

2012 DALLAS COUNTY REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

As Amended at the Dallas County Republican Convention -- March 10, 2012

PREAMBLE

- ❖ We resolve that, as Republicans, we commit ourselves to the primacy of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and accordingly, we refrain from calling for government action for any purpose which would run contrary to those values.
- ❖ We acknowledge God's blessing on our country and our continued dependence upon God for the preservation of our nation. We believe high moral character is a necessity of public servants. The highest standard of character should be embodied in both private and public life. We encourage the proliferation of these principles and their passage to future generations.
- ❖ We believe that the sound philosophy of individual initiatives, less government, fiscal responsibility, free enterprise and equal rights for all, provides the best framework for responsible government at all levels.
- ❖ We believe that the proper role of government is to secure our freedoms, protect us from foreign enemies, and provide the framework within its constitutional boundaries for the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness. The most effective government is a government closest to the people.
- ❖ We believe that good government is based on recognizing and supporting each person's ability, dignity, freedom and responsibility for his/her actions.
- ❖ We expect Republican candidates and Republican incumbents in office to adhere to the fundamental beliefs stipulated in the following Republican Party Platform.

1. ECONOMICS AND COMMERCE

- 1.1 We believe that government should not be in the business of picking winners and losers, and that the use of government-provided grants and loans should be prohibited. Government should instead concentrate on creating a low-tax, low-regulation environment that is friendly to all entrepreneurs and businesses.
- 1.2 We believe that government projects should not be classified as Project Labor Agreements (PLA) or Davis-Bacon projects.
- 1.3 We support Iowa remaining a "Right-to-Work" state and are against weakening any Right-to-Work laws.
- 1.4 We support holding both borrowers and lenders responsible and accountable for their loans. We believe the free market will reward responsible lending decisions. We are not in favor of a government bailout of the mortgage industry.
- 1.5 We believe in free enterprise and the encouragement of individual initiatives and incentives.
- 1.6 As Republicans we support capitalism and oppose the government takeover and involvement in private industry.
- 1.7 We support moving Iowa's public retirement system from a defined benefit program to a defined contribution system.

2. ENERGY POLICY

- 2.1 We support energy independence in the United States by using our own available and potential energy resources before relying upon foreign suppliers.
- 2.2 We oppose governmental mandates on the supply or use of renewable fuels.
- 2.3 We should reduce our dependence on foreign oil and instead allow the private sector to increase production of renewable and non-renewable fuels as the market dictates.
- 2.4 We support environmentally aware development of the oil reserves in the Alaskan National Wildlife Reserve (ANWR), and the reserves off America's coastlines to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.
- 2.5 We support the construction of a pipeline from Canada to Texas
- 2.6 We support efforts to construct more oil refineries in the United States.

3. IMMIGRATION

- 3.1 We support legal immigration.
- 3.2 We consider the granting of citizenship to newborns of illegal aliens unconstitutional and not the original intent of the 14th Amendment.
- 3.3 We oppose the granting of blanket amnesty to illegal immigrants.
- 3.4 We support new laws that will clearly prohibit illegal aliens from receiving benefits at taxpayer expense.
- 3.5 We support the federal government providing additional resources for the strict enforcement of current and future laws in order to halt illegal immigration. This includes increased border control, fencing and physical impediments, and other efforts in support of those laws.
- 3.6 Driver's licenses should only be issued to those who can show legal proof of residency.
- 3.7 We oppose the establishment of a guest worker program.
- 3.8 Anyone who serves in the United States Armed forces and subsequently receives an honorable discharge should be granted U.S. Citizenship.
- 3.9 End the policy of "Catch and Release" that requires a certain minimum number of illegal immigrants be apprehended before deportation requirements are enforced.

4. DOMESTIC POLICY

- 4.1 We support stricter control and limited use of absentee voting.
- 4.2 We support English as the official language of the United States.
- 4.3 We support banning pornography in libraries, schools and other publicly-owned establishments. We oppose the use of tax money that allows access to pornography.
- 4.4 We support alternatives to the current Social Security system; we call for the partial privatization of Social Security including the development of personal accounts. We support allowing individuals to invest in their own retirement.
- 4.6 We believe in private property rights and the use of eminent domain should be limited to projects for public infrastructure purposes, and not for private development.

- 4.7 To make Iowa more attractive to business, we support reducing the tax burden on commercial property.
- 4.8 Unions should not be able to fund political parties.
- 4.9 "In God We Trust" should remain on the face of all coinage and currency of the United States.
- 4.10 "Under God" should remain in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4.11 Repeal the Real ID act, a National Identification Numbering system, and oppose any biometric identification system.
- 4.12 We support privacy legislation that prohibits private parties from discriminating against individuals who refuse to disclose or obtain a Social Security number for any purpose other than social security and Tax Identification purposes. We call for the repeal of all laws, regulations, and statutes that require the use of the Social Security number for any purpose other than Social Security and tax identification purposes.
- 4.13 We believe that welfare benefits should require performance-based demonstration of the active pursuit of gainful employment. If targets are not met, welfare benefits will be reduced. We call for welfare rolls to be checked against all prison population rolls nationwide, and any prisoners should be removed from the welfare rolls while they are incarcerated.
- 4.14 We believe that the State of Iowa should continue to take steps to reduce the number of people on welfare and state welfare spending by enacting tough welfare reforms. We believe the current welfare system encourages dependency on government and robs individuals of their motivation and self-esteem. We support welfare reforms designed to break the cycle of dependency by requiring welfare recipients to work, learn, or train, in exchange for their benefits.
- 4.15 We support repeal of the ability of public employees to organize into unions.

5. LAW ENFORCEMENT/JUSTICE

- 5.1 We support laws that provide harsher penalties for sexual offenses against children and that differentiate from domestic offenses involving only adults or individuals of similar ages.
- 5.2 We support reinstatement of the death penalty.
- 5.3 We favor stricter penalties for those found guilty of hit and run accidents, especially in cases where the victim is killed.
- 5.4 We support enforcement of existing Federal obscenity and pornography laws.
- 5.5 We deny the validity of judicial rulings that use foreign court rulings or non-ratified treaties or Sharia law to overturn U.S. Constitutional law.
- 5.6 Border patrol agents who have been wrongfully jailed for protecting our borders should be released and pardoned.
- 5.7 We demand the removal of activist judges, the defunding of activist courts, and we oppose any attempt by the executive or legislative branches to enforce unconstitutional opinions.
- 5.8 We support the ban of all traffic and public surveillance cameras in the state of Iowa.

6. TAXATION / GOVERNMENT SPENDING

- 6.1 We believe that Iowa's complicated sales-tax system hinders small businesses and holds back economic growth in Iowa. We call for leveling sales taxes throughout Iowa to a single, statewide flat-rate tax.

- 6.2 We believe that government must act as a careful steward of the public trust. To that end, we call for state government to immediately return to a balanced budget without depending upon trust funds and other extraordinary sources of revenue to achieve fiscal balance. We support the State of Iowa adhering to the 99% expenditure law. The governor and legislature should adopt a budgeting approach that justifies existing programs on an annual basis.
- 6.3 We believe that less government is better government. We support every reasonable effort on the part of all governments and tax payers to limit taxing and spending. We believe the purpose of taxation is to fund the constitutionally mandated functions of government, not to redistribute the wealth or to fund ever increasing social programs. We should always strive to have less government, fewer government employees, and lower taxes.
- 6.4 We support the proposal to discount Iowa's income taxes at just 1% of earned income, with interest, dividends, pensions, social security, and capital gains being tax free, or the ability of Iowans to file on the basis of their current deductions, whichever results in the lowest tax liability.
- 6.5 If the current tax system is retained, we support removing all taxes on pensions and Social Security income, as well as removing taxes on interest, dividends, capital gains, and other appreciation in order to encourage investment and savings.
- 6.6 We support permanent elimination of federal and state taxes on estates and inheritances.
- 6.7 We support a taxpayer bill of rights (TABOR) restricting the growth of government to the greater of population growth or economic development.
- 6.8 The Internet should remain tax-free.
- 6.9 We believe that the federal deficit is a serious threat to the economic security of the United States of America. Therefore the federal government must balance the budget and begin to eliminate the federal deficit.
- 6.10 We support an amendment to the United States Constitution requiring a balanced budget.
- 6.11 We support the abolition of the Internal Revenue Code and replace it with a fair tax or flat tax concept.
- 6.12 We support a one-year moratorium on defeated bond and tax issues before they are brought up for re-election.
- 6.13 We support the ability of Iowans to fully deduct the amount they pay in federal income taxes on their Iowa income tax return and opposes any attempt to impose a state tax on money used solely to pay a federal tax, and we urge our elected representatives in the Iowa House and Senate to protect federal deductibility and maintain this fundamental principle of tax fairness.
- 6.14 We want the Federal Reserve to cease and desist from issuing any Federal Reserve notes which are deemed unconstitutional. Further, we believe the Federal Reserve shall be subjected to annual financial audits.
- 6.15 We resolve that the state of Iowa commit to responsible budgeting and an immediate cessation of the practice of transferring funds from designated trust fund to general-fund expenditures.
- 6.16 We support implementation of Strong America Now; Lean Six Sigma techniques for the reduction of waste in all sectors of government.

7. GOVERNMENT

- 7.1 We believe Congress should uphold their congressional duty to impeach and remove judges who are not upholding the original intent of the Constitution.

- 7.2 We oppose same-day voter registration, and support previous Iowa law requiring registration 10 days prior to an election or primary.
- 7.3 We believe government should not take on functions that compete directly with the private sector.
- 7.4 Ex-felons should not be automatically granted voting rights without a traditional review process.
- 7.5 The President of the United States should have line item veto authority.
- 7.6 No requirements or obligations or liability should be made on legal citizens to provide advertisements, legal documents, or informal communications in any language other than English.
- 7.7 Congress shall make no law that applies to the citizens of the United States that does not apply equally to the Senators and Representatives; and, Congress shall make no law that applies to the Senate and Representatives that does not apply equally to the citizens of the United States.
- 7.8 We oppose the Fairness Act or the Fairness Doctrine.
- 7.9 All bills, federal and state, must be debated and voted on individually. Attachments, riders, or amendments that are not germane to the core of the bill shall not be allowed.
- 7.10 We believe each elected official must read every bill in its entirety before voting on the bill.
- 7.11 All laws, federal and state, are to have a 10-year sunset. Each old law must be reintroduced as a new bill.
- 7.12 We feel government should have true transparency. Bills scheduled for a floor-vote in the House or Senate shall be posted online for a period of five days prior to the vote.
- 7.13 We believe in smaller, limited, and local government.
- 7.14 We believe there should be term limits for all Congressional Representatives and Senators at the State and Federal levels; Senators should be limited to two terms and Congressional Representatives should be limited to three terms.
- 7.15 We believe that the cap-and-trade legislation will do more to hurt the competitiveness of the United States economy in this highly competitive global economy than it will do to stop global warming.
- 7.16 We resolve that we reaffirm our commitment to the Ninth and Tenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States and reject encroachments upon the role of the state and local governments.
- 7.17 We support restricting the number of cabinet members, and we support eliminating unconstitutional political appointments (Czars) by the President.
- 7.18 We support a State and Federal law that requires anyone voting in a State or National election to present a valid photographic identification that includes an expiration date.
- 7.19 We believe that no department or agency of the government should spend any tax money that would be used to promote any issue in consideration by the legislature or executive branches. Nor should they spend any tax money for advertising that is designed to "sell" the services of the government to the people. Public service announcements and news reports shall only be used for getting information out to the people.
- 7.20 We believe that Congress shall pass no law on any matter without referencing that portion of the Constitution granting them authority to act on that matter.

8. SPECIAL RIGHTS

- 8.1 We oppose “hate crimes” legislation that unconstitutionally limits free speech and criminalizes the reasonable actions of persons who oppose the granting of special status or privileges to defined groups.
- 8.2 We oppose every effort to grant special rights to groups of people based on sexual orientation.
- 8.3 We support the elimination of affirmative action legislation because it constitutes a violation of equal protection and rights guaranteed by the US Constitution.
- 8.4 We support the repealing of lifetime retirements benefits for all Federal elected officials.
- 8.5 We DO NOT support Governor Branstad’s lending of the name of his office to support the upcoming Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian, Questioning, and Transgendered (GBLQT) conference. We urge Governor Branstad to remove the name of his office from this conference.

9. FAMILIES

- 9.1 We oppose government-funded or subsidized day care.
- 9.2 We support a state constitutional amendment that defines and supports marriage as the union of one man and one woman. We support the enforcement of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) that defines and supports marriage as the union of one man and one woman.
- 9.3 We demand there be a vote of the people on the definition of marriage.
- 9.4 We oppose civil unions.
- 9.5 We believe it is in the best interests of children to be adopted by married couples, consisting of one man and one woman.
- 9.6 The liberty of parents to direct the upbringing, discipline, and education of their children is a fundamental right. Neither the United States nor any state shall infringe upon this right without demonstrating that its governmental interest as applied to the person is of the highest order and not otherwise served. We support a parental rights amendment to the US Constitution stating that parents have the right to direct the upbringing and education of their children.
- 9.7 We oppose the ratification of the UN treaty of the Rights of the Child.
- 9.8 Neither the state of Iowa nor the political subdivisions may create or recognize a legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals.

10. RIGHT TO LIFE

- 10.1 We believe that every human being has an intrinsic right to life from conception to natural death, and it is the role of government to protect innocent life from being killed, especially when the innocent victim is so called “unwanted”, “burdensome”, or “useable for research”. Government should ban the use of tax dollars from supporting abortion, and we encourage private programs that facilitate alternatives to abortion by meeting the needs of mothers and offering adoption services. We believe adoption offers alternatives to those involved that may find themselves pregnant in unwanted situations.
- 10.2 We support the appointment of judges who would uphold the original intent of the Constitution, and reverse Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton.
- 10.3 We support private sector stem cell research limited to adult stem cells only.
- 10.4 We are opposed to all human cloning-reproductive or therapeutic. We strongly urge that the 2002 Human Cloning Ban, which was repealed by the Democratic Party in the 2007 legislature, be reinstated.
- 10.5 We support the personhood amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 10.6 We believe begins at conception, therefore all abortion should be banned.

11. EDUCATION

- 11.1 Home schooling has proven itself to an effective option for parents to educate their children and has saved taxpayers of lowa hundreds of millions of dollars. With this proven record and studies nationwide indicating that over regulation by state departments of education actually hamper home education, we belief the education laws should be revised to reduce or eliminate the unnecessary reporting requirements imposed on home schooling families.
- 11.2 We believe that the federal government should not be involved in education, and we support eliminating the federal Department of Education and repealing the “No Child Left Behind” Act. This would allow each state to facilitate the education for themselves.
- 11.3 We believe schools should provide creationism and intelligent design education along with evolution in their curriculum.
- 11.4 We believe it is the responsibility of the parent to determine pre-kindergarten education for their children
- 11.5 Iowa’s education system should emphasize study of the Constitution of the United States and the Iowa Constitution. Studies must also include the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. Our educational system must set standards and test students on these topics.
- 11.6 We support allowing local school districts to display the Ten Commandments and the American Flag along with the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in its entirety in Iowa schools and classrooms. Additionally, we support voluntary teacher or student-led prayer in the schools and use of the Bible should be allowed as a local option.
- 11.7 We recommend that educators stress abstinence outside marriage as the surest way to prevent pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and associated psychological problems.
- 11.8 We oppose the use of tax dollars for the distribution of condoms or any other form of birth control in public schools.
- 11.9 We support the adoption of legislation that would allow parents to teach driver education to their children without the need of commercial or public school driver education courses.

- 11.10 We oppose the state's ability to mandate any education curriculum.
- 11.11 We wish to continue to support quality education in Iowa through recognizing the need to maintain and attract competent professional teachers in the classrooms, to ensure every student receives the best possible education, supporting teacher incentives through monetary and recognition rewards, and empowering teachers and administrators to remove disruptive students from a classroom or campus.
- 1.12 We believe competition is always good and should be applied to Iowa education. Iowa should initiate an education voucher system for all K through 12 students except homeschooled students. This would allow all parents to choose the best education for their children. Homeschooled families would receive a tax deduction for books and materials spent on schooling.

12. HEALTH CARE

- 12.1 We support private Health Care.
- 12.2 We oppose expansion of government-sponsored health care. Government regulation and subsidy constitutes a threat to both the quality and availability of patient-oriented health care and treatment.
- 12.3 We support utilizing all taxes currently collected from the sale of tobacco products to offset costs associated with smoking-related health issues.
- 12.4 We believe that AIDS should be classified as a communicable disease and treated as such under current law.
- 12.5 We support the expanded use of health savings accounts.
- 12.6 We encourage continued private, not public, investment in pioneering science that will result in better treatments to prevent and lessen the toll of chronic disease.
- 12.7 We believe business owners and citizens should maintain the freedom to decide if smoking is permitted on their property.
- 12.8 We believe in the free-market system for insurance providers and support the principle of competition to provide the best rates for those seeking insurance.
- 12.9 We support tort reform in an effort to eliminate frivolous lawsuits.
- 12.10 We believe Government shall not mandate that healthcare insurance be provided by employers, nor should any private individual be required to purchase healthcare insurance.
- 12.11 We support the repeal of Obama care; the controlling authority shall be the constitution, and not whether there are positive benefits to any part of the bill.

13. NATIONAL DEFENSE

- 13.1 We believe in a strong national defense and support our military.
- 13.2 We believe that the federal government should reduce the threat of terrorism by securing the United States' borders at all points of entry by any means necessary, military or otherwise.
- 13.3 We do not support the reading of Miranda Rights to non-U.S. citizen terrorists.
- 13.4 Repeal the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and end the unconstitutional detention or the execution of American citizens without charges or fair trial by jury.
- 13.5 We support continuation of Veteran benefits.

14. GAMBLING

- 14.1 We are opposed to the expansion of gambling and gaming, including internet and online gambling, and we support a moratorium on issuing new gambling licenses in Iowa.
- 14.2 We oppose government ownership of any gambling facility or activity.
- 14.3 We support the effort to remove ATM's from gambling establishments.

15. FREEDOM TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS -- THE SECOND AMENDMENT

- 15.1 We reaffirm that the Second Amendment means the "individual" has the right to bear arms. We continue to support the upholding of the Second Amendment. We do not support more laws that further limit our freedom.
- 15.2 We support legislation to prohibit state and local governments from confiscating firearms from law-abiding citizens in the event of a natural disaster.
- 15.3 We oppose the United Nations' policy of civil disarmament, which would result in the confiscation of legal weapons from private citizens.
- 15.4 We support Constitutional Carry, which allows law abiding citizens to carry firearms for self defense without begging government permission, as is the case in many states.
- 15.5 Public school buildings should allow possession of firearms by those legally possessing a concealed carry permit, because we believe this increases protection for our children.
- 15.6 The right to bear arms is inherent in the responsibility of self defense, defense of the family, and defense against tyranny, conferred on the individual and the community by our Creator to safeguard life, liberty, and property, as well as to help preserve the independence of the nation.
- 15.7 We uphold the right of the citizen to keep and bear arms. We oppose attempts to prohibit ownership of guns by law-abiding citizens, and stand against all laws which would require the registration of guns or ammunition.
- 15.8 We call for the repeal of all federal firearms legislation, beginning with Federal Firearms Act of 1968.
- 15.9 We call for the rescinding of all executive orders, the prohibition of any future executive orders, and the prohibition of treaty ratification, which would in any way limit the right to keep and bear arms.
- 15.10 We support "right to carry" laws and "shall issue" permit system with national reciprocity among states to all legally qualified applicants.
- 15.11 We support amending the Iowa Constitution to specifically recognize and protect the natural right of individual citizens to keep and bear arms.
- 15.12 We oppose any attempt by the State or Federal Government or the US EPA to ban any form of conventional hunting, or target ammunition.
- 15.13 We support legislation that clarifies Iowa Code 724.28 and prevents local governing boards from prohibiting the right to carry firearms, ammunition, or accessories at any city hall, hospital, or courthouse.
- 15.14 We further support establishment of a "Castle Doctrine" for the State of Iowa.

16. FOREIGN POLICY

- 16.1 Under the Central American Free Trade Agreement (“CAFTA”), as well as the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (“FTAA”), our borders with Canada and Mexico will be erased. We should remain a sovereign nation with borders and encourage free trade without the FTAA and CAFTA.
- 16.2 We support the United States withdrawing from the United Nations.
- 16.3 We support the withdrawal from the North American Free Trade Agreement (“NAFTA”) and the Security and Prosperity Partnership (“SPP”) and we oppose the NAFTA Super Highway.
- 16.4 We oppose the ratification of the Law of the Sea Treaty (LOST).
- 16.5 We urge continued economic and military support for Israel, our strong ally.
- 16.6 We oppose any funding of foreign governments that are not our allies.

17. AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- 17.1 We believe in the value of Iowa family farms, as they are models of economic efficiency and performance, to be emulated by the world. We encourage efforts to protect and promote their continued visibility, viability, and vitality.
- 17.2 We call for good stewardship and conservation of Iowa farmland.
- 17.3 We support elimination of the EPA.
- 17.4 We support less government interference in agriculture, the lifting of sanctions, and opening of foreign trade of our commodities.
- 17.5 We support laws that prohibit foreign ownership of Iowa farmland.
- 17.6 We believe total subsidy payment limits for each farmer should be greatly reduced to a maximum \$250,000 and ultimately phased out.
- 17.7 We support the “Country of Origin” labeling on food products.
- 17.8 We believe that previously drained, frequently cropped land labeled as farmed wetland and all agricultural lands assessed for benefits by drainage districts should be exempted from wetland conservation (swamp buster) provisions of the farm program.
- 17.9 We believe that all regulations affecting production agriculture, including water and air quality standards should be transferred from the DNR to Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.
- 17.10 We support the definition of livestock manure as natural fertilizer.
- 17.11 We support responsible use of our natural resources.
- 17.12 We do not support US Government participation in international environmental treaties, such as the Kyoto Protocol, that ties the US Government to other nations in the world.
- 17.13 We do not support government policies that define carbon dioxide as a pollutant.
- 17.14 Because we believe in individual responsibility, freedom, and liberty, we support legislation that allows the sale of raw milk and requires the appropriate labeling thereof.