

## **C.R. Manske's Core Beliefs**

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I am, first and foremost, a father and a husband. Alongside my spouse, I raise our children to be humble, productive citizens who think big and can fail without slowing. I expect future generations to show stoicism and perseverance through adversity, as well as an ability to think for themselves that is honed by often challenging conventional wisdom and those in power. I believe that power should be decentralized, where those wielding it must remain closely accountable to the people they serve. I see an important role for the federal government, but I support a framework within which citizens from smaller political entities—states, counties, and cities—can determine the majority of the laws that will govern them. I like transparency in government, particularly financial transparency, and I prefer the U.S. government was less generous to the rest of the world in favor of our individual citizens giving overseas where they feel called to do so. I believe America requires an excellent military machine to come to the nation's defense and I expect every American to pay some percentage of their annual income in taxes. At all levels of government, citizens should remove politicians from office when they spend or commit funds that do not yet exist because debt is to be avoided and municipal/federal budgets should never be larger than the annual tax revenue supporting them. When Americans protect themselves by raising the price of imports, we pay more for these goods than actually necessary and I believe it encourages the USA to perform at a lower level because we don't have to compete as strongly in the global market. I support a United States that welcomes immigrants and refugees to apply for entry and ultimately earn citizenship.

I believe in a United States that sets the highest standard for honesty and wish that the "American stereotype" was someone with an extremely low tolerance for lying, cheating, and stealing. I feel strongly that our country is a place where charitable pursuits should be encouraged and that local powers should feed the community's hungry; the immediate community should care for its sick; and neighbors should shelter the nearby homeless. All American citizens deserve equality and fairness before the law and people who choose to serve in a branch of government should behave with dignity and compassion. In particular, those who police us and represent us should be trustworthy neighbors who execute their duties with diligence while adhering to the laws which they create and enforce. I encourage individual responsibility and a personal awareness that we each alone must answer for our choices because one of our greatest strengths shall always be our ability to accept that good choices occasionally lead to unforeseen and negative consequences. While I reject discrimination based on race, gender, creed, ethnicity or sexual orientation, I also remember that, because our nation is a unique melting pot of cultures and ideas, each of us is an ambassador for our community and that when we behave poorly, we negatively impact both our own reputation and that of our wider social circle.

I am deeply committed to research and the scientific method. I believe that genuine scientific discovery is something to strive for and that it flourishes only in an atmosphere of dispassionate, open-minded inquiry, with research evaluated according to neutral, evidence-based criteria. I oppose politicized science, in which researchers cannot study certain subjects—or even ask certain questions—for fear of career-ending backlash and persecution. I strongly support the freedom of the press and am convinced that an unfettered journalistic voice is a mandatory component of a free society. Intellectual diversity and vigorous, reasoned debate have been fundamental to America's success, making us the freest, most prosperous and most innovative society in human history. We must permit ourselves and others to question the status quo and, with reason and dignity, welcome the unknown or unfamiliar with rational logic. Whether we are students or professors, Democrats or Republicans, environmentalists or captains of industry... whether we're speakers or audience members, bloggers or commenters, black males, gamblers, Hispanic females, church-goers, trendsetters, couch potatoes, artists, or accountants... whether our labels fit us or not, *our kindness to others and excellent work ethic are the most important pillars of the edifice that is the United States of America.*



Christopher R. Manske