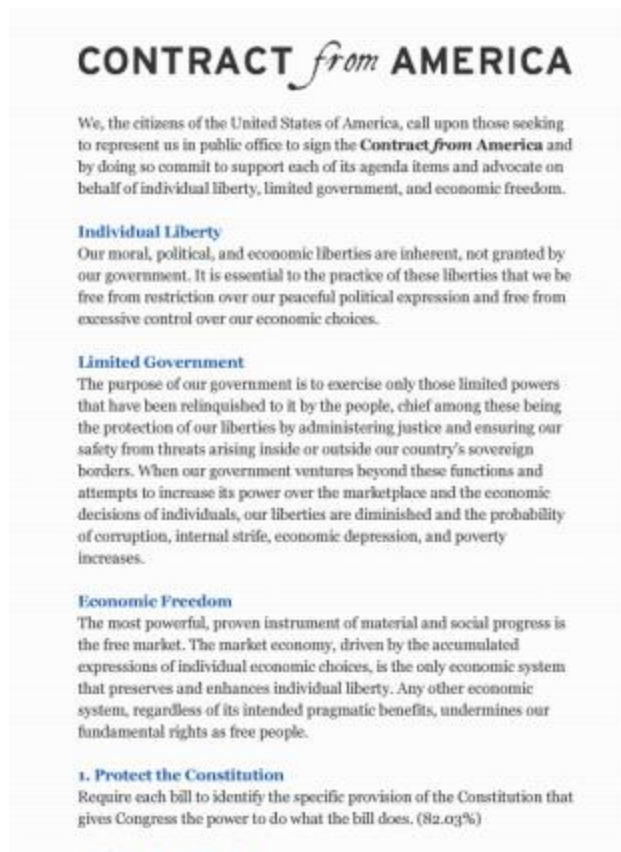


After months of planning a conglomeration of local Tea Party groups has created the “Contract From America.” See the platform here and tell us what you think in the comments.



The 10-goal list of principles is modeled after the GOP’s Contract with America in 1994. The paper pledge that was engineered by Newt Gingrich gave the electorate a rallying cry which helped propel the GOP election sweep in the mid-term election that year.

This year’s Contract From America is truly a grassroots effort. The concept was the brainchild of Ryan Hecker of the Houston Tea Party movement. The idea of a new conservative contract in 2010 [caught fire](#) as hundreds of local tea party organizations [banded together](#) to promote a website effort.

On the website visitors were [asked to vote](#) on the issues most important to them in create a new contract from America. The vote is in and a 10-principle pledge is the result:

1. Protect the Constitution
2. Reject Cap and Trade
3. Demand a Balanced Budget
4. Enact Fundamental Tax Reform
5. Restore Fiscal Responsibility and Constitutionally Limited Government in Washington
6. End Runaway Government Spending
7. Defund, Repeal, and Replace Government-run Health Care

8. Pass an 'All-of-the-Above' Energy Policy
9. Stop the Pork
10. Stop the Tax Hikes.

History tells us that a new contract is a good idea for winning elections. What will bother some people is the method used to create it. The Tea Party is by definition a disparate collection of local groups with differing and sometimes conflicting views.

Not all tea party groups participated and some conservatives would be disconcerted to find their important pet issues ignored, such as illegal immigration, Obama's war on unborn children, and other cultural issues. In my view these are wise omissions for building a coalition.

The Contract From America needs to be viewed as an economic contract that attacks the growing role of federal government in our lives. In that respect it is a brilliant manifesto which will allow independent voters to coalesce around a common conservative platform.