

2014 Polk County Republican 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.

As United States citizens and Republicans, we reaffirm our founding documents, and the writings of philosophers who outlined the inalienable, natural rights to **Life, Liberty, and Property**. We believe that all citizens have fundamental rights of life, liberty, and property, so long as these rights do not directly interfere with the life, liberty, or property of any other person. 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 deviate from the original intent of said documents must be vigorously opposed. We believe that a properly limited Federal Government will be constrained to its constitutional roles of protecting **National Sovereignty** and facilitating **Interstate Commerce**. We also believe the proper relationship of the Federal Government and States will allow the **State and Local Governments** to maintain decision-making responsibilities for all other issues.

1. **LIFE**

We carry forward the knowledge of our forefathers and again declare that all people are created with equal value, and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. We acknowledge the fact that from conception a human being is an individual, distinct from his or her mother, with an inalienable right to life. Therefore, to unjustly take the life of another human - including the unborn, the disabled, the ill, or the elderly - goes against natural law. We assert a government that refuses to protect its most vulnerable citizens from those who seek to harm them fails its primary responsibility, and cannot retain the willingness of the people to submit to its governance.

2. **PERSONAL LIBERTY**

We believe that citizens have fundamental rights of personal liberty, as granted by God and recognized in the U.S. Constitution, so long as the exercise of these rights does not directly interfere with the life, liberty, or property of any other person, understanding these rights carry personal accountability. We recognize limited legitimate functions of federal and state governments to preserve individual personal liberty. We believe the people have the ability, dignity, and right to make their own decisions without encumbrance or undue interference from government. We recognize we have the right to be secure from direct harm, coercion, or violence with the right to defend ourselves from aggressive action using whatever means are prudent.

3. **PRIVATE PROPERTY**

We believe Property is the result of one's labor being mixed with their ingenuity, skills, and capital, or gifts and inheritance. We believe that a legitimate function of government is to protect the property and resources of one from being taken without their consent and given to another. Treating property as owned by the community, when no individual has offered it for that purpose is a fundamental devaluation of individual rights, forms unhealthy codependence, and discourages leadership and ingenuity. We believe that charity is by definition a private duty and is most efficiently achieved by the family, church, private sector, and local communities. Individuals and businesses alike should enjoy the "freedom to try, to buy, to sell, and to fail,"¹ without unnecessary taxes or regulation, with the right to defend and keep what we own. Consumers and the marketplace can affect change through purchasing choices and activism, and therefore legislation should be at most a last resort to solve problems found in society. In a free society, people bear both their fundamental rights and the responsibility to accept the consequences of their actions.

¹ Skousen, W. Cleon. *The 5,000 Year Leap*, National Center for Constitutional Studies; 7th edition (2007).

4. Facilitate Interstate and International Commerce

We believe true free market capitalism works; bringing new products, inventions, and increased prosperity to all levels of society. History has proven true capitalism superior to all forms of government-run and socialistic economies. We recognize limited, legitimate functions of our federal government, including regulating interstate and international commerce. We believe the federal government should encourage free market principles amongst our united states. We recognize the right of free, voluntary, and mutually beneficial exchange while asserting that government interference leads to corporatism, monopoly, special interest lobbying, and distortions of the economy. The Government need only outline a basic framework to enable and promote commerce. We believe Americans can and will recover from the failure of any company or industry, becoming stronger as a result, without government intervention. We believe unfettered fair trade is an essential part of equality between sovereign peoples, strengthens our international relations, and improves the quality of life for all parties involved.

5. National Sovereignty

We affirm the United States to be a free, independent, and sovereign nation, accountable only to God and her citizens. We charge our federal government to defend our national interests at home and abroad, against all enemies and all forms of attack. We believe national defense is a primary legitimate role of our federal government. Our nation must maintain a strong and effective military - one quick to respond to all threats against national interests and attacks on US soil, including our installations worldwide. We support a defensive military posture, peace through strength, dialogue with our adversaries, and free trade with all friendly nations. We vow to strengthen our national sovereignty by restoring our founders' original vision of a nation based on trade and friendship, by returning to the American people the authority to declare war through our representatives, and by avoiding all foreign entanglements that erode our national sovereignty. All aspects of our national defense must uphold our Constitution and the fundamental, inalienable rights of individual citizens.

6. State and Local Government

A government of the people, by the people, and for the people is best served within the people's communities. We charge our state and local governments to reclaim their roles and responsibilities as empowered by the Constitution and the 10th Amendment with its limit on federal powers. We believe it is the duty of the states to foster growth and productivity, allowing local governments to positively impact local life and well-being. Local communities must have the right to independently choose methods of education, public safety, infrastructure, and taxation; these choices are best made by the people of the community. Elected officials, schools, and public service agencies must be directly accountable to their constituents, not the federal government. Laws and policies enacted in a distant, centralized government generally do not efficiently adapt to local realities and become wasteful and oppressive.

For a fuller treatment of each section, please see the Addendum with traditional-style planks (1.2, etc).

ADDENDUM TO 2014 POLK COUNTY REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

1. LIFE

We carry forward the knowledge of our forefathers and again declare that all people are created with equal value, and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. We acknowledge the fact that from conception a human being is an individual, distinct from his or her mother, with an inalienable right to life. Therefore, to unjustly take the life of another human - including the unborn, the disabled, the ill, or the elderly - goes against natural law. We assert a government that refuses to protect its most vulnerable citizens from those who seek to harm them fails its primary responsibility, and cannot retain the willingness of the people to submit to its governance.

Therefore:

1.1. We believe that in order to properly protect the right to life of the vulnerable among us, every human being at every stage of development must be recognized as a person possessing the right to life in federal and state laws without exception and without compromise. Therefore while we continue to work towards ending abortion, we support these noble measures:

- A. We oppose using public revenues to fund abortions or organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, which advocate abortion.
- B. We commend private entities that provide alternatives to abortion by meeting the needs of mothers and offering adoption services.
- C. We support the Enactment of a Parent's Right to Know Law whereby performers of abortions must provide complete factual information to the pregnant woman and father about the physical, emotional, and psychological harm abortions bring to women, biological development of the unborn, fetal pain, and the availability of alternatives to abortion.
- D. We recognize that in cases where a mother's life is at risk, every effort should be made to save the baby's life as well, leaving the death of an innocent child as an unintended tragedy rather than an intentional killing.
- E. We oppose assisted suicide, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, and procedures that intentionally destroy human beings.

1.2. We affirm our support for amendments to the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Iowa that embody and promote our God-given right to life from conception to natural death.

2. PERSONAL LIBERTY

We believe that citizens have fundamental rights of personal liberty, as granted by God and recognized in the U.S. Constitution, so long as the exercise of these rights does not directly interfere with the life, liberty, or property of any other person, understanding these rights carry personal accountability. We recognize limited legitimate functions of federal and state governments to preserve individual personal liberty. We believe the people have the ability, dignity, and right to make their own decisions without encumbrance or undue interference from government. We recognize we have the right to be secure from direct harm, coercion, or violence with the right to defend ourselves from aggressive action using whatever means are prudent.

Therefore:

2.1. We support the complete repeal of The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") in total, and replacing it with a customer-based free market solution.

2.2. 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.

- 2.3. Traditional, marriage-based (one male and one female) families are intrinsically procreative and thereby essential to a stable, thriving, and lasting civilization.
- 2.4. We support amendments to the Iowa Constitution and the US 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”.
- 2.5. We strongly support non-familial adoption 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. We reaffirm our First Amendment rights of the free exercise of religion, including the freedom of religious institutions to preach, teach and advocate according to their beliefs; and including the right of conscience in all business dealings and professional duties.
- 2.7. We oppose any governmental attempts to regulate the employment of family members as labor within a family agricultural business.
- 2.8. We support a constitutional amendment to assert that the principle of *mens rea* (guilty mind) is imbedded in all laws and regulations of the United States, and furthermore that the principle of *mens rea* takes precedence over any countervailing language in any existing laws and retains a superior position to such language.
- 2.9. We believe in the spirit of the Sixth Amendment (the accused shall enjoy the right to be confronted with the witnesses against him). Therefore, we are opposed to traffic cameras (including red light and speed cameras) in a free society.
- 2.10. We strongly support our rights as protected by the Fifth and Seventh Amendments (to not be detained without charges, right to jury trial, etc), and insist on their complete application to our modern era.
- 2.11. We support reinstating the death penalty in Iowa for capital offenses.
- 2.12. We support Judicial Authority being limited to upholding the laws as implemented by the legislature, or referring unconstitutional legislation back to its respective legislative body.
- 2.13. We support ending the use of case law in the judicial system as a means to modernize or change the original intent of the law.

3. PRIVATE PROPERTY

We believe Property is the result of one's labor being mixed with their ingenuity, skills, and capital, or gifts and inheritance. We believe that a legitimate function of government is to protect the property and resources of one from being taken without their consent and given to another. Treating property as owned by the community, when no individual has offered it for that purpose is a fundamental devaluation of individual rights, forms unhealthy codependence, and discourages leadership and ingenuity. We believe that charity is by definition a private duty and is most efficiently achieved by the family, church, private sector, and local communities. Individuals and businesses alike should enjoy the “freedom to try, to buy, to sell, and to fail,²” without unnecessary taxes or regulation, with the right to defend and keep what we own. Consumers and the marketplace can affect change through purchasing choices and activism, and therefore legislation should be at most a last resort to solve problems found in society. In a free society, people bear both their fundamental rights and the responsibility to accept the consequences of their actions.

Therefore:

² Skousen, W. Cleon. *The 5,000 Year Leap*, National Center for Constitutional Studies; 7th edition (2007).

- 3.1. 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.
- 3.2. Eminent domain should be used solely for public use; therefore we support legislation preventing the seizure of private property for economic development purposes.
- 3.3. We support the elimination of all federal and state “death taxes.”
- 3.4. We believe animal husbandry decisions and production practices should be decided by individual farmers, not the state or federal government.
- 3.5. We support legislation requiring all new proposed regulations relating to public goods receive congressional authorization prior to their implementation.
- 3.6. We support the repeal of the Sixteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the implementation of a simpler and fairer tax system.
- 3.7. We reaffirm the critical importance of our Fourth Amendment rights and support legislation protecting these rights in our modern era.

4. Facilitate Interstate and International Commerce

We believe true free market capitalism works; bringing new products, inventions, and increased prosperity to all levels of society. History has proven true capitalism superior to all forms of government-run and socialistic economies. We recognize limited, legitimate functions of our federal government, including regulating interstate and international commerce. We believe the federal government should encourage free market principles amongst our united states. We recognize the right of free, voluntary, and mutually beneficial exchange while asserting that government interference leads to corporatism, monopoly, special interest lobbying, and distortions of the economy. The Government need only outline a basic framework to enable and promote commerce. We believe Americans can and will recover from the failure of any company or industry, becoming stronger as a result, without government intervention. We believe unfettered fair trade is an essential part of equality between sovereign peoples, strengthens our international relations, and improves the quality of life for all parties involved.

Therefore:

- 4.1. We call for the abolition of the Federal Department of Agriculture, returning control back to the state and local governments.
- 4.2. We support legal immigration and a streamlined process to obtain citizenship in the United States.
- 4.3. We oppose any taxes or regulations related to greenhouse gas emissions or climate change.
- 4.4. We support and will actively pursue immediately a full and complete independent audit of the Federal Reserve, along with a release of the complete audit results to the American citizenry.
- 4.5. We support a return to the monetary provisions set forth in the Constitution and a market-based, fiscally sound banking system free of federal regulation and involvement.

5. National Sovereignty

We affirm the United States to be a free, independent, and sovereign nation, accountable only to God and her citizens. We charge our federal government to defend our national interests at home and abroad, against all enemies and all forms of attack. We believe national defense is a primary legitimate role of our federal government. Our nation must maintain a strong and

effective military - one quick to respond to all threats against national interests and attacks on US soil, including our installations worldwide. We support a defensive military posture, peace through strength, dialogue with our adversaries, and free trade with all friendly nations. We vow to strengthen our national sovereignty by restoring our founders' original vision of a nation based on trade and friendship, by returning to the American people the authority to declare war through our representatives, and by avoiding all foreign entanglements that erode our national sovereignty. All aspects of our national defense must uphold our Constitution and the fundamental, inalienable rights of individual citizens.

Therefore:

- 5.1. We support federal responsibility for advocacy, timely financial and medical support for veterans and all the affairs related to honoring their service and commitment to our nation
- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. All measures towards national defense must uphold the fundamental inalienable rights of individual citizens of the United States
- 5.4. 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.
- 5.5. We support the goal of energy independence within the United States.
- 5.6. The United States should not enter into any treaty or international body that limits the sovereignty of the nation or inalienable rights of individual citizens of the United States or conflicts with current United States law.
- 5.7. Immigration should be considered a national sovereignty issue.
- 5.8. National defense should include traditional concerns such as enemy military forces and border security, and also modern ones, such as cyber and electric grid security.
- 5.9. We support the withdrawal of foreign aid from any country that supports our enemies or is recognized as an enemy of the United States.
- 5.10. We support enforcement of the War Powers Act and oppose long term military commitments beyond 90 days without a Constitutional declaration of war.
- 5.11. We urge continued economic and military support for our ally, Israel.

6. State and Local Government

A government of the people, by the people, and for the people is best served within the people's communities. We charge our state and local governments to reclaim their roles and responsibilities as empowered by the Constitution and the 10th Amendment with its limit on federal powers. We believe it is the duty of the states to foster growth and productivity, allowing local governments to positively impact local life and well-being. Local communities must have the right to independently choose methods of education, public safety, infrastructure, and taxation; these choices are best made by the people of the community. Elected officials, schools, and public service agencies must be directly accountable to their constituents, not the federal government. Laws and policies enacted in a distant, centralized government generally do not efficiently adapt to local realities and become wasteful and oppressive.

Therefore:

- 6.1. We support the implementation of waste and fraud elimination measures across all agencies of the Government.

- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. We support the ability of Iowans to fully deduct the amount they pay in federal income taxes on their Iowa Income Tax Return.
- 6.4. We support local control of land use and zoning.
- 6.5. Public policy must always be pro-family, encouraging traditional marital and family commitment, while also supporting parental rights and responsibilities.
- 6.6. We support the repeal of the 17th Amendment (regarding direct election of Senators) to the Constitution of the United States, which will return States to their rightful relationship with the federal government.
- 6.7. We support the enactment of legislation in Iowa that prohibits collective bargaining of wages and benefits on behalf of public sector employees.
- 6.8. Education and curriculum decisions should be left up to the parents/guardians and school boards
- 6.9. We support the repeal of the current Iowa corporate tax and personal income tax code, and replace them with either a personal flat or consumption tax.
- 6.10. We support a voter ID requirement to ensure fair and valid elections.
- 6.11. To ensure maximum voter participation Iowa should require school districts and municipalities to hold their regular elections and bonding votes at the November General Election.
- 6.12. We believe that current textbooks and teachers should clarify that evolution of species as the origin of man is not scientific fact. We support local school districts' decisions to teach intelligent design.
- 6.13. The Iowa Legislature should pass law(s) prohibiting the collection of intrusive non-academic data collection to protect students and parents from a growingly intrusive reach into sensitive and personal information. (Any non-academic information necessary for participation in an assistance program may be voluntarily submitted upon application by parents.) The Iowa Legislature should pass law(s) prohibiting the transfer, selling, and sharing of student level academic data with the federal government or any 3rd party outside the state's department of education.
- 6.14. 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, The Tomorrow Plan, 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."

Addendum – Platform Planks Adopted by Junior Delegates to the 2014 Polk County Republican Convention

5.12 We support the removal of unnecessary troops in peaceful countries.

6.15 We believe that current textbooks and teachers should clarify that evolution of species as the origin of man isn't scientific fact. We support local school districts' decision to teach intelligent design and multiple views on religion.

6.16 We support the cutback of Federal and State welfare and support community based welfare.

6.17 We support the repeal of the Healthy Kids Act.