

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

THE COMMON GOOD

The common good is what is best for a community, instead of what helps just a few people. This means that when people make decisions about what the government should do, they should think about others and not just themselves.



We recycle to help the environment even though we don't get anything for it.

Recycling adds extra steps to how we get rid of our trash and old objects. We don't get paid to do it,

and sometimes it even costs us money. Nobody gives us a prize or reward for it. We recycle because we want to help keep the Earth in good shape for everyone, now and in the future. Even if it takes some time and effort, we know it's the right thing to do.

Public school is free and available to all kids in the United States.

As a country, we agree that we are better off if all our citizens have



an education. Every child has the chance to go to a public school and every community has to provide one. Everyone in the community, whether they have children or not, pays taxes to support the schools. After all, someone paid for the school they went to when they were a kid!



The government has social support programs to help people who fall on hard times.

Local, state, and national governments pay for some basic expenses, like groceries and housing, when people temporarily can't do it themselves. These programs help people if bad things happen to them. The government helps get people back on their feet.



Everyone pays taxes to help pay for the things we all share. Taxes are how we pay for things like roads, police and fire departments, schools, and the military. People sometimes disagree about how much they should have to pay in taxes. Not everyone will need all the things that their taxes pay for, but everyone needs some of the things.

HOW DOES THIS GET COMPLICATED?

Sometimes what is good for most people isn't the best for everyone. When a government makes a decision that will help most people, it can be hard for other people to understand why things get a bit harder for them.

