

# ***American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview.***

## **Presidential Promise Probe (12–15 Minutes)**

### **TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **Goal**

Students analyze three presidential candidates' campaign promises and decide which candidate is most faithful to the Constitution.

#### **Instructions**

1. Put students in pairs/small groups.
2. Allow 8–10 minutes for groups to complete the activity.
3. Discuss as a class via volunteers.

#### **Suggested Key**

##### **Candidate Otis B. Driftwood**

- Federal courts — Constitutional
- Home-buyer program — Unconstitutional
- Immigration enforcement — Constitutional
- Healthy-eating office — Unconstitutional
- National defense — Constitutional

**Score: 3 Constitutional / 2 Unconstitutional**

##### **Candidate Hugo Z. Hackenbush**

- National curriculum standards — Unconstitutional
- Federal housing initiative — Unconstitutional
- Physical-fitness program — Unconstitutional
- Local park grants — Unconstitutional
- County economic-development office — Unconstitutional

**Score: 0 Constitutional / 5 Unconstitutional**

##### **Candidate Rufus T. Firefly**

- Postal roads and mail delivery — Constitutional
- Counterfeiting and piracy enforcement — Constitutional
- National defense — Constitutional
- Naturalization procedures — Constitutional
- Federal courts — Constitutional

**Score: 5 Constitutional / 0 Unconstitutional**

#### **Debrief/Wrap-Up Questions**

- Which candidate would likely receive the most votes today?
- If U.S. presidential candidates were strictly limited to constitutional powers, how might campaigns look different?

## ***American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview.* Presidential Promise Probe**

1. Read the campaign platform of each candidate below.
2. For each promise, circle powers specifically delegated to the U.S. government; draw a line through powers not delegated to the U.S. government.
3. Rank the candidates from most constitutional to least constitutional!

### **Candidate Otis B. Driftwood**

- Expand funding for federal courts.
- Create a national program to assist first-time home buyers.
- Improve enforcement of immigration laws.
- Establish a federal office to promote healthy eating habits.
- Strengthen national defense against foreign threats.

### **Candidate Hugo Z. Hackenbush**

- Create federal standards for public-school curriculum nationwide.
- Establish a federal housing initiative for low-income families.
- Create a national program to encourage physical fitness.
- Fund local park improvements through federal grants.
- Establish a federal office to coordinate economic development in every county.

### **Candidate Rufus T. Firefly**

- Improve the nation's postal roads and mail delivery.
- Strengthen enforcement against counterfeiting and piracy.
- Maintain a strong national defense.
- Improve naturalization procedures for immigrants seeking citizenship.
- Ensure federal courts efficiently handle cases within their jurisdiction.

