

STARRS Candidate Survey comments from candidates:

2. Did you oppose the COVID 19 vaccine mandate?

- As a healthcare provider who treated critically ill COVID patients, I supported vaccination and reasonable workplace requirements in high-risk settings like hospitals and long-term care facilities, where we have an obligation to protect vulnerable patients. However, I believe mandates should be narrowly tailored, include legitimate medical and religious exemptions, and respect constitutional limits. Broad, one-size-fits-all federal mandates were too sweeping and created unnecessary division.
- As a Lubbock County Commissioner, I publicly opposed COVID vaccine mandates and shutdown practices. That's why I am endorsed by Stand for Health Freedom.
- As a pharmacist I personally delivered thousands of COVID doses and have had to counsel dozens of patients who have lost family members and church friends unnecessarily. The mandate is there to protect others, and in a military context if one is unwilling to protect others it seems disqualifying.
- As a small business owner, my responsibility was to keep my customers safe. Enforcement of mask use and vaccination was the only way society could continue to function without risking massive casualties.
- As an Army Chaplain, I counseled dozens of Soldiers who were seeking religious waivers to refuse the COVID-19 vaccine based on sincerely held religious beliefs and conscience. I supported their constitutional right to the free exercise of religion under the First Amendment. In my view, while the government could encourage vaccination, the mandate was unconstitutional. It improperly compelled service members to violate their deeply held convictions, crossing the line on their protected religious liberties.
- By the way, "Did" is spelled incorrectly on your question. This is America, we are free. If someone is opposed, it's their right. If someone wants the vaccine, it's their right and their freedom. Medical items are between the patient and the doctor.
- Covid crashed the world economy once, why treat it like a common cold?
- Covid Vaccines were government mandates, against an unknown virus, with poorly tested vaccines, amidst a panic that inflated bureaucrats' egos and caused more harm than the virus, many of which are yet to be encountered. On top of all that, it was an unconstitutional imposition on individual freedoms and liberties.
- Covid-19 vaccine mandates that tied employment to vaccination should never have been allowed to stand. As a television reporter during the pandemic, I posed serious and withering questions to public health officials to demand they justify the use of executive power to force unwilling employees to take an experimental vaccine.
- Covid-19 vaccine side effects affected my family's health and caused cardiovascular and neurological conditions.
- Federal mandates that pressured Americans through employers to take the COVID-19 vaccine represented a serious government overreach. Many individuals were forced to choose between their livelihoods and a medical decision that should remain between a patient and their physician. As more information emerged, it became clear that the long-term necessity of repeated mandates was not significantly greater than what we typically see with seasonal influenza vaccination policies. When government moves too quickly to impose sweeping mandates without transparency and long-term data, it erodes public trust. Public health policy must balance preparedness with constitutional protections, ensuring personal freedoms and informed consent are never sacrificed in moments of crisis.

- Forced because I was in the military and there was retaliation for denying it
- Freedom of choice. If people were that scared, they could have just stayed home. I feel some people are actually still at home. Libertarians are the true freedom fighters. Personal choice is a fundamental belief we all share. Individual Liberty and freedom of choice is a core value of the Libertarian Party. I oppose any Government regulation that forces an individual to do something to their body against their wishes. Same concept also applies to abortion and the laws pertaining to it.
- From the beginning
- From the beginning, the vaccine mandates felt wrong. Their creation, lack of testing, constant changes to efficacy rates, all of it.
- <https://youtube.com/shorts/7hciwzcQj2s?feature=share>
- I 100% opposed the mandates and shutdowns; my opponent, Kevin Lincoln, supported the shutdowns.
- I absolutely opposed COVID 19 'mandates' in all forms. I actually formed a non-profit 501c3 myself to help lead the fight to educated Americans of their rights to make their own decisions on what works best for them and their rights to choose.
- I actively opposed it in my activist work by advising people in Louisville to not take it.
- I also defeated the Forcible Injections Act of 2019, House Bill 3063, which my primary opponent supported and cheered on the chief sponsor state Rep. Cheri Helt.
- I believe choice like vaccines should be up to the people and with their doctor if they choose to include them.
- I believe strongly in Medical Freedom for individuals and parents; I support religious and other exemptions to vaccination requirements.
- I believe the COVID-19 vaccines played a role in helping many people—particularly those at high risk. But I do not believe the government should force medical decisions on its citizens. Mandates crossed a line. They threatened jobs and livelihoods. They ignored natural immunity and personal health circumstances. They removed the right to informed consent. And they treated Americans differently based on compliance. That's not how a free country operates.
- I believe vaccination is a personal medical decision, not something the federal government should mandate. While I support access to vaccines and trust people to make informed choices with their doctors, I do not believe the government should force individuals to take a medical treatment against their will. Personal health decisions belong to individuals and families, not politicians. My position is simple: people deserve the freedom to make their own healthcare choices, and government should respect that freedom regardless of party or politics.
- I did my own research, bought Ivermectin at Tractor Supply Company, and never had a problem.
- I did not get the experimental drug. Our church was labeled murderers by staying open during Covid flu season. I was a very strong opponent in this battle.
- I experienced vaccine injury personally, fear was used to make COVID much worse than it needed to be.

- I firmly believe that each family should be empowered to make their own medical decisions in consultation with their doctors, not their government or their employers. Mandates raised serious concerns about personal liberty, bodily autonomy, and government overreach. We can encourage vaccination through education and transparency, but coercion is not the right approach. Protecting both public health and individual freedom is essential, and we should strive to do both without undermining core constitutional principles.
- I had killed the COVID 19 virus with a 9 Volt devise called a zapper in three days. However, my employer forced me to take the vaccine or get fired. I was the only family member with a job.
- I have always opposed COVID 19 vaccine mandates and I never received the vaccine.
- I oppose any mandates on all medical procedures for public and private citizens.
- I oppose broad government vaccine mandates because they can infringe upon the individual liberties protected by the Bill of Rights and the right of citizens to make their own informed healthcare decisions. While I am a firm believer in the science of vaccines and their role in saving lives, the Constitution does not grant the government the power to override personal conscience or religious beliefs in such an expansive manner. For our military members and veterans, these mandates often created a conflict between their duty to the nation and their personal health autonomy; I believe our focus should remain on education, transparency, and voluntary participation to build trust within our communities rather than using the heavy hand of federal mandates.
- I oppose the old system where parties, donors, and politicians decide for you — and I support a new system where every vote I cast is bound to the verified will of the people, with a public audit trail to prove it.
- I opposed COVID-19 mandates because I believe public health decisions should balance safety with individual liberty, economic stability, and constitutional limits on government authority. While the virus was serious and warranted a strong response, broad federal and state mandates—particularly those affecting employment, schools, and small businesses—often failed to account for local conditions and personal circumstances. I believe informed consent, transparency, and personal responsibility are more effective and consistent with our constitutional system than sweeping one-size-fits-all requirements imposed by government.
- I opposed federal vaccine mandates, particularly for military members and federal employees. Medical decisions should remain between individuals and their doctors, not dictated through coercive federal policy.
- I opposed government mandates that forced Americans to choose between their job and a personal medical decision. I believe in individual freedom and informed consent. People deserve the right to make their own healthcare decisions without government coercion.
- I opposed it while my opponent, Dan Crenshaw supported removing active duty service personnel who refused to take the shot.
- I opposed one-size-fits-all mandates; I support targeted protections in high risk settings and practical alternatives that achieve the same public health benefit with less economic and civil liberty cost.
- I opposed the COVID-19 vaccine mandate and still do. Medical decisions should be made by individuals, not forced by the government or coerced by pharmaceutical interests.
- I publicly campaigned against them.

- I still have not taken the Vaccine and Support the Right Not to.
- I strongly opposed COVID-19 vaccine mandates. Medical decisions should be made by individuals and families in consultation with their doctors—not forced by the federal government or employers under threat of job loss.
- I strongly opposed the COVID-19 vaccine mandate, and I continue to believe that medical decisions should be made by individuals in consultation with their healthcare providers, not imposed by government. Public health depends on trust, transparency, and respect for personal freedom. Policies that ignore individual circumstances can undermine confidence and divide communities. We can protect public health while also protecting individual rights and informed consent.
- I support medical freedom and informed consent. No American should lose their job or career because of a federal mandate. Individuals should make healthcare decisions with their doctors.
- I support vaccines; I support science; but I do not support broad federal mandates that ignore individual circumstances.
- I supported vaccines and encouraged people to get vaccinated. I can appreciate and understand the concerns about civil liberties. I believed mandates needed to be narrowly tailored and legally sound. Public trust matters. Durable public health policy requires transparency and accountability.
- I took no position on it. I lost a loved one early and nearly died myself. Looking back I think people should get a choice but also bear the consequences of their choice.
- I tried to opt out of it. The CDC kept coming up with new guidelines and reasons. It wasn't about health, it was about control. If it had been about health, the medication to heal would have been made more accessible. I remember being turned away from the ER in a snowstorm in Annapolis Maryland because I walked in while coughing instead of on a gurney by ambulance. They grudgingly gave me a Zpack. The nurses and doctors were upset there wasn't a reason to put me on a ventilator. In Maryland the state was fining people \$5000 if they tried to work and the requirement exceeded unfair dismissals. I lost my job and couldn't pay my bills. I ended up living in my car which was repossessed by VW. Even though they cancelled the debt when they saw I was running for Congress, my credit score is still wrecked by their greed. The COVID 19 mandate hit me and everyone who worked for their lives. Even if we got vaccinated, we all still lost our livelihoods and jobs. I swore that if I ever was elected, that would never happen to me or anyone else. We should all have our debts paid and forgiven for that monstrosity of lies involving that COVID-19 mandate.
- I was a CDC Quarantine public health officer and earned a Masters degree in public health focusing on Infectious Disease, Food Security, and Climate Change. I know vaccines work ever since the milkmaids were discovered to have an immunity to Small Pox due to their exposure to cow pox. Providing a weakened strain of a pathogen so that our bodies can develop the natural anti-bodies to fight infection is one of the most innovative Public Health treatments ever developed by humankind. Congress even created a Trust Fund for those individuals who are adversely affected by vaccines since nothing works 100%. We, as a nation, know that vaccinations work to protect our citizens but did not leave behind those who they did not work for. I am generally against mandated state actions but in the case of preserving humanity from extinction one must sometimes mandate well informed actions for the general public. Now I think COVID vaccines should be voluntary, but at the time of the original infection we, as a nation, did not know its virulence. It could have been the next Black Death which killed 6 out of 10 people during the Plague.
- I was an instructor pilot at the schoolhouse during covid. I watched as great young pilots had their careers ruined because they wouldn't take the shot.

- I was in Europe where there were mass casualties. I contacted Doctor friends at the VA in Lexington Ky suggesting off site triage facilities (they did so) to prevent spreading within the hospitals and suggested they share that nationally to protect fellow veterans. This saved lives.
- I was not in office at the time. If we're talking about a decision to mandate vaccine for military personnel, it would need to depend on the effect the disease could have on military readiness. I'm not sure we still have enough information to know whether a vaccine mandate was valuable for military personnel, their families, and military readiness.
- I was personally indifferent to the mandates.
- I worked to build an organization that not only watchdogged the spending of SLFRF program Covid recovery dollars to find misspending, but also worked to expand access to information regarding the vaccine so people could make their own educated and informed decisions.
- I'm already against the next government mandate!
- In a 'Republic of Reason,' we recognize that during a national crisis, our individual dogmas must yield to our collective survival. I did not oppose the mandate because, under the principles of Rousseau's Civil Religion, every citizen has a fundamental obligation to the state and their neighbor when the safety of the Republic is at stake. To use a simple analogy: if a neighbor's house is on fire, the community does not pause to debate individual preferences—everyone grabs a bucket because the fire threatens the entire street. As a 22-year Navy veteran, I understand that the survival of the 'crew' depends on everyone fulfilling their duty to the whole. My 'Blueprint for Socioeconomic Evolution' views public health as vital social infrastructure. When we face a crisis, we should not focus on the 'differences' in our private medical choices, but on our 'commonality' as citizens who must act together to protect our national readiness and the 'General Will.'
- In the heat of the crisis, with millions of lives at stake, I stood by the experts. That's what leaders do.
- It depends on the setting. If a workplace wants to require various vaccines as a condition of employment, especially if that is because the workplace is a high risk situation, such as healthcare I support that. I do not think that countries need to mandate the vaccinations, but I do think they need to strongly encourage vaccinations as part of a robust public health program. And workplace has always made choose who they work with. And kind of trees may choose to have different requirements for entry, such as already exist regarding yellow fever.
- It is dangerous to assume that the government knows, and wants what is best for you, and your family. Once you lose jurisdiction of your own choices, you ultimately lose freewill.
- It is unconstitutional to force someone to put something in their body that they are opposed to.
- It wasn't a mandate, it was optional. As a soldier / combat medic deployed during the Covid-19 pandemic, I received lots of vaccines because I am engaging with the public and it would not make sense for me to be a carrier of a disease then go into a nursing/elderly home with at-risk populations and giving them that disease, possibly killing them or someone close to them. So I disagree with the framing of the question, because the government was not knocking on our doors forcing us to get the vaccine. I know many soldiers that I served with that did not get the vaccine, and that was their choice
- Medical decisions should remain between individuals and their doctors, not the federal government.

- My kids and I are vaccinated, but I respect personal freedoms and religious obligations. Purposefully/knowingly exposing others, however, is NOT a part of what I stand for.
- No government should force a soldier to inject a foreign substance into his/her body, particularly something in an unproven, developmental stage.
- No medication should ever be mandated
- Nobody should be forced against their will to take any vaccine especially the Covid-19 vaccine which was forced on my wife and almost killed her.
- Not only did I oppose the dangerous jabs, but I defended Christians before the EEOC who didn't want it, and took Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, representing 78 plaintiffs, all the way to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, before Biden backed down. We hit them hard for this travesty, and would do so again.
- Not only was I not vaccinated but I actively protested against the vaccine even before it existed
- Of course not! vaccines are one of mankind's greatest inventions ever! This survey is for veterans right? How many of y'all caught yellow fever? think back and remember your intake vaccinations. Hazy memory because everything was a blur right? You forgot you got 'em? Must not have been too traumatic.
- OPPOSE!
- Public Safety, includes public health considerations. That said, the COVID 19 vaccine development cycle, and subsequent launch left too many questions unanswered about motivation, and whether the for profit model in Pharmaceuticals was in the best interest of society. (my opinion is that medicine should be returned to the public domain)
- Some vaccines have side effects, and some don't always work.
- The average recruit receives (or shows proof of) 17 different vaccines. Many who deploy receive vaccines that the general public cannot have access to. Why should COVID-19 be any different? Billions of doses have been given out without any complication or side effects. Having our soldiers in tip-top shape should be a priority. George Washington actually mandated a vaccination in the Continental Army: "Necessity not only authorizes but seems to require the measure, for should the disorder infect the Army in the natural way and rage with its usual virulence we should have more to dread from it than from the Sword of the Enemy."
- The COVID 19 vaccine was not a vaccine. It should never have been mandated. It is gene therapy which has now wreaked havoc in many lives due to the spike proteins ravaging people's bodies. I am glad I opposed it then and now. The American people are and should be allowed to make their own decisions for what must be placed inside their bodies.
- The COVID-19 vaccine mandate should have been a personal decision. I took the vaccine because of my elderly parents, not because it was a mandate.
- The government has no role in deciding what we can and can not do with our bodies.
- The shot has no double blinded research, it should not be offered
- The Vaccine was Experimental...it was a PLANDemic.

- There were various legitimate reasons to "not get the jab." 1) free choice, 2) already had the virus, 3) religious beliefs, 4) efficacy of "the jab" was only a few months.
- These mandates are against our rights
- This is a big problem that it is difficult for an anti-vax Democratic candidate like me to talk about.
- This is freedom of choice.
- This issue is personal to me. I lost my mother early due to covid, so I did what I was told. I followed orders. I was able to travel to her funeral and that is my loss. I also got covid but was able to make it through it with the vaccine. Some young people may not feel the same, but I always say an ounce of precaution is worth a pound of cure. I hope that we have learned from the pandemic and will handle the next one better.
- Under the Constitution's original public meaning, public health is a state matter, making the federal mandate a clear overstep of limited government. Yet, even at the state level, a mandate is ethically indefensible, as no collective 'good' should supersede an individual's right to make their own medical decisions.
- While I decided to receive the vaccine personally, I have always believed that the vaccine should be a choice for people not a mandate by the government or an employer. There should NEVER have been a mandate.
- With in good reason.
- Yes - this vaccine was rushed out and forced on the public. One should not have to choose between unverified science and their livelihood.
- Yes, I opposed the COVID-19 vaccine mandates. They were coercive government overreach that violated individual bodily autonomy and the right to informed consent. No one should be forced, under threat of losing their job, education, or livelihood, to inject a medical product they did not want, especially when early data showed the vaccines did not stop transmission, had limited long-term safety data, and carried real risks for certain age groups and healthy individuals. Mandates ignored natural immunity, treated healthy people as threats, and created a two-tier society based on compliance rather than science. Public health policy should never override personal medical decisions or turn employers and schools into enforcement arms of the state. I supported voluntary choice, early treatment options, and protection for the vulnerable without punishing everyone else.
- Yes. I opposed the COVID-19 vaccine mandates because I believe Americans should have the freedom to make their own medical decisions without fear of losing their job, career, or livelihood.

As a soldier, I experienced these mandates firsthand. Service members volunteered to defend this country, yet many were pressured to choose between complying with a government mandate or risking their military careers.