

Platform for Polk County

With trust in God, and in fidelity to generations past and generations to come, we respectfully submit this platform to the Polk County Convention.

Preamble

As Republicans we continue to uphold the principles of individual responsibility and liberty, adherence to traditional moral standards, a strong national defense, a free enterprise system, and respect for the sanctity of human life. We believe in retaining the original intent of our Founding Fathers as embodied in the Constitution. 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.

Planks

1. A Right to Life

We believe life, from conception to natural death, is a sacred gift from the Creator and thus is an inalienable right as outlined in the Declaration of Independence. Therefore:

- 1.1. The mother and her unborn child have an equal and fundamental right to life, which cannot be infringed.
- 1.2. We reaffirm our support for an amendment to the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Iowa which protects innocent human life from conception to natural death.
- 1.3. We oppose using public revenues to fund abortions or organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, which advocate abortion.
- 1.4. We commend those who provide alternatives to abortion by meeting the needs of mothers and offering adoption services.
- 1.5. We support a 'Woman's Right to Know Law' whereby performers of abortions must provide complete factual information to the pregnant woman about the complications of abortion, the biological development of the unborn, fetal pain, and the availability of alternatives to abortion.
- 1.6. We support legislation requiring consent by a parent and/or legal guardian before a minor child receives an abortion or any other reproductive services and products.
- 1.7. We support the reversal of Roe vs. Wade.
- 1.8. We support the use of adult stem cells to advance modern medical research. We oppose somatic cell nuclear transfer (human cloning), embryonic stem cell research, human fetal-tissue research from induced abortions, and the commercial use or sale of fetal parts.
- 1.9. We believe euthanasia, assisted suicide, and infanticide are murder.
- 1.10. We support the ban of partial birth abortion.

2. Family Values

In keeping with the reality that we are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights, and that our nation's foundation and subsequent blessings flow from adherence to and respect for the Judeo-Christian ethic, we affirm the following:

- 2.1. Traditional, marriage-based (one male and one female) families are intrinsically procreative and thereby essential to a stable, thriving, and lasting civilization. Therefore, public policy must always be pro-family, encouraging marital and family commitment, while also supporting parental rights and responsibilities.
- 2.2. We support an amendment to the Iowa Constitution stating that "To secure and preserve the benefits of marriage for our society and for future generations of children, marriage between a man and a woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this state."
- 2.3. We support a Federal amendment stating that "Only marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized in the United States, and that neither the Federal government, any state government, or the political subdivisions thereof may create or recognize a legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals."
- 2.4. We support adoption by heterosexual married couples consisting of one man and one woman.
- 2.5. Because the cost of gambling deeply affects thousands of Iowa families, we believe that no further expansion of gambling in Iowa should be permitted. We support a ban on taking cash advances on credit cards at casinos and gambling establishments in Iowa.
- 2.6. We believe access to sexually explicit material, especially on the internet, poses a serious threat to our families and children. Therefore we must strengthen and enforce our laws to protect our families and children.

3. Education

We believe parents, not the government, are responsible for and fully in charge of the education of their children. We believe that in order for our educational system to be successful, it must be accountable to the parents of the community. Therefore, parents should be afforded as many options as possible including private, home or alternative based education. We do not believe that more money insures better education. We believe reimbursement is due families who choose non-government education since they pay taxes as well as tuition. Therefore:

- 3.1. We advocate choice in education without government interference. -
- 3.2. We oppose all legislation from any level of government, including ratification of international treaties that would interfere with or restrict educational choice.
- 3.3. We support equitable tax relief for families whose children do not attend government schools.
- 3.4. We support parental rights legislation stating that parents have the right to direct the upbringing and education of their children.
- 3.5. We believe the biblical account of Creation and the supporting scientific arguments should be presented to all
- 3.6. We recommend that educators stress abstinence outside of marriage as the surest way to prevent pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and associated psychological problems. We oppose the distribution of condoms in public schools.
- 3.7. We support voluntary prayer in the schools and the use of the Bible as a textbook.
- 3.8. We support displaying 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.
- 3.9. We propose abolishing No Child Left Behind and sending control of education back to the states.
- 3.10. We support the abolition of the Federal Department of Education, and the removal of this position from the Cabinet. In addition, we call for downsizing the Iowa Department of Education. We believe that control of education should be left to the parents, teachers and local school boards.
- 3.11. We believe that teachers' salaries should be based on performance rather than solely on tenure. We support programs that reward superior teachers and outline procedures to remove ineffective educators.
- 3.12. We oppose compulsory preschool and any proposal to change the age at which children are required to attend school.

4. National Defense/Foreign Policy

We believe in our Party's long standing commitment to a strong national defense and support the President's use of military force to protect and defend the United States and our allies against any enemy. We believe our foreign and domestic policies must be based upon our strategic national interests and must always jealousy guard our nation's sovereignty.

- 4.1. We must increase the number of troops in both the active and reserve in all branches of our military and provide them with the best and most updated equipment.
- 4.2. We must be prepared to survive a nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon attack.
- 4.3. We believe the best way to support our military men and women is to support the mission of the troops in the war on terror and the full prosecution of the war until our goals are achieved. Further, we support the President of the United States in his international effort to stop terrorists and terrorism by all necessary and legal means.
- 4.4. We believe fanatical extremist religious groups who employ terror, such as Al Qaeda, Hezbollah and Hamas and the countries that support and harbor them, pose a very serious threat to the United States.
- 4.5. We believe the United States should not and cannot negotiate with terrorist organizations.
- 4.6. We believe terrorism is a national security issue and not a law enforcement problem.
- 4.7. We urge continued economic and military support for our ally, Israel.
- 4.8. We believe the United States should never sacrifice its sovereignty or relinquish control of its soil to the United Nations or any other international body.
- 4.9. We call for the United States' immediate withdrawal from the United Nations.
- 4.10. We believe the United States must not participate in the formation of a North American Union.
- 4.11. We support international efforts to end genocide throughout the world.
- 4.12. We support the abolition of the Department of Homeland Security. We support the restructuring of federal agencies to ensure coordination on matters of international and domestic terrorism.
- 4.13. We believe we must maintain high ethical standards in the treatment and detainment of enemy combatants.
- 4.14. Congress shall pass no law or enter into any treaty that would infringe on the sovereignty of the United States. We are opposed to the NAFTA Super-Highway, the North American Union, and the Law of the Sea Treaty.
- 4.15. We must never forget our Veterans or their sacrifices.

5. Immigration

We believe that Congress should establish an immigration policy that furthers the cultural, social, and economic interests of the United States, and that a sound immigration policy coupled with vigorous enforcement of immigration laws is essential to securing our homeland.

- 5.1. We believe only United States citizens or legal immigrants are entitled to constitutional protections or government services.
- 5.2. We support empowering local and state governments in cooperation with federal agencies in identifying and processing illegal immigrants.
- 5.3. We call for English to be designated as the official language of the United States.
- 5.4. We believe English should be the official language of both the State of Iowa and the federal governments.
- 5.5. We propose heavy monetary fines against employers and businesses which willfully hire illegal immigrants. We propose criminal penalties for repeat offenders and willful non-compliance.
- 5.6. We support an increase in the number of visas for highly educated immigrants or those with special skills.
- 5.7. Illegal immigrants who commit felonies should be deported.
- 5.8. There should be a transient worker visa program making it easier for people to work legally in the United States.
- 5.9. We call on the Iowa Legislature to enact legislation similar to that of the Legal Arizona Workers' Act.
- 5.10. We support the use of the E-Verify verification system to confirm immigration status.
- 5.11. We support building a fence to protect the United States' borders from illegal immigrants.
- 5.12. We call for the immediate pardon of border agents Ignacious Ramos and Jose Compean and any other border agents wrongly imprisoned while protecting our United States borders.

6. Law and Justice

We believe justice is grounded in personal rights in balance with public safety. We believe the role of government is to uphold the law and maintain order, to protect the innocent, resolve disputes and punish crime. We support fundamental tort reform to reduce lawsuit abuse.

- 6.1. We assert that the Constitution of the United States of America is the highest law of the land and cannot be superceded by any international law, treaty or agreement.
- 6.2. We believe the language in the United States Constitution and Declaration of Independence is as relevant today as when it was penned. Any attempts to revise or deviate from the original intent of said documents must be vigorously opposed.
- 6.3. We support a parental rights amendment to the United States Constitution stating that parents have the right to direct the upbringing and education of their children
- 6.4. We support the current wording of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 6.5. Eminent domain should be used solely for public use; therefore we support legislation preventing the seizure of private property for economic development purposes.
- 6.6. We reject the efforts of the Iowa District Courts to redefine "marriage" in the state of Iowa by granting a "divorce" to two females who were granted a "civil union" in the state of Vermont. The court lacked authority to recognize such a relationship because Iowa Code Section 595.2(1) defines that "only marriage between a male and a female is valid." We censure Judge Jeffrey Neary of the Woodbury County District Court for his attempt to legislate by judicial fiat.
- 6.7. We strongly believe in the Second Amendment, which guarantees us the right to keep and bear arms without government intervention.
- 6.8. We support the required issuance of the Iowa Permit to Carry Weapons to all legally qualified applicants.
- 6.9. We support the repeal of state and federal "hate crimes" legislation, since it is an attempt to criminalize the perceived thoughts and/or beliefs of persons rather than obtain justice based on action(s) alone.
- 6.10. We support reinstating the death penalty in Iowa for capital offenses.
- 6.11. We support federal legislation to make hacking and/or cyber terrorism a serious federal offense.
- 6.12. We support the reclassification of a first offense of simple possession of marijuana from a felony to a serious misdemeanor.
- 6.13. We support enforcement of existing federal, state and local obscenity and pornography laws.
- 6.14. We support more stringent sex offender laws.

7. Government

We believe the primary purpose of government is to protect the inalienable rights of life and liberty and, beyond its constitutional functions; there is nothing which can be done by government as efficiently as it is done by the people of this great Republic. We believe the people have the ability, the dignity and the right to make their own decisions and to determine their own destiny without encumbrance or interference from government. We call for a return to limited government at federal, state and local levels, allowing for maximum personal and economic freedom. Therefore:

- 7.1. We support a dramatic reduction to the size and scope of government at all levels. We believe the federal government should be strictly limited to the eighteen enumerated powers in the United States Constitution and that all others should be left to the States and to the people in accordance with the Tenth Amendment.
- 7.2. We strongly oppose judicial legislation and call upon judges at all levels to adhere, strictly, to the original intent of the United States Constitution and their respective state constitutions. We further support the use of constitutional impeachment processes to remove those judges who do not uphold the United States Constitution or their respective state constitutions.
- 7.3. We call for the appointment of strict constructionist judges to the Supreme Court.
- 7.4. We call for the replacement of the current Social Security System with a new private and voluntary retirement investment program.
- 7.5. We support line item veto authority for the President of the United States.
- 7.6. We oppose government ownership of any gambling facility or activity.
- 7.7. We believe "In God We Trust" should be on the face of all United States currency and coin.

8. Taxes and Spending

We believe the purpose of taxation is to fund only the constitutionally authorized functions of government. We call for an end to all unconstitutional expenditures of public monies and for dramatic tax cuts at federal and state levels. Therefore:

- 8.1. We support a balanced budget at state and federal levels through significant cuts in spending and taxes.
- 8.2. We assert that significant spending and tax cuts will produce substantial economic growth and increased government revenue.
- 8.3. We call for the United States Congress to make permanent the Bush tax cuts.
- 8.4. We call for the repeal of the Sixteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the implementation of a fairer tax system.
- 8.5. We call for the responsible elimination of all federal departments, programs, regulations, and expenditures that are not expressly authorized by the United States Constitution.
- 8.6. We support the ability of Iowans to fully deduct the amount they pay in federal income taxes on their Iowa Income Tax Return.
- 8.7. We support the passage of the Peoples' Right to Vote Amendment to the Iowa Constitution, which would require a vote of the people to ratify tax increases.

9. Health and Human Services

We believe that healthcare is best provided by the private sector, and that universal or government healthcare will reduce the quality and availability of care. Hospitals, doctors, and other healthcare providers should be accountable to patients— not to politicians, insurance bureaucrats or HMO Administrators. Further, we believe people are healthier, happier and more productive when they have the freedom and responsibility to provide for themselves and their families without government interference. Therefore:

- 9.1. We support consumer based / non-government solutions to our healthcare needs.
- 9.2. We support the privatization of Medicare and its prescription benefits.
- 9.3. We believe pharmacists should have the same right of conscience as other healthcare professionals.
- 9.4. We believe HIV/AIDS should be classified as a communicable disease, not a disability, and treated as such under current law.
- 9.5. We support felony prosecution of any HIV/AIDS carrier who willfully exposes another person.
- 9.6. We support mandatory reporting of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases by all infected healthcare professionals and support patient access to the results of those tests.
- 9.7. We support lifetime Medical Benefits for Veterans, National Guardsmen and Reservists who have been called to federal active service.

10. NATURAL RESOURCES / ENVIRONMENT

We believe we must be responsible stewards of our national resources and environment. Our policies should reflect that stewardship and protect our national sovereignty and private property rights. We must adopt a common sense approach that takes into consideration the environmental and economic impact. We must continue to encourage waste reduction and recycling and encourage soil, water and wildlife conservation practices. Therefore:

- 10.1. We should maintain an environmental policy that protects the right of humans before all other species.
- 10.2. We support long term goals geared toward increasing the pheasant population and continued support for current fish and wildlife re-stocking programs.
- 10.3. We oppose attempts to eliminate hunting and trapping of wild game.
- 10.4. We encourage various methods of reducing the overpopulation of deer and turkey including longer seasons.
- 10.5. We believe the United States must make necessary changes to current existing laws, code, or regulations in order to allow responsible exploration, mining and production of domestic oil and coal resources.
- 10.6. We believe the United States should encourage development of alternative energy resources with the ultimate goal of becoming self-sufficient.
- 10.7. We oppose entering into any international environmental treaties.

11. AGRICULTURE

We believe this state should work to secure farm income, conserve natural resources, promote agriculturally derived renewable fuels and open new markets for our agricultural commodities. We support a National policy to protect agricultural producers from unfair international market practices and recognize a farmer's right to form business relationships that can reduce financial risk and provide income opportunities for farm families. Therefore:

- 11.1. We call for the abolition of the Federal Department of Agriculture, returning control back to the state and local governments.
- 11.2. We believe Iowa's agricultural industry is vitally important to America's food supply, renewable fuels industry and the ability of our next generation to choose farming as a career.
- 11.3. We support voluntary programs at the state level which provide tax credits to install targeted conservation programs in order to achieve improved water quality in impaired watersheds.
- 11.4. We oppose a moratorium on new livestock farms.
- 11.5. We believe in state initiatives that will sustain the family farm.
- 11.6. We encourage the use of cost effective bio-fuels.
- 11.7. We oppose any and all federal agricultural subsidies.
- 11.8. We support local control of agricultural zoning practices.
- 11.9. We believe animal husbandry decisions and production practices should be decided by individual farmers, not the state or federal government.

12. Business and Economic Development

We believe that less government is better government. We support every reasonable effort on the part of all governments and taxpayers to limit taxing and spending. We believe that 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 believe social problems are best handled by private groups or benevolent organizations, not by the government. We should strive to have fewer government restrictions, fewer government employees and lower taxes. Therefore:

- 12.1. We believe environmental problems can be solved more efficiently with innovation and technology than with more litigation and more government regulation.
- 12.2. We believe that free enterprise and the encouragement of individual initiative are essential to economic opportunity, growth and prosperity.
- 12.3. We support Iowa’s Right to Work law.
- 12.4. We support a concerted effort that encourages the development of small businesses in Iowa.
- 12.5. We call for the reduction of the corporate tax rate to encourage business development and growth in Iowa.
- 12.6. We call for the repeal of all mandatory minimum wage laws.
- 12.7. We affirm the right of the employer to hire and fire as they see fit.
- 12.8. The United States must do more to strengthen and balance our international trade policies and ensure its presence and competitiveness in the world market.

13. Energy and Transportation

We believe a dependable, accessible and affordable supply of energy is essential to the economic strength and security of the United States. We believe access to an adequate transportation infrastructure is necessary for a free market economy to succeed. Therefore:

- 13.1. We support the goal of energy independence within the United States
- 13.2. We support the development and production of domestic renewable fuels.
- 13.3. We support tax incentives to stimulate private research for alternative fuels.
- 13.4. We support exploration and drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the outer continental shelf.
- 13.5. We oppose the NAFTA Super-highway in its entirety.
- 13.6. We support the deregulation of the building and operation of oil refineries to encourage expansion to meet our needs.
- 13.7. We support giving tax credits to homeowners and builders who incorporate alternative energy sources in their homes.
- 13.8. We support improving the rail system to meet the increasing need to move products, materials and passengers at a more efficient cost.
- 13.9. We support reasonable deregulation and expansion of nuclear energy.
- 13.10. We support the continued use and expansion of coal as a source of energy.
- 13.11. We oppose caps on “greenhouse gas emissions” due to their inequitable costs to our economy.
- 13.12. We call for the abolition of the Federal Department of Energy, returning the control to the state and local governments as it was prior to the Carter administration.