

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH OHIO GOVERNOR JOHN KASICH



CHUCK DOUGLAS: Governor, can you tell us here in New Hampshire why you are running for President?

GOV. KASICH: First of all Chuck I want to thank New Hampshire for a good job screening candidates and we all should realize how important that role is. Can we balance a budget? Yes. Can we restore the economy? Yes. Can you win some of the battles on the war on drugs? Yes. These are all challenges. I have met them in Ohio as its Governor. We went from an \$8 billion dollar deficit to a \$2 billion dollar surplus. We've cut taxes by \$5 billion dollars and we created for the first time in Ohio history an earned income tax credit so people from the bottom up will have an incentive to work and be able to move up the ladder. Our wages are growing faster than the national average. So, in Ohio we are financially strong and in a position to help people and that is what I want to do for America. I had the second largest electoral victory in Ohio history carrying 86 of 88 counties. I'm sure I didn't do everything right, and we still have a long way to go, but you know what? That ain't bad. I can bring folks together rather than divide them.

CHUCK DOUGLAS: Immigration has become an issue of importance so what are your ideas about it?

GOV. KASICH: Remember President Reagan? I used to work with him and I knew him. He had an amnesty back in 1986, but what we never did was seal the border. We will do so and once we do if someone comes in illegally, they are going back. No more questions, they're going to go back. But we should have a guest worker program so people can come in and out who have jobs. And for the 11 or 12,000,000 that are here improperly, if they

are law abiding, they are going to have to pay a penalty and they are going to have to assimilate. They will have to say who they are and check in so we know who they are but if they are law abiding, they should be able to stay, but not if they are felons.

CHUCK DOUGLAS: What about the inability of many politicians to work together to solve national problems?

GOV. KASICH: We are all in this together. Even if you may be a liberal Democrat and I am a conservative Republican there are certainly some things that we can agree upon but when we disagree, it's ok. You know, when I was in Congress, we would go to the gym, play basketball and knock each other around. We were friends afterwards and once in a while you get the benefit of the doubt on a bill.

We have to restore respect, not just in politics but in all of our minds, and one final thing, the people have to demand it. They have to say, you in office have to do better at getting along because we aren't going to balance the budget, close the border, rebuild the military, shrink the government, do all the things we want to do unless we do some of it together. It's just the way it works. You can't think that just one party can get it all done because it can't. At the end of the day the voters are in charge. This is what leadership does; it drives things to a good outcome. That is what I did in Ohio and we can do it to fix America too.

CHUCK DOUGLAS: How has your Medicaid expansion worked out in Ohio?

GOV. KASICH: Our goal in Ohio was to make sure that instead of people just being in prison, if they are drug dependent, we want to treat them and get them on the mend so they don't end up back in prison which has become a revolving door. If we don't treat them, it's \$22,500 year to be in prison so we used the money toward solving those issues.

We also have the mentally ill too. We have 10,000 mentally ill people in prison but how do they get there? You know, they start off by shop lifting or doing something really silly and they work up to big legal trouble, but many wouldn't be in jail if they got proper care.

And then for the working poor, instead of them being in the emergency room where it is more expensive, we get them some healthcare so they can not only work, but climb up economically. Also, we are changing our welfare law so they get to keep their child care if they make more money. So, there is an arithmetic part of this, but there is also a moral part of this. We don't want to flush human beings and their potentials down the drain. State Medicaid was growing at 10%, but when I came in to office in 2010, we got the increase

down to 2% and we did it by reforming the program. It is growing faster now because more people are on the rolls but per capita costs continue to come down. Of course, we don't want these people to be on it forever, so they are going to have to assume some personal responsibility as well after a period of time.

CHUCK DOUGLAS: We have tens of thousands of troops in Korea, Japan and Germany from wars 60/70 years ago. Should we reposition them to the mid-East?

GOV. KASICH: Well, first of all, as for troops in Germany, we know about the problems with Putin and Ukraine which is why the NATO alliance needs to be strengthened rather than withdrawing troops now. In terms of Korea or Japan, the President did talk about a pivot to Asia and I think that's the right thing to do but we should be asking those countries to do more to support themselves and for more money to be spent by them on their defense. Having served 18 years on the House Armed Services Committee, this is an area I understand well and I don't think it would be the right thing at this point where we are to reposition. We always want to look at it, but at this point we are fine given the situations with Russia and China.

CHUCK DOUGLAS: Thank you Governor for your time.