



PUBLIC INTEREST INSTITUTE  
FACT SHEET

Number 11-04

August 13, 2011

---

**Seven Principles of Sound Public Policy**

**One:**

*Free people are not equal, and equal people are not free.*

**Two:**

*What belongs to you, you tend to take care of;  
what belongs to no one or everyone tends to fall into disrepair.*

**Three:**

*Sound policy requires that we consider long-run effects and all people, not simply short-run effects and a few people.*

**Four:**

*If you encourage something, you get more of it; if you discourage something, you get less of it.*

**Five:**

*Nobody spends somebody else's money as carefully as he spends his own.*

**Six:**

*Government has nothing to give anybody except what it first takes from somebody, and a government that's big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take away everything you've got.*

**Seven:**

*Liberty makes all the difference in the world.*

From Mackinac Center for Public Policy: <http://www.mackinac.org>

*Contact: Dr. Don Racheter, President*

Public.Interest.Institute@LimitedGovernment.org Phone: 319-385-3462 Fax: 319-385-3799

# Governing by Principle

## Principle One:

*Government exists to protect rights, not to create them.*

## Principle Two:

*The legitimate power of government begins and ends with the people, while its authority comes from the Creator.*

## Principle Three:

*Just because a problem exists doesn't mean government should try to solve it.*

## Principle Four:

*Long-term and cumulative consequences should be considered more carefully than short-term benefits.*

## Principle Five:

*Government has nothing to give anyone except what it first takes from someone else.*

## Principle Six:

*Individuals are ultimately responsible for governing themselves and for the consequences of their decisions.*

## Principle Seven:

*Free enterprise, not government, is the engine of personal economic prosperity.*

## Principle Eight:

*The free market should not be distorted by government-designed dictates or advantages.*

## Principle Nine:

*Government has a responsibility to protect the foundational institution of society: the marriage-based, two-parent family.*

## Principle Ten:

*Parents, not government, are responsible for the education and upbringing of their children.*