

2016 POLK COUNTY REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

As ratified by the Republican Party of Polk County - County Convention Delegates on April, 9, 2016

**Rodney Williamson, Platform Committee Chairman; Nicole Crain, Platform Committee Co-Chairman;
Scott Hedderich, Platform Committee Secretary**

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, Property and the pursuit of happiness. We support an originalist interpretation of the Constitution and believe the language in the United States Constitution and Declaration of Independence is as relevant today as when it was penned. 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 that all people are created equal, 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 take the life of another innocent 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 government exists to serve the people and that people should not be subservient to the government. Citizens have fundamental rights of personal liberty, as granted by God and recognized in the U.S. Constitution. These rights carry personal accountability and should not directly interfere with the life, liberty, or property of any other person. We believe the people have the freedom and responsibility 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.

3. PRIVATE PROPERTY

We believe property is the result of one's labor, ingenuity, skills, and capital. Property rights include the right to transfer property by gift, inheritance or otherwise without encumbrance of taxes. We believe that a function of government is to protect the property and resources of one from being taken without their consent and given to another. We reject the abuse of eminent domain.

4. FACILITATE INTERSTATE AND INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE

We believe a free market economy works; bringing new products, inventions, and increased prosperity to all levels of society. 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. We recognize limited functions of our federal government, including regulating interstate and international commerce without picking winners and losers. Government interference

leads to unintended consequences such as: corporatism, monopoly, special interest lobbying, and distortions of the economy.

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 or invasion. We believe national defense is a primary role of our federal government. Our nation must maintain a strong and effective military. We support a defensive military posture, peace through strength, and dialogue with our adversaries. We vow to strengthen our sovereignty 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

We believe that the people of our state and nation are best served when decisions are made at the local level. We charge our state and local governments to reclaim their purpose as empowered by the Constitution and the 10th Amendment. We believe that the Federal Government should be limited and the states' role is to foster growth, prosperity and well-being of its citizens. State and local governments have the right to independently make decisions that are best for its citizenry regarding education, public safety, infrastructure, taxation and all other issues reserved to the states. Our elected officials and government agencies shall be accountable to its constituency and not the Federal Government.

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

ADDENDUM TO 2016 POLK COUNTY REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

1. LIFE

We carry forward the knowledge of our forefathers that all people are created equal, 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 take the life of another innocent 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 life 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 measures:

- A. We oppose using public revenues to fund abortions or organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, which advocate abortion.
- B. We support scientific inquiry focused on non-embryonic stem cell research
- C. We commend private entities that provide alternatives to abortion by meeting the needs of mothers and offering adoption services.
- D. We support the Enactment of a Parent's Right to Know Law whereby providers 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.
- E. 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.
- F. We oppose the non-consensual withholding or withdrawal of care or treatment, which includes food and water, from all people including newborns, by the government or a health care institution-
- G. We oppose assisted suicide, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, and procedures that intentionally destroy innocent human beings; including such procedures as partial birth abortion and/or the use of any "morning after pill."
- H. We support enactment of legislation by the Iowa legislature prohibiting the sale or gift of any and all aborted babies or any part thereof including organs, limbs, or tissues by Planned Parenthood or any other entity

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.

1.3 We support legislation to make clear the 14th amendment's protections (of due process and equal protection) apply to unborn children.

2. PERSONAL LIBERTY

We believe that citizens have fundamental rights of personal liberty, as granted by God and recognized in the U.S. Constitution. These rights carry personal accountability and should not directly interfere with the life, liberty, or property of any other person. We believe the people have the freedom and responsibility 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.

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, carry 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 We support amending the Iowa Constitution for the inclusion of an individual’s right to keep, carry and bear arms.

2.4. Traditional, marriage-based (one male and one female) families are intrinsically procreative and thereby essential to a stable, thriving, and lasting civilization.

2.5. 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”.

2.6. We believe that no law should infringe on faith-based adoptive service agencies who offer their services in accordance with their beliefs.

2.7. 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.

2.8 We support the enactment of a state version of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

2.9 We support tax exempt status for places of worship that discuss public policy from the pulpit.

2.10. We oppose any governmental attempts to regulate the employment of family members as labor within a family agricultural business.

2.11. 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.

2.12. 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.

2.13. 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.

2.14. We support reinstating the death penalty in Iowa for capital offenses.

2.15. 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.

2.16. 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.

2.17 We support the reclassification of cannabis oil for medicinal use.

2.18. We support an individual's right to refuse vaccinations for themselves and for their children.

2.19. We oppose the expansion of legalized gambling.

2.20 We support entitlement reform including mandatory drug testing for welfare recipients.

2.21 We support efforts to limit access to pornography for minors. We support placing severe consequences on internet companies who violate obscenity laws.

3. PRIVATE PROPERTY

We believe property is the result of one's labor, ingenuity, skills, and capital. Property rights include the right to transfer property by gift, inheritance or otherwise without encumbrance of taxes. We believe that a function of government is to protect the property and resources of one from being taken without their consent and given to another. We reject the abuse of eminent domain.

Therefore:

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" and the continuation of the stepped-up basis on inherited property

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 to receive congressional authorization prior to their implementation.

3.6. We support the repeal of the Sixteenth Amendment to the United States.

3.7 We reaffirm the critical importance of our Fourth Amendment rights and support legislation protecting these rights in our modern era.

3.8 We support requiring that before property can be seized by the state through a forfeiture action that the state must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that property was obtained through or as a direct result of criminal activity on the part of the owner of said property.

3.9 The government should create a tax environment conducive to businesses maintaining their headquarter operations in the United States

3.10 We support a balanced budget amendment.

3.11 We support the return to regular order by requiring congress to consider all twelve budget bills separately, rather than in omnibus form.

3.12 We support amending the Iowa Constitution to require a 2/3 vote of both Houses of the Iowa General Assembly to pass any bill that raises individual or corporate income tax or sales tax rates.

4. FACILITATE INTERSTATE AND INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE

We believe a free market economy works; bringing new products, inventions, and increased prosperity to all levels of society. 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. We recognize limited functions of our federal government, including regulating interstate and international commerce without picking winners and losers. Government interference leads to unintended consequences such as: corporatism, monopoly, special interest lobbying, and distortions of the economy.

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 oppose any taxes or regulations related to greenhouse gas emissions or climate change.

4.3. 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.

4.4. 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.

4.5 We support reform of the social security system to make it solvent.

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 or invasion. We believe national defense is a primary role of our federal government. Our nation must maintain a strong and effective military. We support a defensive military posture, peace through strength, and dialogue with our adversaries. We vow to strengthen our sovereignty 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 encourage the Veterans Administration to improve the services to all veterans including the use of private medical facilities.

5.3. We must maintain a strong military in both the active and reserve in all branches of our military and provide them with the best and most updated equipment.

5.4 We support the termination of the nuclear deal with Iran.

5.5. All measures towards national defense must uphold the fundamental inalienable rights of individual citizens of the United States

5.6. 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.

5.7. We support the goal of energy independence by reducing dependence on foreign sources of energy, increasing the development of alternative energy, and pursuing all sources of energy within the United States.

5.8 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.

5.9. National defense should include traditional concerns such as enemy military forces and border security, and also modern ones, such as terrorism, cyber security, and electric grid security.

5.10. We support the withdrawal of foreign aid from any country that supports our enemies or is recognized as an enemy of the United States.

5.11. We support enforcement of the War Powers Act and oppose long term military commitments beyond 90 days without a Constitutional declaration of war.

5.12. We urge continued economic, military, and political support for our ally, Israel.

5.13 We support the 4th amendment protections against unreasonable search and seizure by governmental agencies against U.S. citizens.

5.14 We support securing the borders of the United States, the vigorous enforcement of current immigration laws, increased screening of immigrant applicants-including refugees, and the immediate deportation of illegal aliens who are convicted felons.

5.15 We support providing resources to employers to eliminate or deter the hiring of illegal aliens and support increasing the fines on business who hire illegal aliens.

5.16 We support the end of any and all funding for government entities that do not comply with or enforce federal immigration laws.

5.17 We support English as the official language for the United States and the state of Iowa.

5.18 We support cities not being controlled by foreign cities (Institute for Strategic Dialogue) as endorsed by the United Nations "Strong Cities Network"

5.19 A strong cities network (Institute for Strategic Dialogue) requires police action against violent extremists. In the United States the United Nations police should have no authority outside of the United Nations building. We support an amendment to the Constitution that says United Nations or any external entity police who do not follow the United States constitution and laws have no authority in the United States.

5.20 We support defunding the United Nations.

5.21 We demand that Congress and all other legislative bodies be subject to the laws they pass.

5.22 We support enactment of laws like Erik Jorgensen's Law, which provide law enforcement and our courts with additional training and support for preventing veteran suicide.

6. STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We believe that the people of our state and nation are best served when decisions are made at the local level. We charge our state and local governments to reclaim their purpose as empowered by the Constitution and the 10th Amendment. We believe that the Federal Government should be limited and the states' role is to foster growth, prosperity and well-being of its citizens. State and local governments have the right to independently make decisions that are best for its citizenry regarding education, public safety, infrastructure, taxation and all other issues reserved to the states. Our elected officials and government agencies shall be accountable to its constituency and not the Federal Government.

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. We support public policy that is pro-family, encouraging traditional marital and family commitment, while also supporting parental rights and responsibilities.

- 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. 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.
- 6.9. We support a voter ID requirement that proves citizenship to ensure fair and valid elections.
- 6.10. To ensure maximum voter participation Iowa should require school districts and municipalities to hold their regular elections and bonding votes at a combined election in November of odd number years.
- 6.11. 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.
- 6.12. 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.
- 6.13. 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."
- 6.14. We support legislation to restore the authority of states in environmental protection as being essential.
- 6.15. All bills should be "clean" bills, nothing added that does not pertain to the subject of the bill.
- 6.16. We support implementation and funding of a children's mental health system.
- 6.17. We support public/private programs which train individuals in the technical and skilled trades.
- 6.18. We believe that parents are responsible for their children, and we support the rights of parents to be the ultimate authority for the discipline, protection, and education of their children. We oppose the recognition of the United Nations Convention on "The Rights of the Child".
- 6.19. We support the idea of choice and competition through educational vouchers and/or tuition tax credits to assist parents as they exercise their right of choosing public or private educational programs for children.
- 6.20. We support returning Iowa to its place as first in the nation in education where schools are controlled locally by parents, teachers, School Boards, and state. This would include eliminating Common Core, No Child Left Behind, and similar "one size fits all" systems.

- 6.21 We support the private collection of all public employee union association dues and eliminating payroll deductions.
- 6.22 We support the elimination of the federal Department of Education and significantly narrowing the scope of authority of the Environmental Protection Agency.
- 6.23 We encourage and support the state's right to refuse to accept or comply with any Federal mandate not derived from the legislative process as described in the U.S. Constitution.
- 6.24 We support the state's refusal to accept Federal funds in any instance where it is perceived the Federal government is using extortion-like practices in an effort to manipulate compliance.
- 6.25 We support the government defunding of Iowa Public Television and Iowa Public Radio.
- 6.26 We support keeping securities companies separate from investment and commercial banks.