

Constitutional Federal Government Powers

Congress and the federal bureaucracy have shown to be incompetent in a number of areas that are not granted to the federal government by the constitution. More importantly, the task of members of congress has morphed from designing, enacting, and regulating laws that treat every citizen equally into the goal of "bringing home the bacon" to the citizens of their district. The "bacon" approach seeks to benefit the citizens of their district at the expense of all other citizens. In some sense, the "bacon" is pork, which empowers lobbyist and special interest while increasing the opportunity for members of congress to make decisions for personal gain.

Therefore, citizens must change the direction and the motivation of members of congress to put the interest of all citizens as their first priority. Tea-publicans stress that the task of members of congress is to design, enact and regulate laws to make sure that every citizen equally, rather than dividing the citizenry into groups that gain special treatment. The result of the equal treatment approach is that additional interest and funding must be re directed to insure that all citizens have the same opportunity for education and a job. The opportunity to develop skills is fostered by Tea-publican Commitment No. 5.

Now on to the powers specified by the Constitution. Congress has stretched a number of the principles of the constitution to enable control of many aspects of rules and regulations that should be the purview of the states. The most egregious is the unfunded mandates in which rules and regulations, generated by federal bureaucracies are imposed on the states under the threat of withholding federal controlled

funding. The Tea-publican approach is to limit federal bureaucracies from mandating and funding programs, limiting the federal agency to testing, data collection, and reporting across states. For example, the Department of Education would be limited to testing all students, using federal funding, and reporting the results to the states. The states would be responsible for funding education and training programs with the majority of the funding now in the federal department of education being distributed to the states. This defunding and depowering federal agencies will limit the federal government to those powers ascribed by the states.

The most important change to government is to change the direction of funding. Presently, the federal government sends funds to the states with associated federal government rules, regulations, and mandates. Tea-publican commitment no. 6, the Compassionate Consumption Tax, taxes all purchases at 21-27 percent with no other taxes. In the case of a national consumption tax, businesses collect the consumption tax, sending 1/3 to the cities, 1/3 to the states, and transferring only 1/3 to the federal government. In this case, the states will determine the powers that are delegated to the federal government, as once defined in the constitution. Thus, the consumption tax is a better way to allocate tax revenues without federal mandates, pork, and the arrogant bureaucracy of the Federal government.

Therefore, the powers of the federal government would be national defense, border security, interstate compatibility, and those specifically defined in the constitution.