

Platform for Polk County

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

Preamble

As Republicans we continue to uphold the principles of individual responsibility, 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 *Right to Life*

We believe that life is a sacred gift from the Creator, and is a fundamental right as outlined by the Declaration of Independence. Therefore;

- 1.1 The unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. We therefore reaffirm our support for a human rights amendment to the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Iowa, and we endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children.
- 1.2 We oppose using public revenues for abortion or funding organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, which advocate it. We commend those who provide alternatives to abortion by meeting the needs of mothers and offering adoption services.
- 1.3 We reaffirm our support for appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of life.
- 1.4 We support legislation requiring parental consent before a minor child receives an abortion or any other reproductive services and products.
- 1.5 We support a Woman's Right to Know law whereby performers of abortion must provide complete factual information to the pregnant woman about the complications of abortion, the biological development of the unborn, fetal pain, and the availability of alternatives to abortion.
- 1.6 We strongly oppose the use of embryos in medical research and encourage the use of more stable adult stem cells to advance modern medical research.

2 *Family Values*

We believe that the basis of our laws and our founding documents are rooted in Judeo-Christian values. We believe every human being should have the civil right to life regardless of age or degree of dependency including human beings from conception. We believe the family is the cornerstone of society; a traditional two parent family of one man and one woman is the best environment to raise children. Therefore;

- 2.1 We believe that traditional, two-parent (one male and one female), marriage-based families are foundational to a stable, enduring and healthy civilization. Therefore, public policy must always be pro-family in nature, encouraging marital and family commitment, and supportive of parental rights and responsibilities.
- 2.2 We support the federal amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will define marriage as a union of one man and one woman.
- 2.3 We support the amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa that states "Only marriage between a man and a woman shall be valid or recognized in the State of Iowa. The State of Iowa and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals."
- 2.4 We support adoption only by heterosexual married couples consisting of one man and one woman.
- 2.5 We urge our congressional delegation and our senators to support H.R. 235 which will once and for all lift the muzzle from America's clergy and remove the ban on speech that may be regarded as "political" and thereby enable them to speak out on all cultural, moral and political issues of the day.
- 2.6 We support the free expression of religious belief in all public areas.
- 2.7 We believe that no further expansion of gambling should be allowed in Iowa. Furthermore, we advocate the banning of TOUCH PLAY machines in the state to include the removal of all existing machines.

3 Education

We affirm that parents, not the government, are fully in charge of their children's education. 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. Parents should also be allowed to educate their children from a strong moral perspective. We do not believe that more money insures better education. We believe that some sort of reimbursement is due families who choose non-government education since they pay taxes as well as tuition. Therefore;

- 3.1 We support school vouchers and/or tax credits that are provided without religious discrimination which assist parents financially in educating their children using the option best suited to their family's educational needs.
- 3.2 We believe the displaying of the Ten Commandments, the American Flag and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance should be encouraged.
- 3.3 We support voluntary teacher or student led prayer in government schools. The use of the Bible as a textbook should be allowed as a local option.
- 3.4 We believe that the local choice to teach creation science or intelligent design science should be allowed in government schools rather than teaching evolution as the only viable theory.
- 3.5 We believe that educators should stress abstinence outside of marriage as the surest way to prevent pregnancy, the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, and associated psychological problems. We also oppose the distribution of condoms in tax-funded schools.
- 3.6 We oppose the teaching of sex education in any form, at any grade level without written parental consent.

4 National Defense / Foreign Policy

We believe in our Party's long-standing commitment to a strong National Defense, and support the President's use of military force in seeking out and ridding the world of terrorists - wherever they hide, until the job is finished. We believe our Foreign and Domestic Policy must, by design, be based upon our own strategic national interests and must always jealously guard our Nation's Sovereignty. Therefore;

- 4.1 We support withholding of dues to the United Nations as a means of insuring fiscal integrity.
- 4.2 American participation in the United Nations, or any other international body, must never sacrifice the constitutional sovereignty of the United States.
- 4.3 We support the mission of the troops in Iraq and full prosecution of the war until our goals are achieved.
- 4.4 We Support the President of the United States in his international effort to stop terrorists and terrorism by all necessary and legal means.
- 4.5 We urge continued economic and military support for Israel, our strong ally.
- 4.6 We support the Second Amendment; recognizing a responsible, competent citizen's right to self-defense through gun ownership.
- 4.7 We call for continued research and deployment of a strategic missile defense system.

5 Homeland Security and 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 and vigorous enforcement of immigration law is essential to securing our homeland.

- 5.1 We support stronger enforcement of our immigration laws.
- 5.2 We believe that one of the government's primary roles is to maintain an adequate force to secure the borders of the United States.
- 5.3 We fully support President Bush in the war on terror.
- 5.4 We fully support our troops and their families with heartfelt prayers as they are fighting for our freedom.
- 5.5 We believe in a strong national defense.
- 5.6 We believe United States soil should not be under the control of the United Nations.
- 5.7 We oppose welfare support for illegal aliens and their dependents.

- 5.8 We support and encourage the imposition of severe penalties on individuals and industries that are found employing illegal aliens.

6 Law and Justice

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

- 6.1 We support reinstating the death penalty in Iowa for capital offenses.
- 6.2 Eminent domain should be used solely for public use; therefore we support legislation preventing the seizure of private property for economic development purposes.
- 6.3 We strongly believe in the Second Amendment which guarantees us the right to keep and bear arms without government intervention.
- 6.4 We believe that pornography is not included under the protections of the First Amendment. We strongly support the enforcement of existing Federal obscenity and pornography laws, including requiring libraries to place Internet filters on computers that are accessible to the public.
- 6.5 We support repealing Governor Vilsack's executive order allowing felons to vote without due process.
- 6.6 Taxpayer funds should not be used to compensate the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).
- 6.7 We support stricter laws, like Megan's Law, for all types of child molestation and abuse with mandatory minimum sentences for convicted sex offenders, and repeat offenders should not be given parole.

7 Government

Republicans believe that limited government is the best government and is the best path to prosperity for all Iowans. We respect our American heritage and believe that government's role is to provide a friendly environment for both businesses and labor. Therefore;

- 7.1 We support returning government functions from the federal level to the state and local governments wherever possible, consistent with the intent of the Constitution.
- 7.2 We support equal access for non-union and union contractors to government and school district projects, without mandating that contractors sign project labor agreements.
- 7.3 We support maintaining the principle of voluntary donors, not tax dollars, to fund the business of sports, entertainment and the arts.
- 7.4 We continue to support 'English as the official language' in Iowa.
- 7.5 Reforming campaign finance laws so as to uphold all Americans' right to free speech by allowing American citizens to donate their time or money to political campaigns without limitation; requiring immediate and full disclosure of all sources of campaign funding.
- 7.6 We support building new prisons, as necessary to protect the public from violent criminals.
- 7.7 We oppose the enactment of "hate crime" legislation.
- 7.8 We support proof of citizenship and residency as requirements for voter registration.
- 7.9 We believe voters should be required to present a valid picture ID before voting.
- 7.10 Limit attorneys' fees in class action lawsuits and other cases where plaintiffs receive insignificant damages, so that fees are not disproportionate to any recovery obtained in the litigation.
- 7.11 We support the President's judicial nominees and want the Senate to take action allowing each nominee a confirmation vote.
- 7.12 We support the right of employees to organize, and to not have dues used to support political candidates, and requiring unions to receive written permission from their members before collecting funds for political purposes.
- 7.13 We support the Second Amendment; recognizing a responsible, competent citizen's right to self-defense through gun ownership including the right to carry a concealed weapon.
- 7.14 We support a strong commitment to science and technology development regarding space exploration.

8 Taxes and Spending

We believe that less government is better government. We support every reasonable effort on the part of all governments and taxpayers to limit taxing and spending. We believe that the purpose of taxation is to fund the constitutionally mandated functions of government, not to “redistribute the wealth”, or to fund ever increasing social programs. We believe the social problems are better handled by private groups or benevolent organizations, and not by the government. We should strive to have less government restrictions, fewer government employees and lower taxes. Therefore;

- 8.1 We support a balanced budget achieved by responsible spending rather than tax increases that place an undue burden on families.
- 8.2 We support discounting Iowa income taxes at 1% of EARNED income, with interest, dividends, pensions, Social Security being tax-free, or the ability to file on the basis of their current deductions.
- 8.3 We believe local governments should reduce their reliance upon property taxes as a revenue source.
- 8.4 We oppose any tax increase on beer and cigarettes.
- 8.5 We support allowing younger workers to save for the future and build their net worth by investing a portion of their Social Security payments, while fulfilling our obligations to older Americans, and prohibiting Congress from using Social Security funds for any other use.

9 Health and Human Services

Quality, affordable healthcare is of concern to of all Americans. In an age of advanced medical technology, individuals need to prepare for health care expenses. Services such as healthcare do not come without a cost. Providers of service and providers of goods are entitled to compensation for their products. For those citizens that cannot afford private health insurance, emergency lifesaving care should be available. Government healthcare programs must have sufficient oversight to prevent misuse of public funds. Therefore;

- 9.1 Require reporting of AIDS carriers and felony prosecution of any AIDS carrier who willfully or knowingly exposes another person.
- 9.2 We Support a mandate for reporting of AIDS by health-care professionals.
- 9.3 We believe that private companies should not be forced by law to sell the ‘morning after pill’ or contraceptives against their own guiding principles.
- 9.4 We believe the vaccination of children, and medical decisions are best left to the parents without government coercion.
- 9.5 We support all health care practitioners and morticians to have knowledge of patients AIDS/HIV status prior to providing services via a HIPPA compliant database.
- 9.6 We believe AIDS should be classified as a communicable disease and followed epidemiologically as any other STD.

10 Natural Resources / Environment

We believe that environmental policies should reflect sensitivity to sound ecological practices, unbiased scientific standards, risk analysis, national sovereignty, private property rights, common sense, and a realistic view of economic impact. We encourage recycling and other methods of reducing waste volume. Therefore;

- 10.1 We oppose attempts to eliminate hunting and trapping of wild game.
- 10.2 Resolved, the government shall encourage strong soil, water, and wildlife conservation practices.
- 10.3 Due to overpopulation of deer and turkey and the damage they do, their number should be reduced by longer seasons, encouragement of out-of-state hunters, and doe-only hunting.
- 10.4 We believe that the Department of Natural Resources should stop the placement of cougars, bobcats, wolves, bears, porcupines and other dangerous animals in state parks and timbered, private property, and to remove such animals when they are found.
- 10.5 We support lengthening the deer season and allowing landowners to harvest deer on their own land between October first and March first.
- 10.6 We should maintain an environmental policy that protects the rights of humans before other species. We deplore extremist scare tactics not based on sound scientific evidence.
- 10.7 We support continued research in energy technology such as fuel cell cars.

- 10.8 We oppose confiscation of private property for environmental protection purposes, and oppose granting the Department of Natural Resources the power of eminent domain.

11 Business and Economic Development

We believe that a welcoming business climate is critical to our states economic prosperity and the development of our natural and human resources. The key to that prosperity is an adequate return on an individual's labor, talent, capital and risks. We believe that excessive regulation, business fees and taxes diminish that return. Therefore;

- 11.1 We believe that the focus of OSHA should be working with, not against, business.
- 11.2 We believe the market place, not the government, should set the minimum wage.
- 11.3 We support Iowa's right to work Law and the passage of a National Right to Work Law.
- 11.4 We support developing a better business climate in Iowa through lowering taxes, reducing regulations and revising Workman's Compensation laws.
- 11.5 We believe that landlords should have the same rights as other business owners. Non-payment of rents should be considered a 'theft of service'.
- 11.6 We support a landlord's right to refuse leasing property based on moral grounds of individuals not covered by the Iowa Civil Rights Act.

12 Agriculture

We believe agriculture is the basis of a secure and stable nation by providing a consistent food supply. We encourage continued support and use of bio-fuels and support the continuation of environmentally friendly initiatives that help sustain family farming operations. Therefore;

- 12.1 We support long-range agricultural policies that foster agricultural development through use of the free market system on a worldwide basis.
- 12.2 We believe agriculture is the basis of a secure and stable nation by providing a consistent food supply.
- 12.3 We encourage continued support and use of bio-fuels and support the continuation of environmentally friendly initiatives that help sustain family farming operations.
- 12.4 We support farm programs that allow individual farmers to raise a crop and sell it at a sufficient profit to eliminate the need for government subsidies.
- 12.5 We support using agriculture to reduce the trade deficit.
- 12.6 We support local control of zoning of agricultural operations.

13 Energy and Transportation

We believe the availability of adequate supply of energy is essential to the economic strength of the U.S. We believe access to an adequate transportation infrastructure is necessary for a market economy to succeed and for national security to be served. Therefore;

- 13.1 We support the continuation of the Ethanol and Bio-Diesel tax credits to provide a support price for corn and a decreased dependence on foreign fuel sources.
- 13.2 We urge all taxes related to transportation be used for the sole purpose of maintaining and building the transportation infrastructure.
- 13.3 We call for an overhaul of the current Federal system regulating the siting and building of new power plants.
- 13.4 We further support reducing our dependency on foreign oil by increasing use of domestic resources.
- 13.5 We encourage the government to provide incentives for alternative energy usage and research.
- 13.6 We support the marketing and consumption of E85, bio-diesel, and other renewable fuels, but oppose an ethanol mandate.