



# The Rushmore Standard for Candidate Selection Overview

The **Rushmore Standard** is our non-partisan benchmark for trustworthy candidates — distilled from [Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Lady Liberty's voices](#).

It focuses on **Character** over Policy or Party, ensuring leaders who restore trust amid polarization.

## Five Core Pillars

We use these as a checklist and Endorse only those who demonstrate them consistently.

Pillar	Core Question	Key Indicators	Historical Anchor
<b>1. Integrity, Moral Character &amp; Transparency</b>	Is this person honest, ethical, courageous, and transparent?	Track record of truth-telling; freedom from corruption; accountability for mistakes; support for open government.	Washington's Rules of Civility & Farewell morality call; Abigail Adams: "Great abilities... of little value without virtue, honor, truth, and integrity."
<b>2. Constitutional Fidelity &amp; Rule of Law</b>	Does this revere the Constitution and its institutions?	Commitment to separation of powers; accepts election outcomes; protects rights; backs independent oversight.	Lincoln's Lyceum: Rule of law as "political religion"; Mercy Otis Warren: Resist tyranny under any form.
<b>3. National Unity Over Faction</b>	Does this unite or divide? Rebuilds trust?	Cross-partisan collaboration; refuses demonization; "malice toward none" posture.	Washington's Farewell: Avoid factions; Dolley Madison's bipartisan salons.
<b>4. Civic Virtue, Public Service &amp; Duty</b>	Is this a genuine public servant?	Service motivation; competence; fiscal responsibility; constituent focus.	Roosevelt's "Duties of Citizenship"; Clara Barton: "Though little one woman can do, I crave the privilege."
<b>5. Fairness, Justice &amp; Common Good</b>	Champions equal justice for all?	Equal rights commitment; anti-corruption; holds power accountable; moral leadership.	Jefferson's "Equal justice to all"; Ida B. Wells: "The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them."



## Red Flags: Disqualifying Characteristics



Drawing from the Rushmorian's explicit warnings, certain characteristics should automatically disqualify a candidate from [CIVIC](#) endorsement:

- **Refusal to Accept the Peaceful Transfer of Power** — contradicts Washington's greatest precedent
- **Participation in or Support for Efforts to Overturn Legitimate Election Results** — violates Washington's and Lincoln's most fundamental principles
- **Pattern of Deliberate Deception or Disinformation** — incompatible with every Rushmorian's insistence on honesty and truth. This includes manipulative use of Propaganda Techniques.
- **Demonstrated Corruption or Self-Dealing** — violates Roosevelt's and Jefferson's anti-corruption commitments
- **Efforts to Weaken Independent Oversight Institutions** — directly contradicts the checks-and-balances framework all four presidents championed
- **Demonization of Political Opponents as Enemies of the State** — violates Lincoln's "malice toward none" and Washington's warnings against faction
- **Advocacy for Expanding Executive Power Beyond Constitutional Limits** — antithetical to Jefferson's principles and Washington's voluntary restraint
- **Support for Politicizing the Military or Judiciary** — violates Jefferson's principle of civilian supremacy over the military and Roosevelt's insistence on independent, accountable institutions

### How We Apply It

1. **Score Publicly:** Rate candidates 1-5 per pillar based on record/statements.
2. **Endorse only 5/5s:** Perfect Alignment is Required.
3. **Publicly explain:** for example: "Amy McGrath scores 5/5 on Pillar 2 for defending checks and balances."

This framework excites independents (45% of voters) by being clear, historical, and action-oriented — cutting through noise to spotlight true leaders.



*Only those who have  
Learned to Serve  
can Truly Govern*

Candidates should adhere to the **Eight Trust Principles** to ensure they can work in a Bi-Partisan manner with those with whom they may disagree, but still move forward to work out solutions to America's problems.