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## ELECTIONS 98

Democrat	Scotty Baesler
Republican	Jim Bunning
Reform	Charles R. Arbegust

<u>Background</u>	<u>Tobacco</u>	<u>Education</u>
<u>Health Care</u>	<u>Campaign Finance Reform</u>	<u>Reproductive Choice</u>
<u>Welfare Reform</u>	<u>Environment</u>	<u>Income Tax</u>

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**BACKGROUND:** Please describe your background, providing information such as age, county of residence, education, marital status, occupation, organization memberships, previous political office(s) held, and any other facts which might be pertinent to your candidacy. Please limit your response to fifty (50) words or less.

### Scotty Baesler:

A lifelong resident of Fayette County, Scotty Baesler represents Kentucky's 6th Congressional District. He is married to Alice Woods Baesler and they have two children. Baesler played basketball at UK and later earned a law degree. He was Mayor of Lexington from 1982 until his election to Congress in 1992.

### Jim Bunning:

Born and raised in Campbell County, Kentucky, I married Mary Catherine Theis in 1952 and together we raised nine children and are the proud grandparents of 32 grandchildren. I played professional baseball 22 years, served on the Fort Thomas City Council, the Kentucky Senate and have served in the House of Representatives for the past 12 years.

### Charles R. Arbegust:

[did not respond to questionnaire]

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**TOBACCO:** regulation of tobacco companies, changes in the farm price support program, increasing the price of tobacco to the consumer, alternative crops.

**Scotty Baesler:**

Early in this session of Congress, along with Rep. Lee Hamilton of Indiana, I introduced H.R. 3264, the Tobacco Community Economic Stabilization and Support Act. H.R. 3264 is designed to protect the existing tobacco program, while providing an annual fund for farmers wishing to sell their quotas. I have also introduced H.R. 3867, the Long-Term Economic Assistance for Farmers Act. This bill is an exact replica of Senator Wendell Ford's LEAF Act. My aim is to protect the interests of tobacco farmers, tenant farmers and warehousemen in our state.

The reality is that there are no viable alternative crops for tobacco. And given that fact, I support efforts to pursue other types of supplemental crops to improve income opportunities for Kentucky farmers.

**Jim Bunning:**

Because of tobacco's importance to the economy of Kentucky, our primary goal should be to protect and preserve the tobacco program. At the same time, we can and should do what we can to discourage young people from starting to smoke through education and better enforcement of existing state laws which prohibit the sale of tobacco products to young people.

**Charles R. Arbegust:**

[did not respond to questionnaire]

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**EDUCATION:** national standards for achievement, changes in funding, increased availability of Head Start programs.

**Scotty Baesler:**

I support voluntary national educational standards. That is why I support efforts to implement voluntary national testing in reading and mathematics. I believe this information is important for parents to have. In addition, I support efforts to increase our national commitment to educational programs. Efforts to reduce funds for these programs are shortsighted. And finally, Head Start is a program that has demonstrated success. I will continue to support funding so that as many kids as possible can have access to the program.

**Jim Bunning:**

We need to make sure that federal funds for education programs actually reach the classrooms rather than getting siphoned off by federal bureaucrats as it is now. Education funds should be delivered to the states through block grants so that state and local officials can spend the money where they determine the need is greatest and we should deliver those funds to them with fewer federal strings attached. Smaller classes and teacher testing and education savings accounts should be top priorities. I have personally been successful at restoring the tax deduction for interest on college loans and passing

legislation to make state pre-paid tuition programs tax free. We need to continue doing what we can to make college education more affordable and to provide more choice in primary education.

**Charles R. Arbegust:**

[did not respond to questionnaire]

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**HEALTH CARE:** patient's rights within managed care, universal coverage, portability of coverage to a new job or into early retirement, AIDS treatment and research.

**Scotty Baesler:**

I support enactment of comprehensive patient protections as part of managed health care plans have cosponsored and voted for the Patients' Bill of Rights. Far too many people believe health insurance plans compromise the quality of care to save money. There have been reports of widespread problems, including health plans denying access to specialists, plans refusing to pay for emergency rooms visits, plans not providing information about their policies and producers, and plans setting arbitrary limits on medical care. People all across Kentucky need to know that they will make their health care decisions in consultation with their doctor - not some bureaucrat. The Patients' Bill of Rights would establish reasonable and enforceable patient protections, including access to necessary care covered by the plan, a fair and timely appeal process when health plans deny care, and protections for the provider-patient relationship. No one should be without these important protections.

**Jim Bunning:**

Because of legislation that I have helped pass over the past few years, we have managed to save Medicare from bankruptcy, to provide health care coverage for thousands of Kentucky children who had no coverage, to provide a tax deduction for health care premiums to make health insurance more affordable for farmers and the self-employed. We need to do more.

We need to provide more incentives to make sure that everyone has health care coverage - especially children. And we need to carefully watch the developments in health care to make sure that new trends in health care like managed care do not lead to an erosion in the quality of care for people with health coverage. I supported legislation which we passed in the House during July which would make sure that patients have a free choice of health care providers and that they receive the services they need.

**Charles R. Arbegust:**

[did not respond to questionnaire]

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***CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM:*** reducing the influence of large donors, providing more in-depth information about issues to the voter.

**Scotty Baesler:**

Congress must act to reform the way in which campaigns for public office are financed so that public confidence will be restored in our nation's political system. Politicians should not be able to raise or spend special interest "soft" money - that type of special interest money has been used for too long to convince Congress to enact special tax breaks and corporate welfare benefits. Taxpayers and consumers must not continue to pay the price because special interests can get sweetheart deals - like the sweetheart deals that have made cable TV rates and airport taxes go up. In addition, fundraising on government property should be outlawed, foreign political contributions should be outlawed, and current bans on campaign money laundering should be tightened.

**Jim Bunning:**

Our overriding goal should be to encourage greater participation in the electoral process and we must avoid the temptation to enact "reforms" that reduce participation rather than increase it. The best way to prevent abuses in campaign financing practices is to require full and instant public reporting of contributions.

**Charles R. Arbegust:**

[did not respond to questionnaire]

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***REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE:*** national regulations affecting women, minors, and physicians.

**Scotty Baesler:**

Throughout my career, I have supported the principles of Roe v. Wade. I also have supported funding for both national and international federal family planning efforts, including recent efforts to ensure that health plans participating in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan cover prescription contraceptives in the same way as they cover other types of prescription drugs. However, it is also fair to point out that I have advocated laws requiring parental/guardian or judicial consent before a minor can obtain an abortion; I have not supported the use of federal funds for abortions, except in cases of rape, incest, or when the mother's life or health is in danger; and I supported legislation to ban partial-birth abortions.

**Jim Bunning:**

I oppose federal funding of abortions except when the life of the mother is jeopardized. We need to ban partial birth abortions and to establish requirements for parental notification. We also need to expand the availability of adoption as the preferable alternative to abortion. I was instrumental in the passage of legislation to help make adoption more affordable through a \$5,000 adoption tax credit. More Kentuckians can now afford to adopt children and give them loving homes because of that legislation.

**Charles R. Arbegust:**

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**WELFARE REFORM:** proposed adjustments to current law.

**Scotty Baesler:**

In general, I believe we should wait to see if welfare reform is working as enacted before making dramatic changes. However, I believe efforts to increase funding for child care, to increase the minimum wage, and to retain the earned income tax credit (EITC) are important steps toward improving the lives of low income individuals who work for wages and to lift these individuals out of poverty.

**Jim Bunning:**

The welfare reform bill which we enacted in 1996, is working. By restoring personal responsibility and work requirements to the welfare system, we have gone a long way at making welfare more of a hand up rather than a handout. Welfare rolls around the nation are down over 25% over the past two years.

We should be careful not to make wholesale changes in the welfare reform, however, we certainly need to provide flexibility in the law to avoid unnecessary hardships by adjusting requirements as required to meet local conditions such as the unavailability of job opportunity in specific regions.

**Charles R. Arbegust:**

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**ENVIRONMENT:** changes in water, air, and toxic waste regulations.

**Scotty Baesler:**

I support a balanced approach to environmental legislation that weights the costs and benefits of proposed environmental regulations given the availability of limited resources. Consistent with this belief, I have supported the preservation of green space for future generations to enjoy. I have voted to protect the ability of the National Park Service and the Forest Service to acquire lands for parks, recreation and conservation purposes. Kentuckians are concerned about fresh drinking water. I opposed legislation that would have gutted the Clean Water Act. The Act is one of the nation's top environmental laws making drinking water safe by protecting lakes, rivers, and coastal waters. I voted against creating an interim nuclear waste storage facility which would have allowed waste to cross countless roads and highways in 43 states, including Kentucky. These are just a few votes that demonstrate my commitment to fiscal responsibility, preservation, and environmental

sensibility.

**Jim Bunning:**

We need to strengthen our nation's environmental laws to protect the environment and continue the progress we have been making at cleaning up our nation's water and air. I did support the landmark Clean Air Act in 1990. However, I do think that our regulatory efforts to protect the environment should be changed to encourage cooperation rather than confrontation by providing incentives for business and private property owners to use environmentally sound practices.

**Charles R. Arbegust:**

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***INCOME TAX:*** abolishing the Internal Revenue Department, "Flat Tax" proposals, other reform proposals.

**Scotty Baesler:**

Despite some improvements, our tax system is complex and sometimes simply unfair, and my goal is to provide greater fairness for working families across Kentucky. On important step toward that goal is eliminating the marriage tax penalty. I cannot support the Republican "flat tax" plans that provide tax breaks for the wealthy by exempting income from stocks and bonds, especially when those same proposals eliminate tax provisions that benefit working families like deductions for home mortgage interest and health insurance. And as Congress discusses additional tax changes this year, I will be evaluating those proposals carefully to make certain that they achieve the goal of providing greater tax fairness for Kentuckians. In addition, I was pleased to support the recent enactment of legislation to reform the management and structure of the Internal Revenue Service and to provide taxpayers with more protections in dealings with the IRS.

**Jim Bunning:**

The Federal Income Tax is broken and needs to be pulled out by its roots and replaced with a system that is understandable and fair. The current code is too complex and too wasteful and needs to be overhauled immediately. At this point, the most likely candidates for replacing the income tax are the flat tax or the sales tax or a combination of the two.

But the main thing is we need to start working on it now. Congress tends to put off the tough issues like this until there is a crisis. We cannot afford to do that with taxes. We need to start building a national consensus on tax reform immediately. For that reason, I did support legislation which passed in the House this summer to "sunset" the existing tax code in the year 2002 to force Congress to take the issue seriously.

**Charles R. Arbegust:**

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