor. My constituents who are dying of cancer are getting delayed or no treatment. My constituents waiting on medicine are getting delayed treatment. Therefore, my vote always with the patients and the Doctors.

How would you promote healthcare coverage that is adequate, affordable and accessible for all?

Response: ***The market, if unregulated, will always provide coverage for the young and the healthy. Our role is to make sure that profit-seeking companies remember that the purpose of insurance is to spread the loss of one among many. Losses are a part of the insurance system. We must make sure that profit-seeking companies don't stop covering someone because they have a loss or illness. I'll stand with the patients and Doctors every time.***

National Security

I am in favor of construction of a wall and other necessary infrastructure on our border that gives complete control over entering and exiting the United States.

Response: ***Yes, America is a nation of immigrants, but we are being taken advantage of. I have helped folks find the right information to become citizens and have worked with ministries to help border towns in Mexico. The wall should be built and immigration policy needs to be implemented to love and welcome new citizens to America. The wall has less to do with immigration and more to do with security. Confusing the two causes an extreme emotional fight.***

Simply put, I am for immigration, I am for helping refugees who are fleeing to America and I am for the wall to protect our border from drugs and terrorist. But I will go on a mission trip to Juarez in a heartbeat, to encourage the love of Christ and legal immigration to America.

I support the use of Sharia law as a basis for legislation and judicial decisions in the United States.

Response: ***No, Sharia law has no place in the American Judiciary. I have a degree in History from LSU, a law degree, I have served as a judge, I have been trained at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada - I can say unequivocally that Sharia law is antipodal to the concepts in our land and cannot coexist with our form of freedom.***

Root it out and impeach any judge that imposes that law.

The best way to maintain peace is through a strong military.

Response: ***I agree, I have worked very hard to grow our base in Bossier. I have worked to find funding for the Barksdale 220 interchange. This will allow Barksdale AFB to grow. Currently it is one of our largest land-based employers in the state. It is the home of the B52 and the first called to war.***

State and federal funds should be denied to any public or private entity, including but not limited to sanctuary cities, that are not in compliance with immigration laws.

Response: ***If a city has been determined to be a sanctuary city by a committee with proper jurisdiction, then that is a fair penalty. A few years ago, a bill was brought to punish cities before they received Due Process. There must be a due process component to any legislation.***

Education

Tuition-free public education should be guaranteed through college.

Response: ***No, Louisiana cannot afford to give free college. K-12 however is a pipeline that moves children from poverty to prosperity. Fully fund K-12 and allow students to receive scholarships or loans for higher education. That will ensure decisions are made that benefit both society and the student.***

Values

Judeo-Christian values established a framework of morality which permitted our system of limited government.

Response: ***As a licensed minister and having a degree in history, I could not agree with this more. This is a truthful statement and I will fight to maintain our Judeo-Christian values in office. I have drafted legislation to protect the unborn, to protect school prayer and spoke on the Senate floor numerous times about our Judeo-Christian values.***

Parents should be the primary authority in decisions affecting their minor children.

Response: ***Yes, parents hold the sacrosanct Christian Constitutional right to determine what concepts their child can learn. World views should not be taught during science, reading, writing, history, math, technology, engineering and grammar.***

The LGBTQ+ political agenda poses a threat to First Amendment freedoms of speech, expression and religious exercise.

Response: ***I support protecting anyone from bullying. I think we should share the gospel with everyone. The current political agenda of the far-left LGBTQ+ does not even resonate with the folks in my district that identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgendered. When I discuss issues with those constituents, they mainly want the same as everyone else: jobs, lower taxes, good roads, lower insurance and other items. We are pretty nice to everyone in my district so we simply don't see what is being seen everywhere else.***

My Christian beliefs as a licensed minister are clear. Pastors need to be able to preach from the Bible. I will fight to protect that right. When they preach out of love against sin while loving the sinner, we will see progress on the issues facing us.

I support expanding protections in employment and accommodations based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Response: ***Legally we have to protect folks from being bullied at work. We simply cannot tolerate small minded folks bullying folks for any reason. However, when a business has strong religious convictions it should be able to make employment decision and contract decisions on its policies. Bullying over a lifestyle is different than asking a business to change its strongly held religious views because a LGBTQ+ person is offended. If I am offended by something my employer says, I vote with my feet and leave. I should not have the power of the court to change his business because I am offended. However, if my boss bullies me for sharing the gospel, then I should be protected.***

The irony is all this is that a LGBTQ+ teacher can share their lifestyle by example with students at a public school, but a Christian teacher cannot pray with another Christian student. I

don't have all the answers, but there is work to be done and I am ready.

If children are given instruction in sex education in public schools, it should not express a preference for abstinence but should be comprehensive, offering discussions on various types of sexual orientations and behaviors plus all types of contraceptives.

Response: ***I taught my daughters about this. We started at a very early age. I told them this way "Where do we build a fire- the fire place right. If we build that fire in the fire place it will be safe and keep the whole house warm. If we take that same wood and fire starter and build the fire on grandmas antique table what would happen?" "Dad the house could burn down we could be hurt." Then I tell them "Building a fire in the fire place is like sex in marriage- its where it's supposed to be and your house is fine, but having sex outside of marriage is like building a fire on that table- it could kill, steal and destroy your dreams." Then I teach them there is always forgiveness.***

Sex ed instruction is needed because most kids do not have parents that talk to them about this. But each kid is different, what is ointment for one child is poison for another.

What in the nature of mankind caused America's Founders to carefully define, separate, and limit powers in the Constitution?

Response: ***Pride, greed, selfish ambition and sin. The separation of powers and the 10th amendment are powerful and need to be protected. The commerce clause is also a powerful shield or sword to our values. We must reel in government spending and power grabs with the timeless tools our founding fathers gave us.***

Briefly describe your spiritual beliefs and values.

Response: My dad took us to church every Sunday. We were always at church or helping at church. I was raised Catholic. My wife and I were married in July 1996 and I was saved in December 2002 right before the birth of my second daughter. My oldest daughter was 2 at the time and she was sick the night before church. I told my pregnant wife I would stay home with Katherine. Katherine came to my room and woke me up asking to go to church, I did not want to go but she did. We went and we sat on the third row. The preacher preached out of Nehemiah and said we can all do our part. He then said in application that "even children can lead folks to Christ." Here I was in church because my 2-year-old invited me. I walked down that day and my life has never been the same. That led to teaching Sunday school, kindergarten to Couples classes. Going on Mission Trips to Jaurez, El Salvador, Haiti and many places in the US. In fact, the night I was elected in 2015, I was in Bossier, Haiti on a mission trip. My kids asked me if we were going on the trip or staying home for the runoff. I told them God calls us chronologically- he called me to Haiti before he called me to run - so we went. My children and my wife love that story. We won by 327 votes while we were in Haiti. My first act as a senator elect was to preach a sermon in Bossier, Haiti on Sunday morning.

I am a licensed minister and I currently teach 12th grade boys at Cypress Baptist Church in Benton. I am the Louisiana Trustee to the Southern Baptist Conventions Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. We lead trips to Haiti each year and our children serve in missions at every opportunity. We believe in sharing the gospel with Bible tracts.

God radically changed my life and I will never be the same. He got us through the death of our daughter on July 31, 2017. My favorite verse is Romans 12:1-2. My favorite book of the Bible is James.

Qualifications

I voted in these elections:

Response: ***I have voted in every election.***

When you consider your views on a wide range of issues from economic and social matters to foreign policy and immigration, which of the following best describes you overall?

Response: ***Christian Conservative***

Please provide publicly available information validating your answer to the previous question.

Response: ***Wikipedia Page, Legislative Website with bills I have drafted. Speeches I've made on senate floor on pro-life issues. Also, my YouTube channel and Facebook page – Ryan Gatti for State Senator District 36.***

What education or experience qualifies you to hold the office for which you seek election?

Response: ***Airline High School 1992 Co-Valedictorian***

Bachelor's Degree in History from LSU Baton Rouge completed all courses in 2 years and 9 months.

Law Degree LSU Law School.

20 years of practicing law helping everyday people and small businesses in by practice.

Served as a Judge 2007-2009 for a 7-parish area

Senate 2016-2020- 62 bills drafted 21 became law in first term.

Licensed Minister

E-mail address and phone number for voters to reach you:

Response: ***ryan@ryangatti.com/318.560.6587***

Is there anything else you would like voters to know about you?

Response: ***I have been married one time. I have lived in the district all my life except when I was in college in law school.***

Criminal Justice

I support the death penalty.

Response: ***There are currently only 69 people in Louisiana on death row many have been there over 30 years. The last execution was voluntary. While I support the Jury's decision this has become a political issue only. Substantively, if we executed all 69 tomorrow the abysmal recidivism rates would still continue. I think we should put chapels on our school campuses, not wait until they get to Angola to get them talking to God.***

Mandatory minimum sentencing should be required and enforced for violent crimes.

Response: ***Yes, and more succinctly the criminals who have committed violent crimes should not be able to plead to non-violent crimes. This loophole allows violent people to be considered non-violent criminals.***

I drafted and passed SB458 to stop first degree murders from getting medical furlough.

2nd Amendment

More restrictive gun control is needed to protect public safety.

Response: ***No, the folks committing gun violence are not worried about laws. We need investment in mental health for juveniles and young adults. I am for constitutional carry and tough crimes for those who break the laws.***

Other Important Issues

People should be able to vote without photo identification.

Response: ***Strongly Disagree. We must remove all fraud from this process.***

Gambling should be limited to existing forms and should not be de-regulated or expanded.

Response: ***Yes, the promises made when gaming was brought in have never been fulfilled. As the largest non-government employer in my district I understand they are here to stay but we cannot allow more casinos and boats to come in.***