

**2012**  
**REPUBLICAN PARTY**  
**OF TEXAS**

**Report of**  
**Platform Committee**  
**and**  
**Rules Committee**

# 2012 STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

## PREAMBLE

We STILL hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. The embodiment of the conservative dream in America is Texas. Throughout the world people dare to dream of freedom and opportunity. The Republican Party of Texas unequivocally defends that dream. We strive to preserve the freedom given to us by God, implemented by our Founding Fathers, and embodied in the Constitution. We recognize that the traditional family is the strength of our nation. It is our solemn duty to protect life and develop responsible citizens. We understand that our economic success depends upon free market principles. If we fail to maintain our sovereignty, we risk losing the freedom to live these ideals.

## PRINCIPLES

We, the 2012 Republican Party of Texas, believe in this platform and expect our elected leaders to uphold these truths through acknowledgement and action. We believe in:

1. Strict adherence to the original intent of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. and Texas Constitutions.
2. The sanctity of human life, created in the image of God, which should be protected from fertilization to natural death.
3. Preserving American and Texas Sovereignty and Freedom.
4. Limiting government power to those items enumerated in the U.S. and Texas Constitutions.
5. Personal Accountability and Responsibility.
6. Self-sufficient families, founded on the traditional marriage of a natural man and a natural woman.
7. Having an educated population, with parents having the freedom of choice for the education of their children.
8. Americans having the right to be safe in their homes, on their streets, and in their communities, and the unalienable right to defend themselves.
9. A free enterprise society unencumbered by government interference or subsidies.
10. Honoring all of those that serve and protect our freedom.
11. "The laws of nature and nature's God" as our Founding Fathers believed.

## PRESERVING AMERICAN FREEDOM

### LIMITING THE EXPANSE OF GOVERNMENT POWER

Limited Federal Powers –We strongly support state sovereignty reserved under the Tenth Amendment and oppose mandates beyond the scope of federal authority, as defined in the U.S. Constitution. We further support abolition of federal agencies involved in activities not originally delegated to the federal government under a strict interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.

Unelected, Appointed Bureaucrats (Czars) - We decry the appointment of unelected bureaucrats, and we urge Congress to use their constitutional authority to defund and abolish these positions and return authority to duly elected officials, accountable to the electorate.

Constitutional Citations on Legislation - We urge that all bills presented in the U.S. and Texas Congress include citations to the authorizing constitutional provision, cost to implement, and impact on the family.

If It's Good Enough For Us It's Good Enough for Them - The Government shall not, by rule or law, exempt any of its members from the provisions of such rule or law.

Law Enforcement - We support limitation of criminal jurisdiction of federal law-enforcement agencies into state and local jurisdictions and encourage them to enforce the laws under federal jurisdiction. The states have the right to protect their citizens if the federal government fails to enforce their applicable laws.

Border Security – The U.S. Border must be secured immediately! It is the fundamental responsibility of our federal government to do so. Narcotics, arms and human trafficking have a devastating effect on our nation. By using every available resource to achieve 100% border security and control, it will enhance the protection of all Americans, especially border residents. The State of Texas has the rights to protect their citizens, businesses and ranches if the Federal Government fails to enforce their applicable laws.

Preserving National Security - We believe terrorism is a major threat to international peace and to our own safety. We urge our national leadership to:

- Protect and defend our Constitutional rights and swiftly wage successful war on terrorists
- Eliminate aid and cease commerce with any nation threatening us or aiding terrorists or hostile nations
- Publicly support other nations fighting terrorists
- Reasonably use profiling to protect us
- Prosecute national security breaches
- Revise laws or executive orders that erode our essential liberties

Patriot Act - We urge review and revision of those portions of the USA Patriot Act, and related executive and military orders and directives that erode constitutional rights and essential liberties of citizens.

Emergency War Powers and Martial Law Declarations - We strongly urge Congress to repeal the War Powers Act and end our declared state of emergency. Any Declaration of Martial law should be approved by Congress.

Elimination of Executive Orders - We reject the unconstitutional use of Executive Orders and other mandates lacking congressional approval.

Inter-jurisdictional Agreements - We oppose inter-jurisdictional agreements with any state that prevent the Governor from controlling the military, police, other emergency management personnel, and/or State of Texas resources. We call for repeal of any existing agreements.

Washington D.C. - We strongly oppose making the District of Columbia a state or adding Congressional members.

Census - We oppose the Census Bureau's obtaining data beyond the number of people residing in a dwelling, and we oppose statistical sampling adjustments. We support the actual counting of people and oppose any type of estimation or manipulation of Census data. Only U.S. citizens should be counted for the purpose of adjusting legislative districts.

Preservation of Republican Form of Government - We support our republican form of government in Texas as set forth in the Texas Bill of Rights and oppose Initiative and Referendum. We also urge the Texas Legislature and the U.S. Congress to enact legislation prohibiting any judicial jurisdiction from allowing any substitute or parallel system of Law, specifically foreign Law (including Sharia Law), which is not in accordance with the U.S. or Texas Constitutions.

Germane Contents Requirement - All content of any bill must be germane to the title of the act.

Legislative Accountability Requirement - All bills passed in the U. S. or Texas House of Representatives or their respective Senates should require a recorded and preserved vote, and no bill voted on may be changed after the vote. We support rules requiring that all votes on bills cast in the Texas House and Senate be made freely available to the electorate.

Constitutional Convention - We strongly oppose any constitutional convention to rewrite the United States

Constitution. We encourage the Legislature to rescind its 1977 call for such a convention. We call upon other states to rescind their votes for such a convention.

Affirmative Action - Inasmuch as the Civil Rights Movement argued against using race as a factor in American life, affirmative action reintroduces race as a divisive force in American life. The Republican Party of Texas believes in equal opportunity for all citizens without regard to race or gender. To that end, we oppose affirmative action.

Reparations - We oppose any form of reparation.

Government Takings and Restrictions - We reaffirm our belief in the constitutional concept of the right to own property without governmental interference, and that property ownership and free market enterprise forms the foundation of our collective wealth. NO government entity should abridge or deny these rights. To that end we urge legislative changes to address the protection of these bedrock rights. Areas of concern from our grass root constituency are:

- Annexation; all affected parties of a proposed annexation should be allowed a vote on said proposal.
- Eminent Domain and property forfeiture; the taking of property under eminent domain or property forfeiture should specifically exclude seizing private property for public or private economic development or for increased tax revenues. Additionally, we support fair market value compensation to the property owners for all damages from all sources as a direct result of any taking.
- Natural resources and conservation easements; groundwater and/or mineral rights are a vested ownership. Conservation easements, involving watersheds, green areas and nationalization of lands should be resisted in the strongest manner applicable.

All private property owners involved in these matters should be notified of their rights under law with regard to condemnation, annexation or easement and the condemner should be required to show the public need and necessity by petitioning a court of jurisdiction. Taking of property should result in immediate compensation of fair market value to the owner. These issues should always be administered by organizations and elected officials accountable to voters.

Water Districts –We strongly applaud the decision made by the Texas Supreme Court regarding regulation, regulatory taking, metering, and restricting production of individuals' underground water. We advocate fair market value compensation for the taking of an individual's private water supply. We urge the restriction of Water Districts to their original purpose of supplying clean drinking water and/or the purpose of reporting regarding underground water. We ask the legislature to allow citizens who are impacted by said water, irrigation, fresh water supply districts the ability to vote on the selection of the board or committee members of these districts and allow the voters the ability of recall of these elected officials of an irrigation district, fresh water supply district, municipal utility district, or any other special purpose district.

Transportation Corridors – We oppose the construction of transportation projects which surrender control or ownership to foreign interest. We oppose the use of eminent domain for construction of a “trans-Texas corridor” or similar project which would create a federal corridor through Texas.

Protection from Extreme Environmentalists – We strongly oppose all efforts of the extreme environmental groups that stymie legitimate business interests. We strongly oppose those efforts that attempt to use the environmental causes to purposefully disrupt and stop those interests within the oil and gas industry. We strongly support the immediate repeal of the Endangered Species Act. We strongly oppose the listing of the dune sage brush lizard either as a threatened or an endangered species. We believe the Environmental Protection Agency should be abolished.

Homestead Protection - We support continuance of Texas' homestead protection.

Livestock and Pet Locations - We oppose a mandatory animal identification system.

Banning the Use of Red Light Cameras – We oppose the manner in which alleged vehicle violations are documented and fines levied against individuals without proof of their having been the driver of the offending vehicle and we call for the ban on Red Light Cameras in the State of Texas

Driver Licenses - We propose that every Texas driver license shall indicate whether the driver is a U.S. citizen. No such license shall be issued to anyone not legally in the country.

Free Speech for the Clergy - We urge amendment of the Internal Revenue Code to allow a religious organization to address issues without fear of losing its tax-exempt status. We call for repeal of requirements that religious organizations send the government any personal information about their contributors.

Government Regulation of Religious Institutions - The state should have no power over licensing or training of clergy. The State should withdraw all imposed regulations.

Restore Constitutional Integrity in the Legislative Process - We call upon the U.S. congress to pass legislation to restore Constitutional integrity in the legislative process. We strongly recommend Single Issue Legislation that prohibits the current practice of inserting into otherwise unrelated legitimate legislation funding for or federal regulations for special interest issues into virtually every piece of legislation.

The Rights of a Sovereign People - The Republican Party of Texas supports the historic concept, established by our nations' founders, of limited civil government jurisdiction under the natural laws of God, and repudiates the humanistic doctrine that the state is sovereign over the affairs of men, the family and the church.

Fairness Doctrine - We oppose any attempt by Congress or any federal agency to implement any policy comparable to the "fairness doctrine" as terminated in 1987.

Empowering Local Entities Concerning Religious Meetings - We support the right of local entities to determine their own policies regarding religious clubs and meetings on all properties owned by the same without interference.

Real ID Act - As the Real ID Act effectively creates an unconstitutional and privacy-inhibiting national ID card, we hereby call for its immediate repeal.

Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) - We oppose this act through which the federal government would coerce religious business owners and employees to violate their own beliefs and principles by affirming what they consider to be sinful and sexually immoral behavior.

Government Intrusion into the Internet - We oppose the government's ability to shut down websites either directly or through intimidation without a warrant or judicial hearing.

## REFORMING THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Direct Election of State Judges - We support our right to select our judges by direct vote.

Visiting Judges - We support legislation prohibiting judges defeated by the electorate from serving as visiting judges, or acting as judges in any capacity, until such time they are reinstated by the electorate through a subsequent election.

Jury Reform - We support the right to privacy and security of prospective jurors during jury selection. Courts must show relevance of questions asked of jurors and perform a balancing test between the prospective juror's right to privacy and lawyers' need to know. Either party in a criminal trial should have a right to inform jurors of their right to determine facts and render a verdict.

Qualified Juror Service - Jury service should be limited to registered voters.

Administrative Justice - Citizens have a right to full participation in administrative law processes.

Judicial Restraint - We urge Congress to adopt the Constitutional Restoration Act and support the principle of judicial restraint, which requires judges to interpret and apply rather than make the law. We support judges who strictly interpret the law based on its original intent. We oppose judges who assume for themselves legislative powers.

Remedies to Activist Judiciary - We call Congress and the President to use their constitutional powers to

restrain activist judges. We urge Congress to adopt the Judicial Conduct Act of 2005 and remove judges who abuse their authority. Further, we urge Congress to withhold Supreme Court jurisdiction in cases involving abortion, religious freedom, and the Bill of Rights.

Judicial Nominees - We urge Republican Senate leadership to ensure that a record vote is taken on every judicial nominee.

Information Disclosure on Judicial Candidates - The Texas State Republican Party should foster a judicial archive site on the internet with personal history, qualifications, and past rulings made by all judicial candidates.

Statutory Authority for Regulation - Defendants charged with violating a governmental regulation should have the right to see the enabling law.

## RESTORING INTEGRITY TO OUR ELECTIONS

Unions - We support legislation requiring labor unions to obtain consent of the union member before that member's dues can be used for political purposes. We strongly oppose card check.

Campaign Contributions - We support full disclosure of the amounts and sources of any campaign contributions to political candidates, whether contributed by individuals, political action committees, or other entities.

Candidate Eligibility - A candidate running for office should be required to reside within the geographical boundaries of the office sought. The Secretary of State shall be required to certify that State and Federal Candidates placed on Ballots proffered in Texas meets the Statutory Requirements for the Office sought. A candidate must submit to the Secretary of State proof of qualifications for the office being sought, including proof of citizenship and in the case of a presidential candidate, an original or certified copy of a valid birth certificate.

Voter Registration - We support restoring integrity to the voter registration rolls and reducing voter fraud. We support repeal of all Motor Voter laws; re-registering voters every four years; requiring photo ID of all registrants; proof of residency and citizenship, along with voter registration application; retention of the 30-day registration deadline; and requiring that a list of certified deaths be provided to the election administrator in order that the names of deceased voters be removed from the list of registered voters.

Electoral College - We strongly support the Electoral College.

Voting Rights - We support equal suffrage for all U.S. Citizens of voting age who are not felons. We oppose any identification of citizens by race, origin, or creed and oppose use of any such identification for purposes of creating voting districts.

Voter Rights Act - We urge that the Voter Rights Act of 1965 codified and updated in 1973 be repealed and not reauthorized.

Felon Voting - We affirm the Constitutional authority of state legislatures to regulate voting, including disenfranchisement of convicted felons.

Protecting Active Military Personnel's Right to Vote - We urge the Texas Secretary of State and the U.S. Attorney General to ensure that voting rights of our Armed Forces will neither be denied nor obstructed.

Fair Election Procedures - We support modifications and strengthening of election laws to ensure ballot integrity and fair elections. We strongly urge the Texas attorney general to litigate the previously passed voter ID legislation. We support increased scrutiny and security in balloting by mail; prohibition of internet voting and any electronic voting lacking a verifiable paper trail; prohibition of mobile voting; prosecution for election fraud with jail sentences; repeal of the unconstitutional "Help America Vote Act"; and assurance that each polling place has a distinctly marked and if possible separate location for Republican and Democratic primary voting.

Texas House Leadership Town Hall - We call for the Republican members of the Texas House of Representatives after the November election, leading up to the Legislative session, to hold public town

hall meetings in which the voters can express their wishes and thoughts about the leadership for the 83<sup>rd</sup> Session.

Texas House Leadership Caucus – We call for the Republican members of the Texas House of Representatives to convene in caucus after each November general election to determine by secret ballot their candidate for Speaker of the House, and that rules be instituted to ensure the integrity and security of the secret ballot so that members may vote without risk of retribution by the prevailing party. We also call for the Republican members of the Texas House to vote as a unified body for their selected speaker candidate when the Legislature convenes in regular session and a vote for speaker is called on the House Floor.

Residency Requirements - We support legislation that determines residence in accordance with common-law rules, as recognized by the courts, except as otherwise provided by the Texas Election Code.

Campaign Finance Reform - We urge immediate repeal of the McCain-Feingold Act.

Enforcing the Platform - Every Republican is responsible for implementing this platform. Party candidates should indicate their positions on platform planks before their acceptance on the ticket and such information should be available on the Party website.

Contributions to Conservative Candidates - We strongly oppose the Republican Party of Texas, Republican National Committee, the National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, Republican candidates and elected officials, political action committees, and politically active non-profit organizations from being financially supported by any individual or organization that have personal or financial ties, directly or indirectly, to organizations who do not support the principles of the Republican Party of Texas Platform.

Conflicts of Interest - We support legislation prohibiting influencing or voting of any elected official or appointee where a conflict of interest exists. No such official should represent paying clients before a state agency.

Lobbying Limitation - We support legislation to prohibit former officials and government employees from lobbying for a foreign government and/or any business for five years after leaving public service. We support legislation to prevent lobbying by any organization receiving federal grants except that relating to its tax status.

AWOL Legislators - We urge the Texas House and Senate to compel attendance of absent members and penalize those who attempt to break the quorum by not being in attendance.

Governor's Veto - We urge a Constitutional amendment permitting the Legislature to return for a three-day session in response to the governor's veto.

House Speaker Pledge Cards – We call on the Texas Legislature to cease the use of pledge cards in all future House Speaker races.

Term Limits- We urge Congress, the Legislature, and the Republican Party to institute Term Limits.

Filibuster – We support return to the traditional Filibuster in the U.S. Senate.

Rosebush-Blocker Rule – We strongly oppose the re-adoption of the Rosebush-Blocker rule in the Texas Senate.

Consolidated Elections - All public elections, should be consolidated to Primary and General election days and locations.

Rights Versus Products -- We oppose calling welfare and other income and product redistribution schemes “rights” or “entitlements”. We know that fundamental human rights are inherent to individuals and are granted by God and are protected by the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution. They are not products of others labor. Unalienable rights, such as life, liberty, pursuit of happiness, property rights, free speech, religious freedom, self-defense, etc. do not impose on others rights whereas income and product redistribution invariably do so.

HONORING THE SYMBOLS OF OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE

Religious Symbols - We oppose any governmental action to restrict, prohibit, or remove public display of the Decalogue or other religious symbols.

Pledge of Allegiance - We support adoption of the Pledge Protection Act. We also urge that the National Motto "In God We Trust" and National Anthem be protected from legislative and judicial attack.

American English - We support adoption of American English as the official language of Texas and of the United States.

Flag Desecration - Any form of desecration of the American Flag is an act of disregard for our nation and its people and penalties should be established for such.

Flag Code – The U.S. flag code should be made into Law and not left to the sole discretion of the President.

Symbols of American Heritage - We call upon governmental entities to protect all symbols of our American heritage from being altered in any way.

Confederate Widows Plaque - We call for restoration of plaques honoring the Confederate Widow's Pension Fund contribution that were illegally removed from the Texas Supreme Court building.

## **STRENGTHENING FAMILIES, PROTECTING LIFE AND PROMOTING HEALTH**

### **CELEBRATING TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE**

Family and Defense of Marriage — We support the definition of marriage as a God-ordained, legal and moral commitment only between a natural man and a natural woman, which is the foundational unit of a healthy society, and we oppose the assault on marriage by judicial activists. We call on the President and Congress to take immediate action to defend the sanctity of marriage. We are resolute that Congress exercise authority under the United States Constitution, and pass legislation withholding jurisdiction from the Federal Courts in cases involving family law, especially any changes in the definition of marriage. We further call on Congress to pass and the state legislatures to ratify a marriage amendment declaring that marriage in the United States shall consist of and be recognized only as the union of a natural man and a natural woman. Neither the United States nor any state shall recognize or grant to any unmarried person the legal rights or status of a spouse. We oppose the recognition of and granting of benefits to people who represent themselves as domestic partners without being legally married. We advocate the repeal of laws that place an unfair tax burden on families. We call upon Congress to completely remove the marriage penalty in the tax code, whereby a married couple receives a smaller standard deduction than their unmarried counterparts living together. The primary family unit consists of those related by blood, heterosexual marriage, or adoption. The family is responsible for its own welfare, education, moral training, conduct, and property.

Judicial Activism in Marriage — We support marriage and oppose the assault on marriage by judicial activists.

Enforcement of the Defense of Marriage Act — We support the enforcement of the State and Federal Defense of Marriage Act by state and federal officials respectively, and oppose creation, recognition and benefits for partnerships outside of marriage that are being provided by some political subdivisions.

Marriage and Divorce - We believe in the sanctity of marriage and that the integrity of this institution should be protected at all levels of government. We urge the Legislature to rescind no-fault divorce laws. We support Covenant Marriage.

Family Values — We support the affirmation of traditional Judeo-Christian family values and oppose the continued assault on those values.

Supporting Motherhood — We strongly support women who choose to devote their lives to their families and raising their children. We recognize their sacrifice and deplore the liberal assault on the family.

Human Trafficking — The Republican Party of Texas adamantly opposes any form of human trafficking.

Homosexuality — We affirm that the practice of homosexuality tears at the fabric of society and contributes to the breakdown of the family unit. Homosexual behavior is contrary to the fundamental, unchanging truths that have been ordained by God, recognized by our country's founders, and shared by the majority of Texans.



Homosexuality must not be presented as an acceptable “alternative” lifestyle, in-public policy, nor should “family” be redefined to include homosexual “couples.” We believe there should be no granting of special legal entitlements or creation of special status for homosexual behavior, regardless of state of origin. Additionally, we oppose any criminal or civil penalties against those who oppose homosexuality out of faith, conviction or belief in traditional values.

Pornography — We encourage the enforcement of laws regarding all forms of pornography, because pornography is detrimental to the fabric of society.

## PROTECTING INNOCENT HUMAN LIFE

Party Candidates and the Platform on Protecting Innocent Human Life - We implore our Party to support, financially or with in-kind contributions, only those candidates who support protecting innocent human life. Further, we strongly encourage the State Republican Executive Committee to hear and recognize the longstanding and overwhelmingly consistent voice of the grass roots and revise its by-laws to make this action binding on our Party.

Partial Birth Abortion - We oppose partial birth abortion. We recommend that Congress eliminate from all federal court jurisdictions all cases involving challenges to banning Partial Birth Abortion.

Right To Life - All innocent human life must be respected and safeguarded from fertilization to natural death; therefore, the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We affirm our support for a Human Life Amendment to the Constitution and to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment’s protection applies to unborn children. We support the Life at Conception Act. We oppose the use of public revenues and/or facilities for abortion or abortion-related services. We support the elimination of public funding for organizations that advocate or support abortion. We are resolute regarding the reversal of Roe v. Wade. We affirm our support for the appointment and election of judges at all levels of the judiciary who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life. We insist that the U.S. Department of Justice needs to prosecute hospitals or abortion clinics for committing induced labor (live birth) abortion. We are opposed to genocide, euthanasia, and assisted suicide. We oppose legislation allowing the withholding of nutrition and hydration to the terminally ill or handicapped. Until our final goal of total Constitutional rights for the unborn child is achieved, we beseech the Texas Legislature in consideration of our state's rights, to enact laws that restrict and regulate abortion including:

1. parental and informed consent;
2. prohibition of abortion for gender selection;
3. prohibition of abortion due to the results of genetic diagnosis
4. licensing, liability, and malpractice insurance for abortionists and abortion facilities;
5. prohibition of financial kickbacks for abortion referrals;
6. prohibition of partial birth and late term abortions; and
7. enactment of any other laws which will advance the right to life for unborn children.

Harassing Pregnancy Centers - We urge legislation to protect pregnancy centers from harassing ordinances to require pregnancy centers to post signs in violation of their Constitutional rights. We further oppose any regulation of pregnancy centers in Texas which interfere with their private, charitable business.

Parental Consent - We call on the Legislature to require parental consent for any form of medical care and/or counseling to minors. We urge electoral defeat of judges who through judicial activism seek to nullify the Parental Consent Law by granting bypasses to minor girls seeking abortions. We support the addition of a legislative requirement for the reporting of judicial bypasses to parental consent on an annual basis to the Department of State Health Services and such reports shall be made available to the public. Further, we encourage the Congress to remove confidentiality mandates for minors from family planning service programs operating under Title X of the Public Health Services Act and Medicaid.

Protection of Women’s Health - Because of the personal and social pain caused by abortions, we call for the protection of both women and their unborn children from pressure for unwanted abortions. We commend the Texas Legislature for the passage of the Woman's Right to Know Act, a law requiring abortion providers, prior to an abortion, to provide women full knowledge of the physical and psychological risks of abortion, the characteristics of the unborn child, and abortion alternatives. We urge the state government and the

Department of State Health Services to ensure that all abortion providers are in compliance with this informed consent law and to ensure that all pregnancy centers and other entities assisting women in crisis pregnancies have equal access to the informational brochures created by the Department of State Health Services.

Alternatives to Abortion - We urge the Department of State Health Services to provide adequate quantities of The Woman's Right to Know Resource Directory to anyone that works with pregnant women.

RU 486 - We urge the FDA to rescind approval of the physically dangerous RU-486 and oppose limiting the manufacturers' and distributors' liability.

Morning After Pill - We oppose sale and use of the dangerous "Morning After Pill."

Gestational Contracts - We believe rental of a woman's womb makes child bearing a mere commodity to the highest bidder and petition the Legislature to rescind House Bill 724 of the 78th Legislature. We support the adoption of human embryos and the banning of human embryo trafficking.

Fetal Pain - We support legislation that requires doctors, at first opportunity, to provide to a woman who is pregnant, information about the nervous system development of her unborn child and to provide pain relief for her unborn if she orders an abortion. We support legislation banning of abortion after 20 weeks gestation due to fetal pain.

Unborn Victims of Violence Legislation - We urge the State to ensure that the Prenatal Protection Law is interpreted accurately and consider the unborn child as an equal victim in any crime, including domestic violence.

Abortion Clinics - We propose legislation that holds abortion clinics to the same health regulations as other medical facilities and that subjects clinics to the same malpractice liabilities. We oppose any public funding for Planned Parenthood or other organizations/facilities that provide, advocate or promote abortions.

Abortion Requirements for Hospitals - We propose legislation that entitles hospitals to refuse to perform abortions because government has no moral authority to require such an abortion.

Conscience Clause - We believe that doctors, nurses, pharmacists, any employees of hospitals and insurance companies, health care organizations, medical and scientific research students, and any employee should be protected by Texas law if they conscientiously object to participate in practices that conflict with their moral or religious beliefs, including but not limited to abortion, the prescription for and dispensing of drugs with abortifacient potential, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, eugenic screenings, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and the withdrawal of nutrition and hydration. We call on the Texas Legislature to pass legislation to strengthen and clarify the current conscience clause in the Occupational Code to include the above-mentioned persons and practices. We further encourage legislation that requires hospitals and clinics to inform all health care personnel of their right to refuse to become involved in abortion or euthanasia, and their protection from prosecution and retaliation under Texas law.

Fetal Tissue Harvesting - We support legislation prohibiting experimentation with human fetal tissue and prohibiting the use of human fetal tissue or organs for experimentation or commercial sale. Until such time that fetal tissue harvesting is illegal, any product containing fetal tissue shall be so labeled.

Stem Cell Research - We oppose any legislation that would allow for the creation and/or killing of human embryos for medical research. We encourage stem cell research using cells from umbilical cords, from adults, and from any other means which does not kill human embryos. We oppose any state funding of research that destroys/kills human embryos. We encourage the adoption of existing embryos. We call for legislation to withhold state and/or federal funding from institutions that engage in scientific research involving the killing of human embryos or human cloning.

Human Cloning - Each human life, whether created naturally or through an artificial process, deserves protection. We confirm that somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) is the process by which a human being is cloned, and that SCNT creates a unique human being with the same properties of a human embryo created through the union of sperm and egg. We seek a ban on human cloning for reproductive purposes (where a cloned human embryo, created through SCNT, is implanted in a womb and the human clone is birthed). We also seek a ban on research cloning (where a cloned human embryo, created through SCNT, is created, grown

in the laboratory, and then destroyed when its stem cells are extracted for research purposes). Furthermore, criminal penalties should be created and experimenters prosecuted who participate in the cloning of human beings. No government or state funding should be provided for any human cloning.

Patient Protection - We support patients' rights by calling on the state legislature to amend the Advance Directive Act to establish due process of law and ensure that a physician's decision to deny lifesaving treatment against the patient's will or advance directive is not due to economic or racial discrimination or discrimination based on disability. We also support the passage of legislation to amend the Advance Directive Act by requiring hospitals intending or threatening to withdraw life-sustaining treatment against the patient's wishes or their advance directive to continue all treatment and care for such patients pending transfer to another facility.

## PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

Parental Rights and Responsibilities — We believe that parental rights, authority and responsibilities are inherent and protected by the United States Constitution. Local, state, or federal laws, regulations, or policies shall not be enacted that limit parental rights in the rearing of both biological and adopted children. Parents have the right and responsibility to direct and guide their children's moral education. We strongly support a Parental Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

UN Treaty on the Rights of the Child — We unequivocally oppose the United States Senate's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Jurisdictional Disputes — Parents and/or grandparents should not be denied court ordered visitation, because of jurisdictional disputes between states.

Child Abuse Prevention — We believe that no individual convicted of child abuse or molestation should have the right to custody or adoption of a minor child. An abused child should be given the option of declining visitation with his/her abuser. If court ordered, visitation with minor children by such persons should be supervised.

Adoption — We support reducing the time, bureaucracy, and cost of adoption. We oppose mandates that deny mothers a choice in selecting a traditional home for their children. We oppose mandatory open adoption.

Foster Care — We support eliminating bureaucratic prohibitions on corporal discipline and home schooling in foster homes.

## ASSISTING FAMILIES TO SELF SUFFICIENCY

Welfare Reform — Welfare should offer a hand up to transition families and individuals through hard times and welfare reform should encourage partnerships with faith based institutions, community and business organizations to assist individuals in need. The current system encourages dependency on government and robs individuals and generations of healthy motivation and self-respect. It should be limited in scope. We encourage welfare reform in the following areas:

1. Denying benefits to individuals who cannot prove citizenship;
2. Welfare reforms should require recipients to work, learn, and train;
3. Reforms should require recipients to remain substance abuse free in exchange for temporary benefits not exceeding two years.
4. Recipients should be required to submit to random drug testing in order to receive benefits;
5. Welfare cards should be confined to food and vital essentials, not cigarettes, lottery purchases, or alcohol or drugs of any kind;
6. Prisoners should be removed from welfare rolls; and
7. A nominal co-pay should be required to encourage judicious utilization of health care services.

Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Accountability — We support the appointment of local elected officials to review charges of abuse of discretion by the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) with respect to intervention into the family unit. Removal of a child from a home shall be pursuant to a court order or in response to an immediate threat.

Social Security — We support an immediate and orderly transition to a system of private pensions based on the concept of individual retirement accounts, and gradually phasing out the Social Security tax. We insist that Social Security benefits be non-taxable. To protect the Social Security System, its funds should not be co-mingled or spent with general revenues or invested in private or public corporate stock.

Gambling — We oppose the expansion of legalized gambling and encourage the repeal of the Texas State lottery. We oppose dedicating any government revenue from gambling to create or expand any government program.

Caring for Our Mentally Disabled Citizens — We urge the Legislature to continue funding and operating all state-supported living centers for the mentally disabled, increase training standards of state-supported living center employees, and ensure efficient funding and quality of service.

## **EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO DIRECT THEIR HEALTH CARE**

Health Care — Health care decisions should be between a patient and health care professional and should be protected from government intrusion.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”) — We demand the immediate repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which we believe to be unconstitutional.

Health Care Choice — We urge the passage of health care reform, which results in more affordable healthcare through a market-based, competitive, and transparent health care system, including tort reform, interstate competition, genuine accountability and oversight.

Medical Records and Informed Consent — We oppose any state or federal medical record computer database or registry (with exception to diseases that are a public health threat, i.e., HIV and/or Tuberculosis), which stores personal identifiable records on citizens without their written consent.

Health Care and Nutritional Supplements — We deplore any efforts to mandate that vitamins and other natural supplements be on a prescription-only basis, and we oppose any efforts to remove vitamins and other nutritional supplements from public sale. We support the rights of all adults to their choice of nutritional products, and alternative health care choices.

Unprocessed Foods — We support the availability of natural, unprocessed foods, including, but not limited to, the right to access raw milk.

Food Choice — We support the right of individuals to make their own dietary decisions. We oppose any laws regarding the production, distribution or consumption of food. Government should not restrict non-genetically engineered seeds.

Immunizations — All adult citizens should have the legal right to conscientiously choose which vaccines are administered to themselves or their minor children without penalty for refusing a vaccine. We oppose any effort by any authority to mandate such vaccines or any medical database that would contain personal records of citizens without their consent.

## **EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN**

American Identity Patriotism and Loyalty — We believe the current teaching of a multicultural curriculum is divisive. We favor strengthening our common American identity and loyalty instead of political correctness that nurtures alienation among racial and ethnic groups. Students should pledge allegiance to the American and Texas flags daily to instill patriotism.

Basic Standards — We favor improving the quality of education for all students, including those with special needs. We support a return to the traditional basics of reading, writing, arithmetic, and citizenship with sufficient discipline to ensure learning and quality educational assessment.

Bilingual Education — We encourage non-English speaking students to transition to English within three years.

Career and Technology Education (Vocational Education) — We support reinstatement of voluntary career and technology education, including adjusting the 4x4 requirements as needed, without detracting from non-vocational program requirements.

Classroom Discipline – We recommend that local school boards and classroom teachers be given more authority to deal with disciplinary problems. Corporal punishment is effective and legal in Texas.

Classroom Expenditures for Staff – We support having 80% of school district payroll expenses of professional staff of a school district be full-time classroom teachers.

College Tuition – We recommend three levels of college tuition: In-state requiring proof of Texas legal citizenship, out-of-state requiring proof of US citizenship, and nonresident legal alien. Non-US citizens should not be eligible for state or federal grants, or loans.

Controversial Theories – We support objective teaching and equal treatment of all sides of scientific theories. We believe theories such as life origins and environmental change should be taught as challengeable scientific theories subject to change as new data is produced. Teachers and students should be able to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of these theories openly and without fear of retribution or discrimination of any kind.

Early Childhood Development – We believe that parents are best suited to train their children in their early development and oppose mandatory pre-school and Kindergarten. We urge Congress to repeal government-sponsored programs that deal with early childhood development.

Knowledge-Based Education – We oppose the teaching of Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) (values clarification), critical thinking skills and similar programs that are simply a relabeling of Outcome-Based Education (OBE) (mastery learning) which focus on behavior modification and have the purpose of challenging the student's fixed beliefs and undermining parental authority.

Educational Entitlement – We encourage legislation that prohibits enrollment in free public schools of non-citizens unlawfully present in the United States.

Funding of Education – We urge the Legislature to direct expenditures to academics as the first priority.

Higher Education – We support merit-based admissions for all college and university applicants to public institutions. We further support the repeal of the 1997 Texas legislative act commonly known as the Top Ten Percent Rule. All Texas students should be given acceptance priority over out-of-state or foreign students.

Juvenile Daytime Curfew - We strongly oppose Juvenile Daytime Curfews. Additionally, we oppose any official entity from detaining, questioning and/or disciplining our children without the consent of a child's parent.

Local Control for Education – We support school choice and believe that quality education is best achieved by encouraging parental involvement, protecting parental rights, and maximizing local independent school district control. District superintendents and their employees should be made solely accountable to their locally elected boards. We support sensible consolidation of local school districts. We encourage local ISDs to consider carefully the advantages and disadvantages of accepting federal education money.

No Taxpayer Paid Lobbyists – We support the prohibition of any paid public school employee or contractor to lobby the legislature or the SBOE, unless on an unpaid basis and in an unofficial capacity. No registered lobbyist should be allowed to run for SBOE.

Parental Rights in Education – We believe the right of parents to raise and educate their children is fundamental. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any specialized program. We urge the Legislature to enact penalties for violation of parental rights.

Sex Education – We recognize parental responsibility and authority regarding sex education. We believe that parents must be given an opportunity to review the material prior to giving their consent. We oppose any sex education other than abstinence until marriage.

Parental School Choice – We encourage the Governor and the Texas Legislature to enact child-centered school funding options which fund the student, not schools or districts, to allow maximum freedom of choice in public, private, or parochial education for all children.

Permanent School Fund – We believe that because the Permanent School Fund is not paid by taxpayers that the principle balance should be safeguarded and not viewed as a source of additional funding for our state budget.

Political Community Organizing in Texas Schools - We believe neither Texas public schools should be used nor their students should be instructed by groups such as SEIU or other community organizers as instruments to promote political agenda during the instructional school day.

Private Education – We believe that parents and legal guardians may choose to educate their children in private schools to include, but not limited to, home schools and parochial schools without government interference, through definition, regulation, accreditation, licensing, or testing.

Religious Freedom in Public Schools – We urge school administrators and officials to inform Texas school students specifically of their First Amendment rights to pray and engage in religious speech, individually or in groups, on school property without government interference. We urge the Legislature to end censorship of discussion of religion in our founding documents and encourage discussing those documents.

School Surveys and Testing – Public schools should be required to obtain written parental consent for student participation in any test or questionnaire that surveys beliefs, feelings, or opinions. Parental rights, including viewing course materials prior to giving consent, should not be infringed.

State Board of Education (SBOE) – We believe that the SBOE should continue to be an elected body consisting of fifteen members. Their responsibilities must include:

- Appointing the Commissioner of Education
- Maintaining constitutional authority over the Permanent School Fund
- Maintaining sole authority over all curricula content and the state adoption of all educational materials. This process must include public hearings.

The SBOE should be minimally staffed out of general revenue.

Textbook Review – Until such time as all texts are required to be approved by the SBOE, each ISD that uses non-SBOE approved instructional materials must verify them as factually and historically correct. Also the ISD board must hold a public hearing on such materials, protect citizen's right of petition and require compliance with TEC and legislative intent. Local ISD boards must maintain the same standards as the SBOE.

Supporting Military Families in Education – Existing truancy laws conflict with troop deployments. We believe that truancy laws should be amended to allow 5 day absence prior to deployments and R&R. Military dependents by definition will be Texas residents for education purposes.

Traditional Principles in Education – We support school subjects with emphasis on the Judeo-Christian principles upon which America was founded and which form the basis of America's legal, political and economic systems. We support curricula that are heavily weighted on original founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, and Founders' writings.

School Health Care – We urge legislators to prohibit reproductive health care services, including counseling, referrals, and distribution of condoms and contraception through public schools. We support the parents' right to choose, without penalty, which medications are administered to their minor children. We oppose medical clinics on school property except higher education and health care for students without parental consent.

U.S. Department of Education – Since education is not an enumerated power of the federal government, we believe the Department of Education (DOE) should be abolished.

Zero Tolerance – We believe that zero tolerance policies in schools should specify those items that will not be tolerated at schools. The policy should be posted on ISD websites.

Transparency – We support legislation requiring all school districts to post their expenditures online or made readily available to the public.

Foreign Culture Charter Schools in Texas – We oppose public funding of charter schools which receive money from foreign entities. We demand that these Charter Schools have accountability and transparency to local parents, taxpayers, the State of Texas, as do current public schools, including U.S. citizenship of public school trustees.

## **PROMOTING INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AND PERSONAL SAFETY**

Right to Keep and Bear Arms – America’s founding fathers wrote the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment with clear intent – no level of government shall regulate either the ownership or possession of firearms. Therefore we strongly oppose all laws that infringe on the right to bear arms. We oppose the monitoring of gun ownership, and the taxation and regulation of guns and ammunition. We collectively urge the legislature to pass “constitutional carry” legislation whereby law-abiding citizens that possess firearms can legally exercise their God-given right to carry that firearm as well. Until such time we urge the state to re-introduce and pass legislation easing current restrictions on firearms such as open carry and campus carry. We strongly support a ten-year mandatory minimum sentence, without parole, for felonies committed with firearms. Stiff penalties shall be imposed for frivolous litigation against legitimate firearm manufacturers. We believe that Federal Firearms License (FFL) holders should be free from harassment, and license revocations and denials against firearm dealers based on violations consisting of largely inconsequential record-keeping errors and encourage the ATF to consider lesser gradation of sanctions for such errors. Firearms and ammunition manufactured and sold in the state of Texas are not covered under the Commerce Clause and therefore are not subject to Federal regulation. We urge the passage of the “firearms freedom act”.

CHL Laws Applied to Texas Truckers – We call for truckers working within the state of Texas to enjoy the full benefits of the Texas Concealed Handgun License law irrespective of unreasonable and intrusive federal regulations.

Indefinite Detention - The Republican Party abhors any policies of indefinite detention of US citizens without due process. We urge Congress to terminate any practice of detention without due process.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) - We call for the disbanding of the TSA and place airport security into the more accountable and capable hands of the state and local law enforcement.

State Militia – We support the establishment and maintenance of a volunteer Constitutional State Militia with assistance from County Sheriffs.

Militia versus Paid Army – We recognize that the original meaning of the word “militia” in the Constitution refers to an armed citizenry, not the formal paid professional military.

Freedom of Access Act – We urge repeal of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Law. Those who assault peaceful protesters acting under the Constitution should be vigorously prosecuted. Picketing and literature distribution do not fall under the RICO Act.

Judeo-Christian Nation – As America is a nation under God founded on Judeo-Christian principles, we affirm the constitutional right of all individuals to worship in the religion of their choice.

Safeguarding Our Religious Liberties – We affirm that the public acknowledgement of God is undeniable in our history and is vital to our freedom, prosperity and strength. We pledge our influence toward a return to the original intent of the First Amendment and toward dispelling the myth of separation of church and state. We urge the Legislature to increase the ability of faith-based institutions and other organizations to assist the needy and to reduce regulation of such organizations.

Religious Liberties Abroad – We urge Congress to sanction any foreign government that persecutes its citizens for their religion.

Health and Human Services Mandates – We strongly oppose any federal or state requirement or other mandate to provide abortions or contraception and sterilization, since this would clearly violate many individuals, businesses, churches, and non-profit personnel’s faith and beliefs. Government must obey the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution!

Electronic Privacy – We believe all law-abiding citizens should be free from government surveillance of their electronic communications except in cases directly involving national security, by court order. Except for non-citizens, we further oppose any national ID program, including the Real ID Act and the use of Radio Frequency Identification Chips (RFID) on humans.

Personal Confidentiality – Necessary dissemination of personal information among government entities must be safeguarded with the threat of criminal penalties.

Equality of All Citizens – We deplore all discrimination. We also deplore forced sensitivity training and urge repeal of any mandate requiring it. We urge immediate repeal of the Hate Crimes Law. Until the Hate Crimes Law is totally repealed, we urge the Legislature to immediately remove the education curriculum mandate and the sexual orientation category in said Law.

GMO Labeling - We support labeling of all products containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs), as well as cloned organisms, in a uniform and recognizable fashion.

Boy Scouts of America – We support the Boy Scouts of America and reject any attempt to undermine or fundamentally change the ideals of the organization.

Smart Meters - We oppose the mandated use of Smart Meters as well as the use of collected data to reduce freedoms of U.S. citizens.

Internet Access - We support a free and open internet -- free from intrusion, censorship, or control by government or private entities. Due to the inherent benefit of anonymity, the anonymity of users is not to be compromised for any reason, unless consented by the user; or by court order. We also oppose any mandates by the government to collect and retain records of our internet activity.

## PROTECTING CITIZENS FROM CRIME

Prison Reform – We believe our prison systems should emphasize protection of society and punishment of offenders, ever mindful of their human rights. Prisoners should be required to perform meaningful work. Prisoners should not have access to private information of any citizen. No extraordinary medical care, including organ transplants or body part replacement, should be performed on prisoners at taxpayer expense.

Sentencing Reform – We call for disclosure to juries of prior convictions of the defendant and the actual time likely to be served before parole. We believe punishment should be assessed in proportion to the crime and should be a deterrent. We support imprisonment for life without parole for habitual felons. Convicted criminals should be required to make restitution to their victims. Prisoners without a high school diploma must be required to attend training for GED. No inmate with a history of drug abuse should be eligible for parole before completing treatment.

Crime Shouldn't Pay – No convicted criminal should be allowed to profit from sale of rights to their story for books, movies, etc., while incarcerated, on parole, or on probation.

Capital Punishment – Properly applied capital punishment is legitimate, is an effective deterrent, and should be swift and unencumbered.

Juvenile Justice – Juvenile justice reforms should continue, including private programs, “boot camps,” and trying juveniles as adults when appropriate. We condemn incarcerating juveniles and adults in the same facility.

Child Abuse – We recognize the family as a sovereign authority over which the state has no right to intervene, unless a parent or legal guardian has committed criminal abuse. Child abusers should be severely prosecuted. We oppose actions of social agencies to classify traditional methods of discipline, including corporal punishment, as child abuse. As a condition of funding, publicly funded agencies are to report all instances of abuse.

Unborn Victims of Violence – We believe a person who injures or kills an unborn child should be subject to criminal and civil litigation.

Sexual Assault – Adults convicted of sexual molestation of a minor should receive mandatory prison sentences without probation or parole. We support increasing the penalty for failure to report child sexual assault cases, and we urge vigorous prosecution of such failure.

Addictive Behaviors – We encourage state and federal governments to severely prosecute illegal dealers and manufacturers of addictive substances and pornography. We urge Congress to discourage import of such substances into our country. Faith based rehabilitation programs should be emphasized. We oppose legalization of illicit drugs. We support an effective abstinence-based educational program for children. We oppose any “needle exchange” program. We urge vigorous enforcement of our DUI laws.



Property Search and Seizure Without Due Process – We oppose search and seizure of private property without due process. Neither law enforcement agencies nor their parent organizations should be allowed to benefit from such seizures.

## **STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY**

We support the principles regarding the public economy as stated in the Republican Party Platform of 1932 to wit:

### **Resolution Regarding the Public Economy**

Whereas, constructive plans for financial stabilization cannot be completely organized until our national, State and municipal governments not only balance their budgets but curtail their current expenses as well to a level which can be steadily and economically maintained for some years to come.

We urge prompt and drastic reduction of public expenditure and resistance to every appropriation not demonstrably necessary to the performance of government, national or local.

The Republican Party established and will continue to uphold the gold standard and will oppose any measure which will undermine the government's credit or impair the integrity of our national currency. Relief by currency inflation is unsound in principle and dishonest in results. The dollar is impregnable in the marts of the world today and must remain so. An ailing body cannot be cured by quack remedies. This is no time to experiment upon the body politic or financial.

Source: Republican Party Platform of 1932

June 14, 1932

## **GOVERNMENT SPENDING**

Fiscal Responsibility – We urge state and federal legislators to reduce spending. We also support a “cap” on government spending at all levels, with adjustments limited to the effects of inflation and population change.

Governmental Accountability – We favor periodic audits of all governmental agencies.

Unfunded Mandates – We oppose all unfunded mandates by the federal and state governments.

Downsizing the Federal Government – We support abolishing all federal agencies whose activities are not specifically enumerated in the Constitution; including the Departments of Education and Energy. We support a sunset provision law at the federal level. All non-military spending should be returned to at least pre-2008 levels.

Budget and Appropriations – We urge Congress to adopt balanced budgets by cutting spending and not increasing tax rates. We oppose adding earmarks or using other techniques that bypass approval of spending. We encourage the use of the line-item veto.

Truth in Taxing – We urge that taxes established for a particular purpose shall not be used for any other purpose.

Zero Based Budgeting – We urge the use of zero based budgeting policy at all levels of government. We are opposed to base line budgeting.

Waste and Fraud in Government Contracts – All government contracts should be awarded by competitive bids. We call upon all levels of government to allow the awarding of contracts, requiring performance and payment bonds, be awarded to the lowest bidder.

Congressional Pay and Benefits – Congressional pay raises should not exceed the rate of inflation. Congress shall pass no law affecting average Americans that does not equally apply to themselves and all other Federal employees. We recommend that the Congressional retirement system be abolished.

Repeal of Fee Award Act – We support repeal of the Civil Rights Attorneys' Fee Awards Act, which allows for payment of attorneys' fees to sue the government and to suppress freedom of religion.

Bailouts and Subsidies – We encourage government to divest its ownership of all business that should be run

in the private sector and allow the free market to prevail. We oppose all bailouts of domestic and foreign government entities, States and all businesses, public and private.

Sunset Laws – We support the Texas Sunset Law.

Government Lobbying – We oppose paying lobbyists with tax dollars.

Improper Government Funding – We support enforcement of current law prohibiting public assets being used for private groups without proper vetting and authorization.

Funding Special Interest Organizations – We oppose any government support of special interest organizations, such as ACORN and the ACLU.

Frugal Government – We encourage all governments and agencies to live as frugally as all taxpayers do and to abhor the excessive spending on non-critical items such as this administration has indulged in.

Education Spending – Since data is clear that additional money does not translate into educational achievement, and higher education costs are out of control, we support reducing taxpayer funding to all levels of education institutions.

Faith-Based Charities – We oppose any restrictions by any government agency on taxpayer contributions to churches and faith-based charities.

Law Basis for Regulations – We urge that all regulations written should be sent to the originating committee of the supporting legislation for approval before being implemented.

Transparency in Government Litigation – We demand that all state agencies, municipalities, and public entities pay greater attention to thwart frivolous lawsuits by trial lawyers. We urge our elected officials to pay greater attention to out-of-control legal expenses to ensure being a good steward of the taxpayers' money.

Governmental Transparency – We support statewide and local taxing entities compiling and publically posting their current debt and future obligations on their official websites.

## TAX BURDEN

Federal Tax Reform – We recommend repeal of the Sixteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, with the goal of abolishing the I.R.S and replacing it with a national sales tax collected by the States. In the interim we urge the income tax be changed to a flatter, broader, lower tax with only minimal exemptions such as home mortgage interest deductions.

Permanent Tax Cuts – We urge the income tax, capital gains tax, estate tax, and all other tax reductions be made permanent. The death tax is immoral and should be abolished forever.

Capital Gains Tax – We favor abolishing the capital gains tax.

Gambling as a Source of Public Funding – We oppose gambling and gambling expansion as a means of financing government. We recognize the failure of the lottery as a funding source for education and that it is now known to be a regressive tax on the poor.

State Tax Reform –

We encourage:

- Abolishing property taxes
- Shifting the tax burden to a consumption-based tax
- Reducing the overall tax burden
- A constitutional amendment providing a two-thirds super majority of both houses to increase any taxes or fees
- Every tax at every level should have separate and clearly visible billing to the taxpayer

We strongly oppose:

- Creation of a state income tax or state property tax
- All professional licensing fees and real estate and similar transaction fees or taxes

Texas Budget Compact – We support the Texas Budget Compact including:

- Practice truth in budgeting
- Support a Constitutional limit of spending to the growth of population and inflation
- Oppose any new tax increases and make the small business tax exemption permanent
- Preserve a strong "rainy day fund"
- Cut the unnecessary and duplicative government programs and agencies

Business Tax – We urge repeal of the Texas business tax.

Property Appraisal – Until ad valorem taxes are abolished, we recommend that property valuations be fixed for not less than three years following each revaluation. Appraisal District Boards should be elected. We support capping the annual increase in real property appraisals at 3% and strongly support a reduction in the margin of error in the property value study to 90% in place of the current 95%. We call upon the Texas Legislature to eliminate the property value study.

Exemption of Inventories from Property Taxes – We urge outright repeal of property taxes on inventory.

Internet Taxation – We oppose any Internet taxation, until the income tax is removed.

Foreign Taxation – We strongly oppose the United Nations or any international group levying taxes on US citizens or governments.

Law of the Sea – Adopted by the UN in 1982, we still oppose the Law of the Sea Treaty.

Transportation Fuel Taxes – We call for all transportation and fuel taxes collected to be used for road construction, improvement and maintenance only. We resolve that tax revenue derived from gasoline taxes should only be used for highway construction and not be diverted to any other use, including mass transit and bicycle paths.

Tolls on Existing Roads – We support the legitimate construction of toll roads in Texas, but we oppose converting existing state and federal roads to toll roads including eminent domain right-of-ways acquisition without voter approval.

Funding via Bond Elections – We support active participation by registered voters and abhor taxing authorities' attempts to obtain approval for bonds by selective scheduling of elections' polling locations to minimize voter turnout. Hence, we support a requirement that at least 25% of registered voters must turn out and vote in order for a financial obligation to be placed on the entire citizenry.

## ENERGY

Energy Strategy – We encourage a comprehensive energy policy that allows more development of domestic energy sources and reduces our need for foreign energy. Energy policy should be cooperative, economically viable without taxpayer funded subsidies, and environmentally safe, but not restricted by overzealous environmental activism.

Alternative Energy Sources – We encourage economically viable use of wind, coal-fired plants, solar, and nuclear power, and bio-sources without government subsidies.

Government Restrictions – We support immediate removal of government barriers to free market solutions to production and distribution of energy including restrictions on:

- drilling and production operations on public and private lands and waters
- refineries
- electric power generation and distribution
- federal gas mileage standards (CAFÉ standards) and fuel blends

Cap and Trade – We oppose Cap and Trade ("Cap and Tax").

U.S. Department of Energy – We support the elimination of the Department of Energy.

Incandescent Light Bulbs - We support the freedom to continue to use and manufacture incandescent light

bulbs.

Keystone XL Pipeline – We support the immediate approval and construction of the Keystone XL and other pipelines that will reduce our reliance on imported oil and natural gas from unstable or unfriendly countries.

Deep Water Drilling – We support immediate resumption of deep water drilling and production in the Gulf of Mexico.

Land Drilling – We support land drilling and production operations including hydraulic fracturing.

Ethanol – We support the repeal of legislation mandating ethanol as fuel additives and/or primary fuel.

Natural Gas - Alternative Fuel - We urge the use of natural gas as an alternative transportation fuel and as complimentary fuel to gasoline and diesel.

- We support the manufacture of vehicles that utilize natural gas as an alternative fuel and/or a complimentary fuel
- We support and encourage the conversion of existing private fleets to natural gas as a dual use fuel
- We support the use of natural gas in electric power generation and other industrial uses

## BUSINESS AND THE ECONOMY

American Jobs – We support a favorable business climate of low taxes and deregulation to encourage capital investment, ensuring retention and creation of American jobs.

Frivolous Lawsuits – We support further reform to discourage frivolous lawsuits. We oppose the abusive use of class action lawsuits.

Right-to-Work – We oppose the Employee Free Choice Act (Card Check) and any action that eliminates the secret ballot. Every worker should have freedom to work in their preferred job without being forced to join or pay dues to any organization. Our Right-to-Work Law has provided this freedom and a good climate for industrial expansion, higher employment, and a stable management-labor relationship. We encourage adoption of a National Right-to-Work Act.

Small Business – We urge the federal and state legislatures to mitigate the impact of regulations on small businesses and to ensure that such businesses are adequately represented in the regulatory process. We support the removal of any unreasonable legal or economic barriers to home-based work.

Exotic Livestock – We encourage the freedom of farmers, ranchers and producers to be able to raise and promote all livestock, wildlife and other protected species for conservation, consumption and economic development.

Workers' Compensation – We urge the Legislature to resist making Workers' Compensation mandatory for all Texas employers.

Minimum Wage – We believe the Minimum Wage Law should be repealed.

Prevailing Wage Law – We urge the Congress to repeal the Prevailing Wage Law and the Davis Bacon Act.

Incentives for Retention of Domestic Operations – We support a favorable business climate of low taxes and deregulation to encourage capital investment to ensure retention and creation of jobs in America.

Free Market for Utilities and Insurance – We encourage free market solutions for providing utilities whenever possible. We support that all property insurance rates should be set through free-market forces alone. We support efforts to shrink the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association to reduce the liabilities it imposes on state taxpayers.

Federal Reserve System – We believe Congress should repeal the Federal Reserve Act of 1913. In the interim, we call for a complete audit of the Federal Reserve System and an immediate report to the American people.

Sound Money – Our founding fathers warned us of the dangers of allowing central bankers to control our currency because inflation equals taxation without representation. We support the return to the time tested precious metal standard for the U.S. dollar.

Rural and Volunteer Fire Departments – We urge Congress to overturn the rules of the U. S. Department of Labor restricting volunteerism by paid firefighters and emergency medical technician personnel.

Sarbanes Oxley – We support the repeal of Sarbanes Oxley legislation.

Dodd Frank – We support the immediate repeal of Dodd Frank legislation.

Community Reinvestment Act – We support the repeal of the Community Reinvestment Act.

## **DEFENDING SOVEREIGNTY AT HOME AND ABROAD**

### **SOVEREIGNTY**

Texas Sovereignty – We reaffirm Texas’ state sovereignty, as reserved under the 10th Amendment. Texas retains its sovereignty, freedoms, independence, power, jurisdiction and rights which are not delegated to the federal government by the U. S. Constitution.

National Sovereignty – We insist that the President and Congress defend our national sovereignty in accordance with their oaths of office. Therefore we believe the United States government must remain free of external control or influence, including, but not limited to, a North American union and a security and prosperity partnership.

United Nations – We support the withdrawal of the United States from the United Nations and the removal of U.N. headquarters from U.S. soil.

United Nations Agenda 21 -The Republican Party of Texas should expose all United Nations Agenda 21 treaty policies and its supporting organizations, agreements and contracts. We oppose implementation of the UN Agenda 21 Program which was adopted at the Earth Summit Conference in 1992 purporting to promote a comprehensive program of sustainable development projects, nationally, regionally and locally. We oppose the influence, promotion and implementation of nongovernmental organizations, metropolitan and/or regional planning organizations, Councils of Government, and International Council for Local Environmental initiatives and the use of American (Texas) citizen’s taxes to promote these programs.

Homeland Security – We support the strengthening of our nation’s homeland security while protecting the constitutional rights of all United States citizens and lawful resident aliens.

National Defense - We support a strong national defense that protects United States interests, freedoms and sovereignty at home and abroad.

### **MILITARY AND SPACE EXPLORATION**

Support of our U.S. Armed Forces – The men and women who wear our country's uniform, whether on active duty or in the Reserves or National Guard, are the most important assets in our military arsenal. They and their families must have the pay, health care, housing, education and overall support they need. Injured military personnel deserve the best medical care our country has to offer. We must always remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice; their families must be assured meaningful financial assistance. It is the solemn duty we owe and honor we give to those who bravely don the uniform of freedom. We support our government in continuing to seek and act upon all information concerning our military personnel and other citizens carried as Missing in Action or Prisoners of War.

Returning Veterans – We support the accommodation and reintegration of our troops once their military commitment has expired. Returning veterans must have access to educational benefits, job training and a wide variety of employment options. The Veteran’s Administration must become more responsive and more efficient by eliminating its backlog and reducing waiting times for treatment. We support the privatization of veteran’s healthcare.

Traditional Military Culture – To protect our servicemen and women and ensure that America's Armed Forces remain the best in the world, we affirm the timelessness of those values, the benefits of traditional military culture and the incompatibility of homosexuality with military service.

NASA – We strongly encourage the federal government and NASA to work with American citizens and American businesses to research and develop a new vehicle to continue human space flight and maintain America's leadership in space exploration.

## IMMIGRATION

The Texas Solution – Because of decades-long failure of the federal government to secure our borders and address the immigration issue, there are now upwards of 11 million undocumented individuals in the United States today, each of whom entered and remain here under different circumstances. Mass deportation of these individuals would neither be equitable nor practical; while blanket amnesty, as occurred with the Simpson-Mazzoli Act of 1986, would only encourage future violations of the law. We seek common ground to develop and advance a conservative, market- and law-based approach to our nation's immigration issues by following these principles:

1. **Secure Our Borders** – The U.S. Border must be secured immediately! We demand the application of effective, practical and reasonable measures to secure our borders and to bring safety and security for all Americans along the border and throughout the nation.
2. **Modernize the United States Social Security Card** – We support the improvement of our 1936 Social Security card to use contemporary anti-counterfeit technology. The social security card will not be considered a National ID card for U.S. citizens.
3. **Birthright Citizenship** – We call on the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches of the United States to clarify Section 1 of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment to limit citizenship by birth to those born to a citizen of the United States with no exceptions.
4. **Create an Effective and Efficient Temporary Worker Program** – A national Temporary Worker Program should be implemented to bring skilled and unskilled workers into the United States for temporary periods of time when no U.S. workers are currently available. The program should also require:
  - Self-funding through participation fees and fines;
  - Applicants must pass a full criminal background check;
  - Applicants with prior immigration violations would only qualify for the program if they paid the appropriate fines;
  - Applicants and/or Employers must prove that they can afford and/or secure private health insurance;
  - Applicants must waive any and all rights to apply for financial assistance from any public entitlement programs;
  - Applicant must show a proficiency in the English language and complete an American civic class;
  - Temporary Workers would only be able to work for employers that deduct and match payroll taxes;
  - All participants would be issued an individual Temporary-Worker Biometric Identification Card that tracks all address changes and both civil and criminal court appearances as a defendant.

## FOREIGN POLICY

Foreign Policy – We support the spread of representative forms of government, free market enterprise, private humanitarian aid to developing countries, continued favorable treatment of proven allies, censure of adversarial entities that seek destruction of other countries and strong policy on confronting terrorists. We oppose U.S. aid to any foreign entity that consistently votes against our interests or is openly hostile to our nation.

Declaration of War – We believe that a lawful "Declaration of War" is necessary for the United States to enter into war with another nation and urge Congress to reclaim its Constitutional responsibility. Any breach of this power by the Executive Branch is an impeachable offence.

Foreign Aid – We oppose foreign aid except in cases of national defense or catastrophic disasters, with Congressional approval.

Free Trade – We support free trade as a necessary component of American capitalism and of the United States' influence in the world.

International Organizations – We support U.S. withdrawal from the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the World Bank.

Israel – We believe that the United States and Israel share a special long-standing relationship based on shared values, a mutual commitment to a republican form of government, and a strategic alliance that benefits both nations. Our foreign policy with Israel should reflect the special nature of this relationship through continued military and economic assistance and recognition that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and should remain an undivided city accessible to people of all faiths. We believe that the US Embassy should be located in Jerusalem. In our diplomatic dealings with Israel, we encourage the continuation of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, but oppose pressuring Israel to make concessions it believes would jeopardize its security, including the trading of land for the recognition of its right to exist. We call on the U.S. to cease strong arming Israel through prior agreements with the understanding of delivering Palestinians on the West Bank. We support the continuation of non-recognition of terrorist nations and organizations. Our policy is based on God's biblical promise to bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel and we further invite other nations and organizations to enjoy the benefits of that promise.

Mexico – We support U.S. policies which help Mexico strengthen their democratic institutions. We support aggressive military and law enforcement cooperation to address corruption and the drug cartels.

Taiwan – We support full diplomatic recognition of Taiwan as an independent and sovereign nation.