Domestic: As by the constitutional bounds and mechanisms, and in pursuit of maximizing the wealth of the state and the happiness of the people, these are areas where virtuous Americans must focus their resources on.

Economic Matters

1. How is new, real value created and quantified, and how can the government best make law and policy & focus the attention of private/government actors to maximize the magnitude and rate of value creation? Related to such, the government should be focused on ensuring there is an environment where there are great and plentiful careers (rather than the softer notion of jobs). Great careers manifest when we have healthy, vibrant and relativistically competitive industries that are rationally timed (i.e. areas of emerging importance, that make fundamental value, and that are in high demand). Identify and sequence the next 10 large industries where the United States...
will be competitive. Identify the core technologies and research hurdles of each, and especially those that are common. We should not take for granted how the right law & economics backbone plus a smart identification of what’s useful, often sets the table for future innovation (which can come independently from private industry, or in collaboration with the Government!). Think of this as the “dark matter” of the economy (i.e. the lattice of organization with which complex structures emerge within).

2. Markets work by disruption or other new innovation that ‘shakes up existing’ or ‘creates new’ goods or services. As by such incentives to make profit in our marketplace AND/OR on behalf of our American Government, thinkers, inventors, innovators, technologists, engineers, and laborers turned the United States into a technological fortress more substantial than any other in the history of the world. Yet, by these same conditions (or rules of the game), we’ve lessened job security and increasingly distribute profits to a relatively smaller group of people (note: this is an empirical statement). Today, we have a certain $N$ number of jobs. Throughout the 20th century, and as has been rapidly improving throughout the 21st century, we’ve been finding a symbiotic relationship with computers. Enhances in software (programs/algorithms) and hardware are making computers/machines much smarter (at an increasing rate), and capable of doing an increasing array of functions traditionally supplied by humans. At some point in time (in the not far away future), companies (and the free market economy as a whole) will need less human jobs, yet at the same time, we have increases in the number of people. It would be foolish to sit back and watch 10s of millions of jobs annihilated over the next couple decades as ‘machine intelligence & capability’ hits critical mass (in various milestones). Given such, what is a smart way for the Government to act on this most sincere reality? Included in your considerations, identify and describe the various types of labor re-factorization/re-training/ placement efforts that will be necessary for the Government to pursue in successfully responding to such a transforming economy (from regional perspectives to educational/training components to elements more general). And further, as a matter of paradigm, what is a rational framework for long-term maximization where people are useful and the economy is efficient, given the computer-human breakdown on resources? Inside of such, what is the landscape of prospective social programs and of the American worker lifestyle-experience of the 21st century (and beyond) that we see within the bounds of our American Calling?

3. Today, we already have various resource shortages. In discussing such matters, you often hear people say that we need people to make more money. But, remember that, roughly speaking, you are twice as wealthy if all things cost half as much, in the same way as you are twice as wealthy if you make twice as much and things cost the same! The upshot is that there are multiple methods of attacking the same problem! As of
the year 2020, describe the minimal cost of living (first of necessity at the core, and thereafter supplement your models as desired) based on our present day technologies and industrial backbone (including regional analysis). Based on a trajectory that a reasonably informed person would consider, do the same for the year 2030 and the year 2050. In your answers, incorporate matters such as the monies needed to pay for retirees and the elderly (i.e. the function of pensions, social security, and retirement accounts) given our reasonable expectations and normative objective for furthering the human lifespan. Identify all assumptions, permutations, and path progressions with robustness (i.e. the necessary and sufficient conditions of each and every process, ordered in a collective process architecture). In your answer, include the ways in which the Government would be smart to assist/in enabling such a minimal cost of living package.

4. The Federal Government makes laws, implements laws, policies, programs & projects, helps the 50 states (and territories), protects our lands and our people, and administers the state (e.g. through the 3 branches of government: Congress, the Judicial Branch of courts, and the executive branch of the Presidency and of our administrative agencies; with apparatuses like central banks; in international bodies like the United Nations). To do this, the Federal Government collects monies (in the form of taxes). Holding constant government services, what is the minimum amount the government could be run on (i.e. using 0 basis analysis)? Sound answers will explore the nature of the technological horizon and the ability to integrate such technologies into the fabric of American commerce, consider how this could actually be done in a way that does not raise “Big Brother” concerns (either by the government or private companies), consider permutations of income or consumption based tax systems, and any changes within our legal tax code/its model of implementation. Likewise, in answering this question, also remember that the US Government does not exist in a hypothetical vacuum. Currently, the United States Government has racked up over $20 Trillion dollars in debt. Thus, there is a simple macroscopic question that is clear to consider: what is the MAXIMUM that the US can safely go into debt? This question creates real constraints on US laws, policies, programs & projects, and our order of operations in Revitalizing America. In your models that answer the tax question, therefore make sure that you acknowledge the relationship between that question and the US Debt/Deficit (i.e. for at t_n from today’s t_0).

Governmental Matters

5. How does the government re-earn the respect and trust of the people? And how, going forward, can we prevent such degradations again? In answering these questions, include an answer to the following: how do we instill a more robust form of truth and
honesty (objective) into our public discourse, rather than one driven by self-interest, motivated reasoning, and selective “facts”? Related to this, as an unsaid assumption, we often consider the American Government to “forever be”. Yet, when one looks at history, it is so blatantly obvious that civilizations have risen and fallen, and that government is a dynamical conception/system which we need to tend to deliberately. From the elections of our officials to the influences on those officials to setting the agenda to fortifying the separation of powers to taking just action, how can we make our American democracy more resilient, more responsive and more driven by intelligent argument (inside of a focused and coherent direction). And furthermore, how do we make our citizens most informed, most engaged, and most involved?

6. As by the orienting principle of the American Calling, the government is tasked with maximizing the Life, Liberty, and the Happiness of the people. Interestingly, the latter (Happiness) has been relatively under-considered (compared to Life and Liberty) in much of our discourse, thinking, and evaluations of the past. Notwithstanding, reasonably clear and actionable definitions of ‘Life’ and ‘Liberty’ have also evaded common understanding. What are the best models to discuss ‘Life’, ‘Liberty’, and ‘Happiness’, and how can the government best use these to act on its original objective? In providing a proper answer, be sure to connect each of these models within a singular framework.

7. Which axioms will best power American politics towards meeting the American Calling, and which frameworks, tools and techniques can best guide public thinking, decision-making and lawmaking? Create a robust set of modules, frameworks, technologies, and methods (collectively part of our “American toolkit”) to do politics and law-making better in the 21st century and beyond; from problem identification to problem framing to critical thinking to tracking progress on problems (without continuance redundancy) to properly resolving problems (through implementation). Included in this American toolkit, provide modern and workable models for individual (happiness) and state (wealth) maximization that are robust, flexible, and exist inside of one larger architecture.

8. It is universally acknowledged that lowering transaction costs and administrative costs are sound goals for the government. Complexity and asymmetric information are two culprits in the public space (and in the private space), which are malignant towards such goals. How do we reduce the complexity of our legal systems and policies, and of certain private industries (where applicable)? And furthermore, what format of law (and perhaps even contracts) can best yield common understanding, clarity, efficiency, and efficacy? As a means to such an objective, diagrammatically identify the simplest version of each and every root legal intention (not what the law does, but what it wants to cover; i.e. the initial goal).
9. What new, mathematically sound, and comprehensive identity system should the United States develop to use across Federal and State governments, and how should it be implemented? This question is posed because it is clear that our Social Security numbers are vulnerable, and that this will create tremendous loss, waste and hardship as we continue to operate under such conditions (e.g. fraud, identity theft, spending money on “identity protection”, applying for credit cards under your name, stealing your tax return). It is quite apparent that a more robust, secure and modern framework for identity is necessary, and that we need to act now. Relatedly, one recognizes that this new identity system will exist as a specific instance of a larger construct: “what data should the government use and how should the government organize and store it?” Answer this more general question, while discussing the presented identity system.

**Foundational Matters**

10. Water, air, food, and our environment-- broadly defined so as to capture something like ‘all chemicals you are exposed to in any way’-- constitute necessary inputs that power our bodies and minds to live. These are foundational prerequisites which we often take for granted. To put it in a sentence, we need a clean revolution in the United States of America-- our food/drink, our environments, and our lifestyles. By what means can America experience a clean revolution, and by what pathways can this become commonly available?

11. Politics has been primitive in the sense that it has almost entirely avoided a central human condition: we each have our own first person narrative on the world and have a truly remarkable mental existence (which is ours alone, and asymmetric from others). As our Knowledge has advanced, we’ve learned that our human brains need to be rested, nourished, and exercised. We’ve learned that our minds need to be cultivated and sharpened and made virtuous through learning and experience. As individuals onto themselves: how do we help people better deal with stress and anxiety, and forge a climate to minimize the negative effects of such? In our current society and as we move forward, what is the most healthy balance of various media, online activity, digital exposure, and sensory experience for a human being? That is, what makes them happiest, most informed, and most productive? To ask these questions in a single sentence: how do we use what we’ve collectively learned through neuroscience, psychology, media studies and behavioral economics to forge a climate (i.e. of professional and personal and familial and civic and social life) where the mental lives of the American people are healthy, happy, and benign? And in robustly considering how to make things more positive, also include helpful materials in evaluating what we’ve learned about things which are extremely negative, especially
matters which are prevalent today like the rise of non-gang-related mass shootings and radicalizations of various kinds (e.g. political and religious terrorism).

12. The cost and quality of education is known to be a cornerstone in projecting the long-term competitiveness of a nation (where society, culture, economy, and politics are all implicated by the success or failure of our educational backbone). America is only as great as its next generation, and it is our collective responsibility to cultivate our youth into remarkable people. While many talk about ways to use online education and new technologies, acknowledge that certain learning styles and methods of individual evaluation are not optimally tailored in the existing K-12 system, and that we need to better prepare individuals to be productive members of the workforce and the American citizenry, these ideas are typically fragmented, incomplete, and somewhat timid. Albert Einstein famously stated that, "Logic will get you from A to Z; imagination will get you everywhere". I do not think we teach logic well, nor do I think we are as environmentally friendly to creativity and originality as we claim. Most basically, how can the United States ensure our K-12 school system could better “light minds on fire” (towards extracurricular curiosity and ambition), teach people how to think (yes, this is a craft onto itself), and better prepare our next-generation with the skills needed for personal life, social life, political life, and business life (rather than simply trying to cram encyclopedic-style knowledge, fragmented across modules, often devoid of an application layer, into people’s heads). Included in this answer, and with reasonable constraints, also contain the following: what is the best way to teach ‘how the world works’ & ‘the discovered subject matters modernly distilled’ (and the relationships between such), in a way that all can enjoy and marvel at, and so as to demonstrate that it is the golden sequence which we must collectively work to animate in advancing our civilization?

13. We’ve learned a lot about human psychology, neuroscience and (behavioral) economics over the 20th century (and thus far in the 21st century). For instance, with crime, many people are not rational and don’t fully internalize (understand+act in consideration of) the prospective punishments. Similarly, individuals apply for (or are induced into accepting) various credit cards, where they buy things they cannot afford (on interests rates they often do not genuinely comprehend). One might then ask the following: “within the free market which we hold so dear, how can the government help its citizens (at full scale) with financial management, and/or other related training/services?” But this is a random (although non-trivial) example seeking to capture a more general concern. That is, the better question is, “At what point do we say, this is how human beings (generally) behave and respond, and by such truth and this newfound awareness, we probably should prevent ‘this’, change ‘that’, supply ‘this helpful remedy’, and/or evaluate things by ‘this framework’ going forward indefinitely?” Corollary to this, provide a robust framework of the collective measures
we might consider, and how they could be implemented. This is about consumer/individual protection in the most germane sense.

**Societal Matters**

14. It is remarkable that while we are all made of the same stuff (ordinary matter), are the same species (homo sapiens), and share remarkable similarities (relatively speaking, even despite external/superficial differences), we struggle to recognize such! In a sentence: all people are individuals, genetically unique, have their own backstory to date, and get to operate within their own degrees of freedom on tomorrow. From this standpoint, racism (between nationalities and ethnicities), gender wars, sexual identity wars, ideological wars, wars between science & religion, and wars between religions seem to be manifestations of this more general condition. Within such a diversity and in light of individual difference, preference to act primarily out of self-interest, and the brute fact on systematic competition for scarce resources, how does the United States forge a nation-wide American fabric of community, civility, friendliness, empathy, and acceptance? Further still, how does the United States yield an environment of people behaving virtuously, with reasonable etiquette, and in a way that finds a fun and exciting form of coexistence? In answering these questions, consider breaking things up by sub-topics and be honest in evaluating today’s baseline conditions. Also, try to answer the hard question of, ‘why do people care about the lives of other people that do not directly or substantially affect them and that accord with the law (especially where those people waste their own time in doing so)?’ Lastly, please include an answer to the following: ‘how do we bypass the prospective decades of unsustainable, non-substantive, and divisive identity politics (fueled by self-interest), and just get to a more sensible manner of discourse, choosing public leaders substantively, and follow smart ideas and smart people wherever they come from?’ In other words, how can we best internalize the lessons of History in a manner future productive?

15. Using computers, data, advances in machine intelligence, nanotechnologies, CRISPR, and 3D printers is here (and on the continued horizon). How we map out and leverage our biology (brain, DNA) to our human interests can be done 100 times faster (and better) if done correctly. The legal frameworks for bioethical laws and our immediate, detailed attention are required so as to intelligently frame the progress and the prospects for the people. We all want to live and we all want to thrive. We should all want to eradicate certain diseases in the next couple decades or sooner (e.g. cancer). Ensuring that health advances can be shared by all citizens is indeed fair, smart and an American imperative. In providing answers on what the future of modern medicine, public health, and individual healthcare looks like, also consider today. Our current healthcare system has way too much asymmetric information,
complexity, powerful forces/players, and terrible models which continue to create more expensive healthcare for you and me (and where there is really no end in sight, given the setup, and the inelasticity of one’s healthcare). Furthermore, whatever causes you want to identify, America’s healthcare outcomes are hardly impressive. Redesign the American healthcare system by a model which covers all citizens, and build your model (ST) so as to gradually incorporate future advances in seamlessly becoming the LT model.

16. The world is becoming increasingly digitized. The Internet surely will sweep everything into one big sphere of connectivity, while decreasing costs of smarter hardware further the physicality of such a network. What are the prospective configurations for the Internet of Everything to end as (i.e. end states), and which is optimal as by the various interests of the people?

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**International:** where the actions and actualities of the rest matter, and the scale or subject is such that coordination, collaboration, and ex-ante clarity is smart, healthy, and strategic for all (given reasonable and morally acceptable assumptions).

17. What’s frustrating about nuclear weapons is that once one country has them, the rest are incentivized to make them to achieve equal footing. What’s also crazy to me is that the “most logical” doctrine which has been at the core of international relations since the Cold War is “mutually assured destruction” (i.e. everybody loses, together!). This is literally a ticking time bomb! In seeking a resolution, in the short term, nuclear de-escalation and non-proliferation are natural starting points, but this issue will remain the most pressing and substantial matter of human interest until we can begin implementing an agreed plan of nuclear decommissioning. And while not often talked about, waste, fallout and the like (together “negative externalities”) from nuclear facilities, tests, and production is also very dangerous to our environments and our people. Generate a robust ‘A-Z’ blueprint (with various internal permutations on path progression), that brings the total number of nuclear weapons in the world below 1000, and then below 100. This will naturally require substantial, open, and verifiable collaboration and have to occur in stages, so include this in your proposal. Also, in light of the existing climate, a complete answer must explore various methodologies of nuclear defense systems given modern day technologies that could be applicable at global scale in a manner conducive with (potentially agreeable) international laws/treaties and the self-interest of sovereign nations.

18. It is known that increasing temperatures are causing a series of environmental changes (e.g. melting ice and warming waters → rising sea levels → changing
coastlines & evolving ecosystems). As we live on one planet, systematically speaking, the effects of global warming carry short-term, medium-term, and long-term problems of international scale. What is important to remember, paradigmatically speaking, is that human beings live within the environment and with the world, not just “on it”. We are not removed entities devoid of caretaking responsibilities, and based on our cognitive supremacy in the biosphere of living creatures, it is quite obvious that this is our situation to remedy. While it is easy to free-ride on our collective task to maintain a climate compatible for human life and for civilization to keep advancing, this is neither a wise nor morally correct route to embark on. As has been the case many times before, I contend that ignorance is not a reasonable position. From this vantage point and basis, though, I still remain pragmatic and ask the following question: what is the ideal mixed-energy stack for the United States over the next 5 years, the next 10 years, the next 20 years, and indefinitely into the future. And on the same timelines, what is the landscape of acceptable mixed-energy stacks for other nations. Identify the core technologies and research hurdles of any proposal, in addition to how the government will need to work with private industry and other nations to protect our world and our people (of today and tomorrow).

19. With each epoch in the advancement of mankind, we have (subjectively) discovered more new lands and more new peoples. We realized that the world was full of different people, covering different places. As we look out into space, many are excited by the prospects of modern day exploration: continuing our quest to map the World as best we can (the modern analog of what we’ve been doing since the beginning!). As we do so, how should the human race operate best together and how should we brand ourselves?

20. Sometimes, I think we forget how young the internet and our computing hardware and software technologies are. While we should feel fortunate to live in a time where information is available at our fingertips, and applications of convenience, utility and entertainment are plentiful, our modern digital instrumentalities need to be protected, secured, kept competitive, and made widely available like any other public good. The cyber activities and policies of nation states, hacker collectives, and/or individual citizens (regardless of motivation) which affect our private citizens and/or our country in domestic/international matters, require sincere, detailed, and robust legal frameworks and treaties. Discuss the 10 most important steps the United States can take domestically and internationally, and include the pathway to reasonable implementation of such ideas.

21. As of the year 2017 AD, much of the world is still in the third world or undergoing the processes of industrialization (the second world). We should want each country to succeed in reaching 1st world status this century; both in maintaining
a position of basic human decency (which is a cornerstone of the American standard), and also because it is strategic to our interests. When looking back in retrospect by our accumulated foundations, interestingly, it is knowledge which is most important in enabling the successful ascent of a nation. This is because Knowledge guides countries in ‘how they should be organized’ (e.g. government, economy, education) and ‘how they can best use their resources’ (i.e. what they need to do guides what they should work on, and having a template provides those answers or paths from the outset). Given modern knowledge and existing technologies, create realistic models with the path progressions (i.e. the sufficient conditions) for various nations to achieve 1st world status (i.e. the necessary conditions).

22. Since the 20th century, we’ve been programming machines (e.g. digital computers) to perform various tasks and functions. Over time, these programs (powering the machines) have gotten much “smarter” and the availability of complex hardware configurations has become more available. As machines become “more intelligent” and start doing more things for us, and as hardware and software become native infrastructure of the world, how do human beings make sure that these machines and these systems are doing what we want and serving our interests?

23. Is P not equal to NP? While the problem was explicitly asked in the early 1970s by the works of Cook and Levin, versions of the question were stated earlier by John Nash (1955) and Kurt Gödel (1956). This problem is one of the seven Millennium Problems (by the Clay Mathematics Institute), and is often considered to be the most important of the problems by the following argument: based on the implications of its resolution (if P = NP), then we could, in principle, achieve answers to the other five remaining problems with the help of a cleverly programmed computer. Work on this problem, regardless of its resolution, has and will continue to spur wonderful new ideas and important useful contributions (of practical and philosophical importance). I include this question in recognition of the great David Hilbert-- who, in 1900 AD, challenged mathematicians with 23 open problems-- and where Alan Turing’s work product (in resolving one of the problems) laid the groundstone for the (digital) computing revolution. Basically, if you have a smartphone, you should thank David Hilbert, and recognize the fundamental method of progress his example provides: human beings ask the right questions and try to solve them. That is how we move forward with a focused and efficient direction.