



# RESEARCH REPORT

Troy Downing  
Montana  
Auditor  
2020

April 16, 2020

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An open source search was conducted to collect and analyze public statements, public records, and legislative votes that might contain evidence of personal and/or professional misconduct by Troy Downing or reveal ideological leanings that could threaten Downing's bid for Auditor.

Since Downing's defeat in the Republican primary for a U.S. Senate seat in Montana, he has pleaded guilty to charges of purchasing resident hunting licenses in Montana as a non-resident. Before making a plea deal with prosecutors, Downing denied the charges, sought to have them dismissed, and eventually blamed accountants for incorrectly filing his taxes. After insisting during his Senate campaign that he had moved to Montana in 2009, Downing appears to have made an attempt to shore up the political liability presented by questions over his residency by purchasing a home in Bozeman and subsequently filing a Declaration of Homestead for the property in July of 2019. He then sold his California home in December 2019.

Downing was critical of candidate Donald Trump during the 2016 Republican presidential primary, calling him "either a liar or an idiot" in March 2016 and declaring that he was unelectable. In 2018, Downing said that deporting 11 million illegal immigrants was "just not feasible" and said he would favor legislation that would create a skills-based path to legal status for illegal immigrants who are already in the country. Downing also contributed to moderate Republican Jon Huntsman's presidential campaign. Huntsman said he hated the thought of building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, declared that he believed in climate change, and called Barack Obama a "remarkable leader."

## Top Hits

- 1 - Downing was listed as a guarantor of a \$1.9 million loan at issue in a federal debt-collection lawsuit from 2012. [Click here for details on page 4.](#)
- 2 - Downing's California business partners pleaded guilty to federal wire-fraud charges for their actions as senior executives of a business where Downing worked as a "fund manager" and "principal." [Click here for details on pages 5 and 6.](#)
- 3 - Downing pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor charges of purchasing resident hunting licenses as a non-resident. [Click here for details on pages 7 and 8.](#)
- 4 - While Downing claims to have moved to Montana in 2009, several sources indicate Downing considered California home for tax and business purposes much more recently than 2009. [Click here for details on page 8 through 10.](#)
- 5 - Downing's campaign for auditor has received contributions from a New York City activist investor who has been called a "corporate raider" and "asset stripper." [Click here for details on page 14.](#)

# BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Name: Troy Bryan Downing

Date of Birth: March 1967

Spouse: Heather L. Downing

Residence: 71 Doney Way  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
Purchased: 7/1/2019  
Declaration of Homestead filed in Gallatin County on 7/30/2019

Other Properties: 4567 Sleeping Indian Rd  
Fallbrook, CA 92028  
San Diego County  
Purchased: 5/16/2005 for \$1,960,000  
Sold: 12/2/2019 for \$1,660,000

11 Travertine Rd  
Big Sky, MT 59716  
Gallatin County  
Purchased: Unknown  
Sold: 5/9/2019

Businesses: Specialized Storage Management Holdings  
Big Sky, MT  
Commercial Real Estate

SAGE Insurance Servicing  
Big Sky, MT  
Insurance

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# BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Businesses:

- WildRye Distilling  
Bozeman, MT  
Distiller
- H and T Asset Holdings, LLC  
Big Sky, MT  
Real Estate
- Sleeping Indian Vineyard, LLC  
Carlsbad, CA  
Vineyard/Winery
- Moose Drool Properties, LLC  
Big Sky, MT  
Real Estate

# BUSINESS ISSUES

## 2012 Loan Default Lawsuit and 2015 California Judgment Lien

Legal action filed in U.S. District Court in Louisiana in August 2012 by LNV Corporation, a collections agency, names Downing as a co-defendant in a debt-collection lawsuit. The lawsuit sought judgment in favor of LNV Corporation in the amount of \$1,863,144.04 plus interest after Downing and his business partner, Stephen Kaplan, defaulted on a \$1,912,500 loan.

While Downing and Kaplan's names and signatures both appear on the loan agreement dated November 15, 2007, Downing blamed the default entirely on Kaplan. In his answer to the complaint, Downing alleged that "All or some of Plaintiff's alleged damages were caused by the fault of parties or persons for whom Downing is not responsible." In a cross-claim against Kaplan, Downing alleged that Kaplan was the sole manager of AMS I Shreveport Investments Management, LLC, that Kaplan was "the only person who could exercise control over or take action on behalf of AMS," and that it was Kaplan's "duty and responsibility, as the managing member of AMS Management, to ensure that AMS did not default on the Mortgage or Promissory Note at issue in this litigation." Downing alleged that his "only direct responsibility to AMS is limited to his alleged role as guarantor of the loan at issue in this litigation until the loan's maturity."

Source: United States District Court, Western District of Louisiana, "LNV Corporation v. AMS I Shreveport Investments, LLC; Stephen R. Kaplan, Individually; and Troy Downing, Individually," Civil Action No. 5:12-cv-02068-TS-KLH.

On February 25, 2015, a \$168,435.39 judgment lien was entered in Superior Court of California in San Diego County listing LNV Corporation as the judgment creditor and Stephen Kaplan, Troy Downing, and AMS I Shreveport Investments, LLC as judgment debtors. A judgment lien change form was later filed on December 14, 2017, indicating that Kaplan now owed a judgment debt to Downing's H and T Holdings LLC, listing Kaplan as the judgment debtor and H and T Holdings, LLC as the judgment creditor.

Source: Secretary of State of the State of California, Judgment Lien 15-7462628920, Filed 4/29/2015.

Kaplan and Downing were business partners in Equity International Services, LLC, according to a Notice of Exempt Offering of Securities filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in February of 2014.

Source: sec.gov, Equity International Services, Inc., File No. 021-211144, Notice of Exempt Offering of Securities, Filed 2/3/2014.

# BUSINESS ISSUES

## Equity Based Services and Federal Wire-Fraud Conspiracy

In March 2015, Howard Kaplan and his two sons, Eric and Stephen, pleaded guilty to federal wire-fraud conspiracy charges. The three men ran Equity Based Services (EBS), a private real estate company based in San Diego that specialized in the acquisition and management of self-storage properties around the country.

“The Kaplans were accused of imposing excessive fees, commingling funds between different storage projects, and raising more money than necessary for acquisitions. At its height, EBS acquired 77 self-storage businesses, marketing them as separate syndication deals to investors. The company promised guaranteed returns of as much as 8 percent, according to court documents.

Although EBS regularly paid returns between 2002 and 2010, Howard Kaplan began shifting funds from some self-storage syndications in 2006 to pay preferred returns promised to investors who had bought into underperforming ventures, the source reported.

Howard Kaplan used fees collected by EBS when a new syndicate was created to pay off investors in pre-existing deals, according to the plea agreements. The Kaplans also admitted to occasionally raising more money than necessary to acquire assets and then using the excess funds to pay investor returns, the source reported.

Eric and Stephen Kaplan became aware of their father’s actions in early 2010 but didn’t disclose the information to investors and continued to sell new self-storage syndicates, according to court records.”

Source: insideselfstorage.com, “Equity Based Services Owners Admit to Federal Wire-Fraud Conspiracy in Self-Storage Investments,” 11 January 2016.

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# BUSINESS ISSUES

## Equity Based Services and Federal Wire-Fraud Conspiracy continued

Troy Downing was a business partner with the Kaplan's, having been the guarantor on a \$1.9 million loan along with Stephen Kaplan in Louisiana, and in several articles and press releases covering EBS business activities dating back to 2008, Downing is called a "fund manager" and "principal" for EBS. An archived version of EBS's "Team" page lists Downing as a "Principal at EBS" along with the Kaplan's who filled the other senior leadership roles for the company. Downing's biography on the page said he "is a principal fund manager with EBS" who "brought his experience with technology funds and applied it to Private Equity Commercial Real Estate Funds." The biography also states that Downing "has been heavily involved in fundraising, deal structuring, due-diligence, and fund structuring and has closed more than \$150 Million in Commercial Real Estate deals."

Source: [texas.realestaterama.com](http://texas.realestaterama.com), "EBS acquired its 64th property with the closing of Advantage Storage in Plano, Texas," 8 December 2009; [relocation.com](http://relocation.com), "More using self-storage in relocation process," 8 October 2010; [web.archive.org](http://web.archive.org), screen capture of [equitybasedservices.com/team.htm](http://equitybasedservices.com/team.htm), captured 2 July 2010 and accessed 15 April 2020.

Despite his senior role in the company and his hands-on involvement with EBS business dealings, Downing's comments on the Kaplan's 2016 sentencing following their guilty pleas in 2015 cast him as a victim of their actions. In an article that merely calls Downing an "investor" in EBS, Downing called EBS a "predatory organization." Downing commented further, saying, "We all take investment risk ... We don't expect to be stolen from."

Source: [insideselfstorage.com](http://insideselfstorage.com), "Equity Based Services Owners Admit to Federal Wire-Fraud Conspiracy in Self-Storage Investments," 11 January 2016.

# HUNTING LICENSE CHARGES AND RESIDENCY ISSUE

## Hunting License Charges

Troy Downing faced seven misdemeanor charges for unlawful purchase of or applying for a resident hunting license by a non-resident for six consecutive years. He initially pleaded guilty to the charges.

“Downing is facing seven misdemeanors for unlawful purchase of or applying for a resident license by a nonresident. The citations accuse him of illegally buying licenses in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. ... Downing was also cited for transferring a hunting license to another person and for assisting an unqualified applicant in obtaining a hunting license. Those citations were not addressed in the pretrial motions. The citation for transferring a license accuses him of loaning a 2011 Montana elk license to another for killing a bull elk. And the citation for assisting an unqualified applicant accuses him of helping his nonresident son obtain Montana resident conservation, deer and elk licenses in 2015.”

Source: Bozeman Daily Chronicle, “Downing’s accountant: ‘He said he had a home in Montana,’” 18 April 2018.

In July 2018, Downing pleaded guilty to two misdemeanors, acknowledging that he had illegally obtained resident hunting licenses as a non-resident. After unsuccessfully seeking to have the charges dismissed, Downing agreed to the plea deal with prosecutors, but blamed the discrepancies on accountants for inaccurately preparing his taxes in the past. Downing was ordered to pay a \$2,000+ fine and was forced to forfeit hunting and fishing licenses for 18 months.

“A former U.S. Senate candidate accused of buying less-costly in-state hunting and fishing licenses when he was not a Montana resident pleaded guilty Wednesday to two misdemeanors as part of a deal with prosecutors. Troy Downing acknowledge obtaining resident hunting licenses as a non-resident and unlawfully procuring a license or permit, The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported. Those offenses happened between 2011 and 2016. The pleas came less than a week after a motion to dismiss some of the charges was denied. Downing, who unsuccessfully ran for this year’s Republican nomination to challenge U.S. Sen. Jon Tester in November, was ordered to pay a \$2,110 fine and any court fees. He also must forfeit any hunting, fishing or trapping licenses issued by the state for the next 18 months and serve a one-year deferred sentence. ... Downing argued that the case was based on mistakes made by accountants who prepared his taxes listing him as a California resident. He said he was happy to be made aware of those mistakes but disappointed that Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks officials were not more timely in notifying him. ... Investigators have characterized Downing’s time in Montana as ‘seasonal at best’ during the years at issue. The investigation into Downing’s residency began in 2013 when the Montana Department of Revenue asked Fish, Wildlife & Parks to look into whether he met residency requirements for Montana hunting, fishing and trapping licenses. The revenue department said it believed Downing had illegally purchased resident licenses.”

Source: Associated Press, “Downing sentenced for hunting violations, loses privileges for 18 months,” 19 July 2018.

# HUNTING LICENSE CHARGES AND RESIDENCY ISSUE

## Hunting License Charges continued

Downing's accountant told the court that Downing had instructed her to amend past tax returns to change his Montana resident status, and that she had not researched his eligibility for resident status in Montana beyond Downing's claim that he owned a home in the state.

Source: Bozeman Daily Chronicle, "Downing's accountant: 'He said he had a home in Montana,'" 18 April 2018.

## Residency Issue

### Overview

In an Associated Press article from May 2017, Downing said he had residences in Gallatin County, MT and in San Diego County, CA but had decided to become a full-time Montana resident "several years ago and now conducts much of his business from his home in Big Sky." Downing's campaign manager claimed that Montana had been Downing's primary residence since 2009.

Source: billingsgazette.com, "Storage company CEO files to run against Tester in 2018," 17 May 2017; patch.com, "Montana Senate Candidate Troy Downing Got California Tax Breaks," 18 November 2017.

However, filings for several Downing-owned businesses in California listed California addresses for Downing as recently as February 2019, and Downing had still claimed a Homeowner's property tax exemption for his San Diego County home as of the 2017-2018 tax year ending June 30, 2018. Downing his San Diego County home in December 2019 for \$1.6 million. Earlier in the year, Downing had filed a Declaration of Homestead for his home in Gallatin County on July 30, 2019. Downing filed for the Montana Auditor's race on June 26, 2019.

Source: San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector and Gallatin County Clerk-Recorder Document Search.

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# HUNTING LICENSE CHARGES AND RESIDENCY ISSUE

## Residency Issue: Overview continued

There are several additional sources that disprove Downing's claim that he had taken up primary residency in Montana as of 2009, including:

- An article in "The Greater Fallbrook Area Sourcebook," published in May 2012 that profiles Downing, who, according to the article, "enjoys a quiet family life in Fallbrook" and "cultivation of his home vineyard, which now boasts 2,000 vines." (Source: The Greater Fallbrook Area Sourcebook, Volume Eleven, 2012 Edition, "Troy Downing: Global innovator who calls Fallbrook home," published 20 May 2012.)
- A lawsuit filed in United States District Court, Western District of Louisiana, in 2012, in which Downing admitted that he was domiciled in California in his Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint. (Source: United States District Court, Western District of Louisiana, "LNV Corporation v. AMS I Shreveport Investments, LLC; Stephen R. Kaplan, Individually; and Troy Downing, Individually," Civil Action No. 5:12-cv-02068-TS-KLH.)
- An April 2015 California judgment lien listing Downing as a judgment debtor with an address in Carlsbad, CA. (Source: Secretary of State of the State of California, Judgment Lien 15-7462628920, Filed 4/29/2015.)
- Filings for several California businesses managed by Downing that listed California addresses for Downing as recently as 2019. See below for details.

## California Address on Equity International Services, LLC Filing

In business filings with the California Secretary of State, Downing is listed as the Manager of "Equity International Services, LLC," an insurance provider for self-storage tenants. In a September 2018 filing Downing lists a San Diego address for himself, only recently changing his address to a P.O. Box in Big Sky, MT in July of 2019.

Source: Secretary of State of the State of California, Statement of Information for Equity International Services, LLC, dated 11 July 2019 and 12 September 2018, accessed 7 April 2020.

## California Address on H And T Holdings, LLC Filing

The August 2018 business filings for another Downing LLC, "H And T Holdings, LLC," lists Troy Downing as Manager along with a Carlsbad, CA address for Downing. The February 2019 "Statement of Information" filing for "H And T Holdings, LLC" lists no changes to any information on the August 2018 filing.

Source: Secretary of State of the State of California, Statement of Information for H and T Holdings, LLC, dated August 31, 2018 and February 11, 2019, accessed 8 April 2020.

# HUNTING LICENSE CHARGES AND RESIDENCY ISSUE

## California Address on Sleeping Indian Vineyard, LLC Filing

In September 2015, Downing filed “Sleeping Indian Vineyard, LLC” with the California Secretary of State’s office using a Carlsbad, CA address for himself as manager of the LLC. An August 2018 filing for the LLC also listed a Carlsbad, CA address for Downing, and it wasn’t until a July 2019 filing for the LLC that Downing changed his address to a P.O. Box in Big Sky, MT.

Source: Source: Secretary of State of the State of California, Statement of Information for Sleeping Indian Vineyard, LLC, dated September 23, 2015, August 17, 2018 and, July 15, 2019, accessed 14 April 2020.

## Greater Fallbrook Area Sourcebook Article

An article profiling Downing that was published in the Greater Fallbrook Area Sourcebook in May 2012, states that the Downing’s chose Fallbrook instead of “somewhere more posh” and that it was there in suburban San Diego, that the Downing’s enjoyed “a quiet family life.”

“Fallbrook area residents have undoubtedly seen Troy Downing and his family around town at local schools or a 4-H event showing animals, but they likely don’t know Downing played a major role in revolutionizing their world. With his early involvement and innovative input in the company Yahoo!, he helped mold and influence how the world uses Internet search engines. His later investments extended to the ever-popular Google and Ask Jeeves as well. One might expect that a family as successful as the Downings would live somewhere more posh — but they chose the small town of Fallbrook. When asked what he loves about Fallbrook, Downing said, ‘the seclusion and separateness. It’s nice to have land without the price tag, yet it’s anti-Robb Report and nuevo riche.’ ... An avid aviator, golfer, snowboarder, hunter, fisherman and father of four, Downing enjoys a quiet family life in Fallbrook. One of his greatest passions is the ongoing cultivation of his home vineyard, which now boasts 2,000 vines.”

Source: The Greater Fallbrook Area Sourcebook, Volume Eleven, 2012 Edition, “Troy Downing: Global innovator who calls Fallbrook home,” published 20 May 2012.

# IMMIGRATION ISSUES

## Mass Deportations “Not Feasible”

At a January 2018 Pachyderm meeting in Kalispell, Downing said deporting 11 million illegal immigrants was “just not feasible” and that he would support a skills-based “path” to legal status for illegal immigrants who are already in the country.

“I know that some of you are going to agree with me and some of you aren’t, here, but, you know, 11 million illegal immigrants, it’s just not feasible to get rid of them. It’s just not feasible. I think that it’s a really good start to stop the leaking, start dealing with the bad ones, and let’s continue this conversation on how to deal with that.”

Source: youtube.com, “Troy Downing Speaks at Pachyderm Meeting,” posted by Montana Voter on 12 January 2018, accessed 15 April 2020.

## Path to Legal Status

“I’m going to support a bill that will allow those that are already here to have some path if they can fit the same criteria that we decide as Americans that allows what our next version of requirements are for immigration. And I think it needs to be skills based.”

Source: youtube.com, “Troy Downing Speaks at Pachyderm Meeting,” posted by Montana Voter on 12 January 2018, accessed 15 April 2020.

# TRUMP CRITICISM

## Tweets Critical of Candidate Trump

Downing sent out several tweets critical of Donald Trump during the 2016 presidential primary, according to a report by The Hill. Downing said Trump, whom he called “a liar or an idiot,” “cracks me up,” saying he was not electable, and even used the hashtag #NeverTrumpNeverHillary. Downing made his Twitter account private, but The Hill received screenshots of the tweets from Democratic opposition research group American Bridge.

“On Sept. 7, 2015, Downing tweeted that Trump ‘cracks me up’ and said that he wasn’t electable. Months later, he tweeted on March 3, 2016 that Trump is ‘either a liar or an idiot.’ And on Aug. 3, 2016, he tweeted about a Trump robocall and used the hashtag #NeverTrumpNeverHillary, a reference to the ‘#NeverTrump’ movement of Republicans who rejected their party’s nominee.”

Source: thehill.com, “Potential GOP Senate hopeful tweeted criticisms of Trump,” 2 May 2017.

Downing responded to the story about his critical tweets saying that while he had his “doubts” about candidate Trump, he believed that President Trump would be good for the country’s future.

“He said in the interview that he may have had his doubts about the president when he was a candidate, but he now believes that Trump’s administration will improve the nation’s economy and security.”

Source: Associated Press State & Local, “Storage company CEO files to run against Tester in 2018,” 17 May 2017.

# MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

## D.C.-based Opposition Researcher Paid by Downing Campaign Investigates Private Citizen

The owner of the Enhancing Montana's Wildlife & Habitat website and blog revealed that a partner in D.C.-based opposition research firm Percipient Strategies LLC had requested their hunting and fishing license history from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) in late 2017. The blogger had recently written in a newsletter about the nine citations that Downing had been issued by FWP for purchasing and/or applying for resident licenses as a non-resident. Downing's campaign filings showed a more than \$15,000 payout to the firm in November 2017.

"To begin, back in Sept. 2017, I put out an EMWH Newsletter with some of the research I found on Troy Downing, a Senate candidate, whose MT residency was being questioned by writer Don Pogreba in August. I found there were also 9 FWP citations involving residency and transferring of a tag. Shortly after, I received a written notification from FWP (per their policy), that my hunting & fishing license history had been requested, showing the requester and the provided information. ... The person requesting my hunting & fishing license history is Naji Filali, a partner in Percipient Strategies LLC. Percipient Strategies LLC is based in Washington D.C., a new company whose website was registered in July 2016. Their website states they are, 'Started and run by rising political researchers from the Republican National Committee...' They do opposition research. I am not a candidate, so I was curious why someone would be doing oppo research on me, an Independent voter, general member of the public. ... So back to Percipient Strategies, I have been waiting for Downing's newest quarterly campaign filing to see if Percipient Strategies was hired by him for opposition research. Guess what I found? On Nov. 21, 2017, \$15,404.25 was paid out to Percipient Strategies for 'research' by the Downing campaign. Surely, not all of that was for me, but hell, they could have paid me directly to share my hunting license history and salacious details. Is this the characteristic of the person we want representing Montana in Congress?"

Source: emwh.org, "Troy Bryan Downing Hires D.C. Opposition Researcher," <https://www.emwh.org/issues/public%20trust/mt%20pt%20threats/Troy%20Bryan%20Downing/Troy%20Bryan%20Downing%20Opposition%20Research.htm>, accessed 13 April 2020.

# CAMPAIGN FINANCE

## Contribution from “Activist Investor” to Downing Campaign

Downing’s campaign for Auditor has received \$720 in contributions from Edward J Bramson, a New York City-based “activist investor.” Bramson buys stakes in companies for the purpose of shaking up their corporate leadership structure to increase returns to investors like himself. He has been referred to as a “corporate raider,” a “toxic presence,” and an “asset stripper.” He even admitted that some may describe him as “pond scum.”

“Life may have just got more exciting for the bosses of Barclays - and not in a good way. Last week the bank revealed that Edward Bramson - a US-based investor who admits that some people would describe him as ‘pond scum’ - had notched up a 5.2% shareholding, making him Barclays’ fourth-biggest investor. The disclosure was required once Bramson passed the 5% mark. Bramson is not just any shareholder. He is an example of the aggressive activist investors that are buying stakes in UK companies with the aim of shaking things up and extracting returns. Barclays welcomed Bramson to its shareholder list but the greeting was no doubt made through gritted teeth. Bramson’s record of dogged agitation suggests Barclays’ bosses could not be in for a hard time. Bramson has bought stakes in a series of British companies in the past 15 years and has reaped returns averaging 22.8% a year. He typically does so by buying a sizable stake, demanding a seat on the board and then pushing for cost cuts, payouts to shareholders and other changes that boost returns.”

Source: theguardian.com, “Raider Ed Bramson leaves Barclays to sweat over his biggest bet yet,” 24 March 2018; thisismoney.co.uk, “Barclays urges shareholders to keep ‘toxic’ corporate raider Edward Bramson off board,” 19 March 2019.

Contributions from Edward J Bramson to Downing campaign for Auditor:

\$360 - primary

\$360 - general

Source: Montana Commissioner of Political Practices, Candidate Campaign Finance Report (C-5) for Troy Downing, Filed 20 March 2020.

## Downing Auditor Campaign Finance Summary

As of March 20, 2020, the Downing campaign has \$62,481.82 in the bank for the Primary and \$10,500 in the bank for the General.

Source: Montana Commissioner of Political Practices, Candidate Campaign Finance Report (C-5) for Troy Downing, Filed 20 March 2020.

# CAMPAIGN FINANCE

## Notable Downing Contributions to Federal Campaign Committees

Troy Downing made a \$1,000 contribution to Jon Huntsman for President, Inc. on December 16, 2011. Huntsman held several moderate positions on controversial issues like immigration reform and global warming, and had hailed Barack Obama as a “remarkable leader” and said it was “an honor” to work with Hillary Clinton.

Source: fec.gov, Campaign finance database, Contribution search for Troy Downing, accessed 13 April 2020.

Huntsman on the issues:

- Threatened to veto legislation that, if passed, would end in-state college tuition for eligible undocumented students in Utah. (Source: sltrib.com, “Proposal to repeal in-state college tuition for immigrants may be back on House floor today,” 31 January 2007.)
- Said that he hated the thought of building a fence on the U.S.-Mexico border and that the “thought of a fence to some extent repulses me, because it is not consistent with ... the image that we projected from the very beginning to the rest of the world,” while conceding that a physical barrier would likely be necessary to address the nation’s immigration problem. (Source: sltrib.com, “Huntsman says border fence ‘repulses’ him, but may be necessary,” 23 May 2011.)
- Sent a tweet from his personal Twitter account that said: “To be clear. I believe in evolution and trust scientists on global warming.” (Source: washingtonpost.com, “Jon Huntsman believes in evolution and global warming, so can he win a Republican primary?,” 18 August 2011.)
- Supported cap-and-trade legislation as a means of stopping global warming, even calling on Congress in 2007 to cap carbon emissions. (Source: buzzfeednews.com, “Jon Huntsman Thought Cap and Trade Was Awesome Before He Didn’t,” 10 January 2012.)
- Called President Barack Obama a “remarkable leader” and said it was “an honor to work with” Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who, according to Huntsman, had “won the hearts and minds of the State Dept. bureaucracy.” (Source: cbsnews.com, “Jon Huntsman to Obama: You’re ‘remarkable,’” 15 April 2011.)