

★
ANITA PERRY: I think he's the most handsome man. And he's creative, smart, kind, thoughtful. ...

What's your pet name for him?
Ricky. He calls me Nita.

Your husband says you urged him to enter the race. Why?

My daddy was a family practice doctor, and in the 1970s after Medicare began, I remember him telling me, as wise as he was, "We're moving towards socialized medicine. The first time you take a dollar from the federal government, they'll start trying to control your life." I became a nurse, and I've seen government take away more and more of our freedom to choose the care we want and the drugs we want.

Perry in a Word
"FRUGAL."

But that's only been a problem when I got kitchen scissors for Christmas or a lawn mower for Mother's Day one year."

—Anita Perry, wife

When did you first talk to your husband about running?

I started thinking about it last November after his reelection. Then in June a friend sent me a magazine article; it was about Obamacare. I read it and thought, "I don't want more of the same." One day Rick and I were talking and I said, "I am so concerned with our children's future and their children's future and what will happen to them. We've given so many years to public service, and we need to make a difference." I didn't want us to wake up when we were 80 and regret we didn't do this. Our country is in danger, in my opinion.

He's taken a lot of heat over his 2007 executive order mandating that sixth-grade girls get ➔



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