



2012 POLK COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

With 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 as a priority the Personhood Amendment (which recognizes that personhood begins at fertilization) while we continue to work toward reversing the unconstitutional court ruling of *Roe V. Wade*. In the interim, and as an effort to protect every life, we support these noble measures:
 - 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 late term abortions.
- 1.6. We support laws designed to protect health care professionals who, for moral or religious reasons, refuse to provide services such as abortion and birth control.
- 1.7. 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.
- 1.8. We believe euthanasia, assisted suicide and infanticide are murder



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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 the current Iowa code Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and strongly oppose the IA Supreme Court OPINION in the case of Varnum vs. Brien (2009) being taken as rule of law overriding the DOMA law currently on the books.
- 2.3. 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."
- 2.4. 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."
- 2.5. We support non-familial adoption only by heterosexual married couples consisting of one man and one woman, and believe that no law should infringe on faith-based adoptive service agencies who offer their services in accordance with their beliefs.
- 2.6. 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.
- 2.7. 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 regarding sexually explicit material especially on the internet.

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.



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- 3.5. We believe the biblical account of Creation is worthy of comparison with the theory of evolution and both should be presented to all government school students and the supporting scientific arguments should be presented to all.
- 3.6. We believe that current textbooks and teachers should clarify that evolution is only a theory and not scientific fact.
- 3.7. 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 birth control pills, morning after pills and condoms in public schools.
- 3.8. We oppose the teaching of sex education in any form, at any grade level, without prior written parental consent.
- 3.9. We support voluntary prayer in the schools and the use of the Bible as a textbook.
- 3.10. 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.
- 3.11. We propose abolishing No Child Left Behind and sending control of education back to the states.
- 3.12. 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.
- 3.13. 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.
- 3.14. We oppose compulsory preschool and any proposal to change the age at which children are required to attend school.
- 3.15. We oppose government control of school loans and any requirements for mandatory service to government for school loans.
- 3.16.** We support the teaching of the original American history in our school systems. This should not eliminate religious references as historically accurate. Students should be encouraged to read and study the original documents of our founding fathers in order to gain an understanding of the religious principles that were intrinsically part of our founding heritage.
- 3.17. We support the right of local school boards and parents to determine the duration of the school year.

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.



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- 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.
- 4.19. [Addendum to introduce and support legislation to nullify/remove abolish/ block / stop/ override the indefinite detainment provision of the NDAA in support of the constitution and civil rights to due process.](#)

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. Therefore:

- 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 support heavy monetary fines against employers and businesses which willfully hire illegal immigrants. We support criminal penalties for repeat offenders and willful non-compliance.
- 5.5. Illegal immigrants should be deported.
- 5.6. We support a transient worker visa program making it easier for people to work legally in the United States.
- 5.7. We support the mandatory use of an electronic verification system to confirm immigration status for employment.
- 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.



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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. Therefore:

- 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 support the current Iowa code Defense of Marriage Act and strongly oppose the Iowa Supreme court opinion in the case of Varnum vs. Brien (2009) being taken as rule of law overriding the DOMA law on the books.
- 6.8. We strongly believe in the natural right of individuals to keep and bear arms, as recognized and protected by the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and we support the repeal of existing laws that infringe upon those rights.
- 6.9. We support amending the Iowa Constitution to specifically recognize and protect the natural right of individual citizens to keep and bear arms.
- 6.10. We believe law-abiding adults in Iowa should be able to legally carry a weapon without government permission, but support retention of Iowa's Permit to Carry Weapons system on a voluntary basis, in order that Iowans may utilize that permit when traveling outside the state; we support the establishment of a national system for the recognition by all states of weapons permits issued by any state.
- 6.11. We support strengthening Iowa's law preempting firearms regulation to the state by the establishment of penalties and an enforcement mechanism, in order to prevent the creation of a patchwork of conflicting and illegal local restrictions of citizens' natural rights.
- 6.12. We support the addition of "stand your ground" and "castle doctrine" provisions to Iowa law, which would strengthen the legal protection of Iowans who find it necessary to use reasonable force to repel a violent attack.
- 6.13. 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.
- 6.14. We support the freedom of religious institutions to preach, teach and advocate according to their beliefs.
- 6.15. We support reinstating the death penalty in Iowa for capital offenses.
- 6.16. We support enforcement of existing federal, state and local obscenity and pornography laws.
- 6.17. We support strict penalties for sexual abuse.



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- 6.18. We believe that the voter registration practice known as “same day registration” invites a corruption of the voting process and should be prohibited.
- 6.19. We support the coordination and enforcement of laws by federal, state and local authorities to prosecute all hacking and /or cyber terrorism to the full extent of the law.
- 6.20. We support enforcement of existing federal, state and local obscenity and pornography laws.
- 6.21. We support strict penalties for sexual abuse.
- 6.22. We believe that the voter registration practice known as “same day registration” invites a corruption of the voting process and should be prohibited.
- 6.23. We support the coordination and enforcement of laws by federal, state and local authorities to prosecute all hacking and /or cyber terrorism to the full extent of the law.
- 6.24. We support strict enforcement of laws dealing with the human sex trafficking trade in all forms.
- 6.25. All voters must have a proper form of identification (name, photo, and expiration date) in order to vote.

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 support the implementation of waste and fraud elimination measures including Lean Six Sigma across all agencies of the Federal Government to save taxpayers \$500 billion a year and to eliminate the deficit by 2017.
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. 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.
- 7.4. 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 minimizing the use of paid outside consultants in government decision-making.
- 7.8. 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.
- 7.9. 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.
- 7.10. We support legislation that would protect all religious references in public buildings, lands and historical documents.
- 7.11. We support term limits for state and federal legislators.



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- 7.12. We believe elected officials are equals to their constituents and are deserving of no special treatment or exemptions.
- 7.13. We oppose the appointment of executive branch “czars.”
- 7.14. We support full transparency in all non-security related public policy decision-making.
- 7.15. We oppose the Fairness Doctrine that would infringe upon freedom of speech.
- 7.16. We oppose the plan known as the National Popular Vote Compact or any other proposal to manipulate the Electoral College for the purpose of creating a national presidential election through an interstate compact.
- 7.17. We call on our courts to interpret and apply the First Amendment as the Framers intended. We assert that the phrase, “the separation of church and state” as is commonly used, contradicts the original intent and practice of the Framers of the Constitution. The First Amendment prohibits the establishment of a “state religion” and permits the exercise of religious freedom. Neither the courts nor government agencies should misuse or misunderstand the First Amendment so as to create a barrier to the voluntary expression of religious belief. We advocate freedom of public prayer and religious expression for all.
- 7.18. We believe that the Department of Human Services (DHS) should not be allowed to enter a private home without due process.
- 7.19. We oppose the United Nations’ Agenda 21 plan, which is being implemented throughout the United States and which restricts or destroys the property rights of Americans under the guise of environmentalist initiatives such as Sustainable Development, Smart Growth, Wildlands Project, Resilient Cities, Regional Visioning Projects and others with similarly “Green” sounding names. United Nations Agenda 21 policy deems America’s national sovereignty a social injustice and Agenda 21 concludes “the only way to make the future sustainable is to reduce America’s living standards and transfer their wealth to developing nations”.
- 7.20. We recommend discontinuing payroll deductions for union dues for all state employees, including teachers, who are members of state employee labor unions.
- 7.21. We support the elimination of any state tax funding for public radio and television.

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. We support the ability of Iowans to fully deduct the amount they pay in federal income taxes on their Iowa Income Tax Return.
- 8.5. 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.



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- 8.6. We support the elimination of the unconstitutional earned-income tax credit. We support the elimination of all federal and state “death taxes.”
- 8.7. We strongly oppose “Cap and Trade” legislation that would tax industries, agriculture and the American people.
- 8.8. We support zero-based budgeting for all line items at State and Federal levels.
- 8.9. We call for the replacement of the current Social Security system with new private and voluntary retirement investment programs.
- 8.10. We support the review and adjustment of public sector employee compensation to bring it back in line with the private sector.
- 8.11. We oppose earmark spending.
- 8.12. We support a constitutional amendment for a balanced federal budget.
- 8.13. [We support and will actively pursue immediately a full and complete audit of the Federal Reserve, along with a release of the complete audit results to the American citizenry.](#)

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 the complete repeal of The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in total, and replacing it with a customer-based free market solution.
- 9.2. We support consumer-based / non-government solutions to our healthcare needs.
- 9.3. We support the replacement of Medicare and its prescription drug benefits with free-market solutions.
- 9.4. We believe all healthcare professionals, including pharmacists, must have the right of conscience.
- 9.5. We believe HIV/AIDS should be classified as a communicable disease, not a disability, and treated as such under current law.
- 9.6. We believe social problems are best handled by private groups or benevolent organizations, not by the government.
- 9.7. 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:



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- 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 management of deer and turkey including longer hunting 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 oppose entering into any international environmental treaties.
- 10.7. Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) maintains management and responsibilities for cropland which they cash-rent to producers. We therefore recommend that the IA DNR look for market-oriented opportunities to cash-rent these lands to organic farming producers.

11. AGRICULTURE

We believe this state should 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.
- 11.8. We oppose any governmental attempts to regulate the employment of family members as labor within a family agricultural business.

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.



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- 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 private 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 ethanol mandates for gasoline at either the state or federal level.
- 13.12. We believe that parents should have the right and responsibility to teach their own children drivers-ed, just as they have the right to teach them all other subjects.
- 13.13. We support the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.
- 13.14. We oppose using federal subsidies to develop natural gas as a transportation fuel and also oppose the granting of subsidies to pay for the manufacturing or conversion of natural gas fueled trucks.