

2010 Platform for the Polk County Republican Party

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

Preamble

As United States citizens and 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.

1. A Right to Life

We believe human life is a sacred gift from our Creator and is an inalienable right as outlined in the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence whereby its value cannot be decided by a legislative body or a judicial branch. The inherent right to life is innately valuable from conception to natural death. This includes the unborn, the elderly, the terminally or chronically ill, and the mentally or physically handicapped. No human life should ever be diminished or arbitrarily taken. Therefore:

- 1.1. The mother and her unborn child have an equal and fundamental right to life, which cannot be infringed.
- 1.2. We affirm our support for an amendment to the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Iowa that embodies and promotes our God-given right to 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 private entities that provide alternatives to abortion by meeting the needs of mothers and offering adoption services.
- 1.5. We support the reversal of Roe Vs. Wade and as interim measures, we support:
 - a. 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.
 - b. Legislation requiring consent by a parent and/or legal guardian before a minor child or ward receives an abortion or any other reproductive services and products.
 - c. The ban of partial birth abortion.
 - d. Laws designed to protect health care professionals who, for moral or religious reasons, refuse to provide services such as abortion and birth control.
- 1.6. 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.
- 1.7. We believe euthanasia, assisted suicide and infanticide are murder.

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 oppose the teaching of sex education in any form, at any grade level, without prior written parental consent.
- 3.8. We support voluntary prayer in the schools and the use of the Bible as a textbook.
- 3.9. 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.
- 3.10. We propose abolishing No Child Left Behind and sending control of education back to the states.
- 3.11. We support the defunding and abolition of the Federal Department of Education, and the removal of this position from the Cabinet. In addition, we call for the abolition of the Iowa Department of Education and reinstatement of the Iowa Commission on Schools. We believe that control of education should be left to the parents, teachers and local school boards.
- 3.12. We believe that teachers’ salaries should not be based solely on tenure. We support programs that reward superior teachers and outline procedures to remove ineffective educators.
- 3.13. We oppose compulsory preschool and any proposal to change the age at which children are required to attend school.

- 3.14. We oppose government control of school loans and any requirements for mandatory service to government for school loans.

4. National Defense/Foreign Policy

We believe in our Party's long standing commitment to a strong national defense and support the 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 jealously guard our Constitution and national sovereignty.

- 4.1. We must never forget our Veterans or their sacrifices.
- 4.2. We must maintain adequate troop levels in both the active and reserve in all branches of our military and provide them with the best and most updated equipment.
- 4.3. We support an increased civil defense effort to better prepare for a Chemical, Biological or Nuclear attack.
- 4.4. We must increase and improve our technical and human intelligence capabilities.
- 4.5. We believe fanatical extremist religious groups who employ terror, and the countries that support and harbor them, pose a very serious threat to the United States.
- 4.6. We believe the United States should not and cannot negotiate with terrorist organizations.
- 4.7. Foreign enemy combatants should not be afforded Constitutional protections and should be tried by military tribunal.
- 4.8. We urge continued economic and military support for our ally, Israel.
- 4.9. We believe Congress should pass no law or enter into any treaty that would infringe on the sovereignty of the United States.
- 4.10. We call for the United States' immediate withdrawal from the United Nations.
- 4.11. We are opposed to the NAFTA Super-Highway, the North American Union, and the Law of the Sea Treaty.
- 4.12. We support international efforts to end genocide throughout the world.
- 4.13. We support the abolition of the Department of Homeland Security. We support the restructuring of federal agencies to ensure coordination on matters of domestic and international terrorism.
- 4.14. We believe we must maintain high ethical standards in the treatment and detainment of enemy combatants.
- 4.15. We support the repeal of any executive orders or treaties that give any international entity jurisdiction over our various law enforcement agencies or the people of the United States.
- 4.16. We are opposed to the creation of a civilian national security force or a national police force.
- 4.17. We support continued operation of the Guantanamo Bay prison for foreign terrorism suspects.
- 4.18. We oppose the repeal of the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy.

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 and legal immigrants are entitled to Constitutional protections or government services.
- 5.2. We support cooperation among local, state and federal agencies in identifying and processing illegal immigrants. We oppose the establishment of sanctuary cities.
- 5.3. We believe English should be the official language of both the State of Iowa and the United States.
- 5.4. 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.
- 5.5. Illegal immigrants should be deported.
- 5.6. There should be a transient worker visa program making it easier for people to work legally in the United States.
- 5.7. We support the use of an electronic verification system to confirm immigration status.
- 5.8. We support building a fence to protect the United States' borders from illegal immigrants.
- 5.9. We believe the U.S. Census should count only U.S. citizens.
- 5.10. We believe the citizenship of a child born in the United States should be based on the citizenship of the child's parents.

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.

- 6.1. We assert that the Constitution of the United States of America is the highest law of the land and cannot be superseded 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 courts to redefine marriage in the state of Iowa.
- 6.7. We strongly believe in the Second Amendment, which guarantees individuals the right to keep and bear arms without government intervention, and support the repeal of current laws that infringe upon our Constitutional right to keep and bear arms.
- 6.8. We support "right to carry" laws and a statewide "shall issue" permit system with national reciprocity among states to all legally qualified applicants.
- 6.9. We support the adoption of the following amendment to the Iowa Constitution: "The right of people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."
- 6.10. 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.

- 6.11. We support the freedom of religious institutions to preach, teach and advocate according to their beliefs.
- 6.12. We support reinstating the death penalty in Iowa for capital offenses.
- 6.13. We support federal legislation to make hacking and/or cyber terrorism a serious federal offense.
- 6.14. We support enforcement of existing federal, state and local obscenity and pornography laws.
- 6.15. We support stricter penalties for sexual abuse.
- 6.16. We believe that the voter registration practice known as "same day registration" invites a corruption of the voting process and should be prohibited.

7. Government

We believe the primary purpose of government is to protect the inalienable rights of life, liberty and property. Beyond its constitutional functions, there is nothing which can be done by government as efficiently as is done by the people of this great Republic. We believe the people have the ability, dignity and right to make their own decisions and determine their own destiny without encumbrance or undue 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 believe the federal government should be strictly limited to the 18 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 activism 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 replacement of the current Social Security system with new private and voluntary retirement investment programs.
- 7.4. We support line item veto authority for the President of the United States.
- 7.5. We oppose government ownership of any gambling facility or activity.
- 7.6. We believe "In God We Trust" should be on the face of all United States currency and coin.
- 7.7. We support eliminating the use of paid outside consultants in all government decision-making.
- 7.8. We support the review and adjustment of public sector employee compensation to bring it back in line with the private sector.
- 7.9. We propose that the Iowa General Assembly enact legislation that seeks to re-establish the proper relationship between the State of Iowa and the federal government, as defined by the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 7.10. We support repeal of the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States which will help to return the States to their rightful relationship with the federal government.
- 7.11. We support legislation that would protect all religious references in public buildings, lands and historical documents.
- 7.12. We support term limits for state and federal legislators.
- 7.13. We believe elected officials are equals to their constituents and are deserving of no special treatment or exemptions.
- 7.14. We oppose earmark spending.
- 7.15. We support a constitutional amendment for a balanced federal budget.
- 7.16. We oppose the appointment of executive branch "czars."
- 7.17. We support full transparency in all non-security related public policy decision-making.

- 7.18. We oppose the Fairness Doctrine that would infringe upon freedom of speech.

8. Taxes and Spending

We believe the purpose of taxation is to fund only the constitutionally authorized functions of government. We support every reasonable effort on the part of all governments and taxpayers to limit taxing and spending. We call for an end to all unconstitutional expenditure of public monies and an end to currently proposed measures that will result in unreasonable taxation for future generations. 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 cuts in spending and taxes will produce substantial economic growth.
- 8.3. We call for the retention of the Bush-era tax cuts until the Sixteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution is repealed and a fairer tax system implemented.
- 8.4. We call for the responsible elimination of all federal departments, programs, regulations and expenditures that are not expressly authorized by the United States Constitution.
- 8.5. We support the ability of Iowans to fully deduct the amount they pay in federal income taxes on their Iowa Income Tax Return.
- 8.6. 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.
- 8.7. We support the elimination of the unconstitutional earned-income tax credit.
- 8.8. We support the elimination of all federal and state "death taxes."
- 8.9. We strongly oppose "Cap and Trade" legislation that would tax industries, agriculture and the American people.
- 8.10. We support a zero based budget for all line items at State and Federal levels.

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 replacement of Medicare and its prescription drug benefits with free-market solutions.
- 9.3. We believe all healthcare professionals, including pharmacists, must have the right of conscience.
- 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 disclosure – to their patients – by all healthcare professionals infected by HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases.
- 9.7. We believe social problems are best handled by private groups or benevolent organizations, not by the government.
- 9.8. We oppose a healthcare insurance public option.
- 9.9. We oppose all forms of nationalized healthcare.
- 9.10. We support tax advantaged Health Saving Accounts.

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 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.
- 11.3. We oppose a moratorium on new livestock farms.
- 11.4. We encourage the use of non-subsidized, cost-effective bio-fuels.
- 11.5. We oppose any and all federal agricultural subsidies.
- 11.6. We support local control of agricultural zoning practices.
- 11.7. 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 free enterprise and the encouragement of individual initiative are essential and are the foundation of economic opportunity, growth and prosperity. We are opposed to "redistributing wealth" by means of taxation. We should strive to lower taxes and have fewer government restrictions and fewer government employees. Less government is better government. 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 and at-will employment.

- 12.4. We call for the reduction of the corporate tax rate to encourage business development and growth in Iowa.
- 12.5. We call for the repeal of all mandatory minimum wage laws.
- 12.6. The United States must strengthen and balance our international trade policies and ensure our presence and competitiveness in the world market.
- 12.7. We oppose non-union workers being forced to pay union fees.
- 12.8. We support regular audits of the Federal Reserve.
- 12.9. We support an act to prohibit tax breaks for companies that move jobs overseas.
- 12.10. We support policies that call for loan reform and address abuses in lending practices by payday lenders.
- 12.11. We oppose government ownership of private sector businesses and urge immediate divestment.
- 12.12. We support enacting a “member only” amendment to Iowa’s Right to Work law so that the Union Bosses are only able to negotiate for those individuals who choose to voluntarily join a labor union.

13. Energy and Transportation

We believe that 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 non-subsidized domestic renewable fuels.
- 13.3. We support exploration and drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the outer continental shelf.
- 13.4. We oppose the NAFTA Super-highway in its entirety.
- 13.5. We support the deregulation of the building and operation of oil refineries to encourage expansion to meet our needs.
- 13.6. We support improving the rail system to meet the increasing need to move products, materials and passengers at a more efficient cost. We oppose government subsidy of railroads.
- 13.7. We support reasonable deregulation and expansion of nuclear energy.
- 13.8. We support the continued use and expansion of coal as a source of energy.
- 13.9. We oppose caps on greenhouse gas emissions due to the lack of evidence proving any negative effect.
- 13.10. We call for the abolition of the Federal Department of Energy, returning control to the state and local governments as it was prior to the Carter administration.
- 13.11. We oppose any additional ethanol mandates for gasoline at either the state or federal level.

Approved by the Delegates of The Polk County Republican Convention
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