

# **Platform of the Snohomish County Republican Party Adopted April 15, 2012**

## **Preamble**

“We hold these Truths to be self evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness -That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed.”

–Declaration of Independence

The Snohomish County Republican Party reaffirms the words of our founding fathers that we are one nation under God, dedicated to preserving the integrity of the principles in the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution.

Republicans believe good government is based on individual rights; each person’s ability, dignity, freedom, and responsibility must be honored and recognized. The role of the traditional family as the basic unit of our community must be respected and nurtured. We believe free enterprise, private property rights, and encouragement of individual incentive are fundamental to our free society.

## **Purpose**

This platform is a statement of the goals and purposes of the Snohomish County Republican Party; it is an action plan on policy matters. These are the principles that define the proper role of government, the limits to its reach to protect our freedom, while addressing current issues.

We dedicate time, talent and efforts to electing those candidates who represent these principles and commit to implementing them into public policy.

## **SECTION 1: LIBERTY, LAW AND JUSTICE**

The priority of government is to protect the individual rights of its citizens. We believe the government must act within its constitutional authority to protect our liberties. It is the responsibility of our lawmakers to enact only minimal regulations that are necessary to serve and protect the rights of the citizens.

1. An individual’s unalienable rights, as defined by the U.S. and Washington State Constitutions, are supreme to the work of the legislature and judiciary.
2. All constitutional laws should be enforced.
3. The individual’s right to self-defense, including the right to keep and bear arms under the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, must be affirmed and upheld, and shall not be infringed. We support reciprocity between all states for holders of state issued concealed carry permits.
4. Justices must determine the constitutionality of our laws based on the original intent and must not legislate from the bench.

5. The US constitution is the supreme law of the land. We reject any treaty or judicial reference to international law that infringes upon US sovereignty or any individual liberty specified in the constitution or bill of rights.
6. A registered voter must meet established eligibility standards and show proof of U.S. citizenship.

## **SECTION 2: TAXES AND SPENDING**

Elected officials have a responsibility to control taxation and eliminate wasteful and inappropriate government spending. Spending must be aligned with priorities of government, as defined by the state and federal constitutions.

1. We support cutting the Federal budget, capping spending to a percentage of GDP and adding a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.
2. Tax dollars should not be used to fund non-governmental entities such as NPR and Planned Parenthood.
3. We support requiring a 2/3 majority of the Washington State legislature to vote for any tax increase
4. We oppose a state income tax.
5. The federal income tax should be broader, flatter and simpler.
6. We support state tax and spending limitations.
7. We support openness and transparency in governmental and fiscal decision making, including third party audits to assure tax dollars are being spent appropriately.

## **SECTION 3: Monetary policy**

Fiscal responsibility is essential to uphold the basic principles established in the United States Constitution and is necessary to protect the sovereignty of the United States.

1. We support a monetary system which is controlled by the Congress of the United States of America. We do not support an international or regional monetary system.
2. We support thorough and independent audits of the Federal Reserve.

## **SECTION 4: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

Economic opportunity is the best way to ensure a business friendly environment.

1. We support the reduction of excessive taxation and regulation on business and individuals.
2. We support free market solutions to promote economic growth and prosperity.
3. We recognize the right to organize into private sector unions and to do so by secret ballot.
4. We support the rights of union members to determine the allocation and use of their dues.

## **SECTION 5: FAMILY AND MARRIAGE**

A strong and loving family is the safest and most nurturing environment for the upbringing, care, and moral training of children. It provides a foundation for a healthy community and a strong nation.

1. Marriage is defined as the legal union between one man and one woman. We support an amendment stating such to the U.S. Constitution.
2. We oppose any legislation that redefines marriage in Washington State.

## **SECTION 6: LIFE**

Life is an unalienable right, which shall not be infringed. Public funding should not be used to fund any act which violates the right to life.

1. Life begins at conception.
2. We oppose abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide.
3. We support medical research that does not exploit or destroy life for the benefit of others through practices such as human cloning and embryonic stem cell research.

## **SECTION 7: HEALTH**

America has the best health care system in the world. To sustain it and grow access to medical care:

1. We oppose government run and mandated health care. We believe the health care plan passed by the Obama administration is unconstitutional and must be completely repealed.
2. We support free market principles and to allow people to purchase health insurance across state lines.
3. We support cost control through tort reform.
4. We support the right of employers, employees, and medical providers to define their benefits package without government intrusion.
5. We support the rights of physicians, pharmacists and all health care workers to refuse to perform or participate in medical procedures, prescribe drugs, or supply drugs based on their moral, philosophical or religious beliefs.
6. We support parental consent for minors who seek medical procedures, treatments, or pharmaceuticals. Parents have a right to access all health care information about their minor children.

## **SECTION 8: BORDERS AND IMMIGRATION**

The U. S. Constitution's core priorities of national sovereignty and domestic tranquility rest on impermeable international borders, upheld by justice predicated on enforced regulation of immigration. Without strong borders and enforced immigration regulation, there can be no national sovereignty, domestic tranquility or ability to "secure the Blessings of liberty to ourselves and our Posterity". The federal and state governments are responsible for:

1. Securing our international borders and coastlines
2. Enforcing existing immigration laws.
3. Sanctioning employers who hire illegal immigrants.
4. Reinforcing the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, disallowing "birth-right citizenship".
5. Ending all entitlement access to illegal immigrants.
6. Making English the official language of the United States.
7. We reaffirm the right of states to enforce immigration laws without federal government interference.

## **SECTION 9: NATIONAL DEFENSE**

A strong national defense is necessary for government to fulfill its primary function, which is protecting its citizens and their individual rights.

1. The security of our nation is the responsibility of our federal government, its military, law enforcement agencies, and a vigilant public. Peace comes through strength and deterrence. We reaffirm standing with foreign nations, such as Israel, that share our principles of freedom, liberty and national sovereignty.
2. We honor all past and current obligations to our troops, veterans and their families. We support improving pay, allowances and benefits to surviving military dependents.

## **SECTION 10: ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY**

We have a duty to protect the environment without violating individual property rights. Private land ownership enhances good stewardship of the land through each owner's responsible oversight.

1. Environmental regulations that deny property owners the use of their land shall require the regulating agency to bear the cost of litigation if property owners successfully appeal the regulation.
2. We support reducing dependence on foreign energy. We support offshore and domestic drilling. We support making use of all available energy resources including the development of safe nuclear power. We support the immediate approval of the Keystone XL pipeline project.
3. We support reducing regulations and costs that hinder re-licensing of energy producing facilities.
4. All laws and regulations shall be written by our legislators and not by unelected bureaucrats.

## **SECTION 11: PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Private property is the legal and personal ownership of title or exclusive right to the control of property, protected by our Constitution.

1. We support the Washington State Constitution's protection of individual private property rights as a core function of state, county, and local government. Property rights must be reinforced and upheld.
2. We support the U.S. Constitution's priority of individual private property rights over collective policy such as environmental mandates or government tax-based interests. These priorities must be re-established and maintained.
3. We support repealing the Washington State Growth Management Act, which is an outgrowth of United Nations Agenda 21 and infringes on private property rights endowed by the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
4. We support due process and right of appeal regarding private property ownership and utilization. These must be strengthened and upheld to protect individuals against government intrusion.
5. We support compensation to property owners for all loss of use or lost market value due to environmental and/or regulatory mandates.

6. We believe the natural resources derived from personal private property are not owned by the government and shall not be usurped, taxed or otherwise infringed upon by any governmental agency.

## **SECTION 12: EDUCATION**

We believe education should prepare our children to enter adulthood with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to be competitive in a global economy and market. Parents must have the primary right, responsibility, and choice in the education of their children.

1. Education must focus on the basics, including math, science, history, civics, financial literacy, reading and English. An emphasis on U.S. history, the U.S. Constitution, and all founding documents should be required.
2. We support charter schools, home schooling, or public and private schools, giving parents the right to choose where to educate their children.
3. We oppose education and information in schools regarding the promotion of sexual behaviors and alternative lifestyles. We believe in parental authority over moral issues.
4. We believe that funding emphasis should be in the classroom and not in administration.
5. We support using standardized testing such as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) as a check on schools and districts.

## **SECTION 13: COMMUNITY**

America's private institutions are best at serving the needs of the community.

1. We value integrity, morality, commitment, patriotism, civility, gratitude, service, charity, thrift, and industry. We expect the promotion of these American values in schools and other publicly funded programs and events.
2. We favor local controls and governance close to the people. Community problems are best avoided or resolved through families, local agencies, schools, churches, and charities.

## **SECTION 14: TRANSPORTATION**

A robust highway system is necessary for prosperity and commerce in the State of Washington.

1. We support the creation of new and expanded roadway infrastructure to reduce traffic congestion as the top priority of the WA DOT.
2. We adamantly oppose adding tolls to the state highway system; it is double taxation.
4. Fuel taxes shall be used for the purpose of road and infrastructure construction and maintenance, and not be diverted to subsidize mass transit.