

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

WITH EDITOR CHUCK DOUGLAS



**EDITOR:** Why are you leaving the Senate to run for President?

**Rubio:** Because I think people are worried they are not going to leave our children as the freest and most prosperous Americans that have ever lived and they worry we are going to be the first generation to leave our children worse off than ourselves. That's the moment we have arrived at. And I, after 4 ½ years in the Senate, have become convinced that we are not going to get this right unless we elect a Republican President.

It's not enough to have the Congress; we have to have a President that will move this cause forward, an American renaissance in a new American century. And I just don't see anyone else running that is approaching these issues the way I am, talking about the transformation in our economy or the issues we face in our national security. I came to the conclusion that the best place for me to serve my country was as President, so I chose not to run for re-election and instead dedicate myself to the cause of being President.

**EDITOR:** Could you tell the voters in Bow a little about your family, Senator?

**Rubio:** My parents were born in Cuba. They came to America in 1956. They were working class people, mostly in the service sector. My dad worked primarily as a bartender at hotels, doing banquets. My mother worked at a factory, she was a cashier at a hotel on Miami Beach, a stock clerk at K-Mart, a hotel maid in Las Vegas. I was born and raised primarily in Miami, although I lived 6 years in Nevada growing up. I grew up in Miami and went to the University of Florida, then went to Miami Law School. In 1991, I met a 17 year old girl, Jeanette, who I ended up marry-

ing in 1998. We have been married for 17 years this month. We have four great kids; two girls that are 13 and 15 and two boys that are 8 and 10. We still live in West Miami, Florida which is a working class town of about 5,000 people and two blocks away from the home my parents moved to in 1985.

**EDITOR:** What would you do to help the middle class?

**Rubio:** The most important thing we can do is provide a pathway to upward mobility and the way you do that is by making America the easiest and the best place in the world to create millions of jobs that pay more than the ones we have now.

That's why I am for tax reform, limiting regulations, balancing the budget and repealing and replacing Obamacare and fully utilizing our energy resources. The second thing is we have to make it easier and cheaper for people to acquire the skills they need to fill those jobs, which is why I've argued for higher education modernization. That includes more of an emphasis on vocational training, opening up Pell Grants for high school students to dual enroll so when they graduate from high school, they not only have a high school diploma, but they are industry certified to work at a body shop or work at a trade.

I also believe that we need to provide non-traditional students an alternative to traditional college, so I filed a bipartisan bill that allows there to be an alternative accrediting model that would encourage innovative competitors.

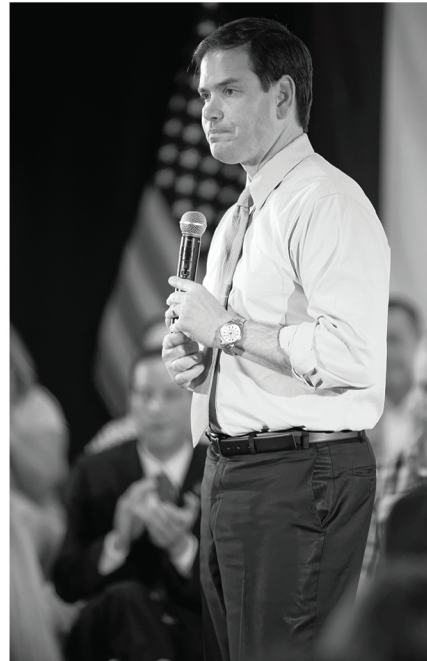
But it really comes down to two things: 1. make America the easiest and best place in the world for the private sector to create millions of better paying jobs and 2. making it easier, faster and cheaper for Americans to acquire the higher education they need so they can have the skills to fill those jobs.

**EDITOR:** What are your thoughts on the best way to handle ISIS?

**Rubio:** ISIS is a radical Sunni

group that needs to ultimately be defeated by Sunnis themselves on the ground, both militarily and ideologically. But they can't do it without American assistance. So, in addition to bringing together the coalition, I think we need to provide an increase in intelligence support and logistical support.

I would imbed special operation forces to help with the targeting of air strikes and provide more training and equipment. But ultimately it's going to take a combined force of Jordanians, Saudis the Turks, and Sunnis from Iraq, Syria, and Egypt to confront them on the ground, defeat them militarily, and drive them from the places that they now operate in and reclaim both Sunni Islam and the territory that they control.



**EDITOR:** Do you have any thoughts on changes to the tax code?

**Rubio:** I proposed with Senator Mike Lee of Utah a pretty comprehensive re-write of the tax code. Ours is the most pro-business and pro-family tax code anyone has offered. On the business side we would tax all business income at no more than 25%. That includes small businesses who with a pass through are paying at their personal rate and we would allow all businesses to immediately expense any investment they make in their business. We would eliminate double taxation for overseas profits by going to a territorial system of taxation so we can bring back some of those two trillion dollars of American

cash sitting overseas. We would get rid of all taxes on investment because the more you tax something the less of it you get, but the less you tax it, the more you get. We want to see more investment.

On the personal side, we would only have two rates: the high rate, 39 ½% would become 35% and for everyone else it would be 15%. We would increase the per child tax credit for working families because raising children in the twenty-first century is expensive and difficult. This plan would provide substantial growth and after tax income, it would provide substantial economic growth, job creation and within 10 years it will be revenue positive.

**EDITOR:** Would Hillary Clinton's gun law changes have affected anything in the recent Oregon shooting?

**Rubio:** No, and that's the problem with all these gun proposals, they don't do anything about preventing this from happening. At the end of the day, the only people who follow the law are law abiding citizens, so if you create gun restrictions, law abiding citizens will follow the law, leaving them unarmed and harder to protect themselves.

Criminals by definition ignore the law and they will ignore these laws. As a result what you will have is a country where all the criminals will be well armed and all the innocent people will not be able to protect themselves, their property or their families.

In fact, these laws that they are proposing would have done nothing to prevent the specific cases that they point to. The individual who carried out this attack in Oregon could have passed a background check and the same could be true of the one that happened before that and they didn't use assault weapons, they were using handguns, so the law she is proposing would do nothing to prevent these attacks.

**Chuck:** Thank you for your time, Senator.