

PLATFORM OF THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY ADOPTED APRIL 9, 2016

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, right of conscience 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. The US constitution is the supreme law of the land. The Constitution is not a “living, breathing document.” The Constitution is not changeable other than by the process of Amendment as outlined therein. In the words of Justice Scalia: “It says what it says, and it does not say what it does not say.” We reject any treaty or judicial reference to international law that infringes upon US sovereignty, or upon any individual liberty protected by the Constitution.
2. All laws and regulations shall be written by our legislators and not by unelected bureaucrats.
3. 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.
4. All constitutional laws should be enforced.
5. 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.
6. Justices must determine the constitutionality of our laws based on original intent and must not legislate from the bench. The Executive branch must not legislate by executive order.
7. Only a US citizen may register to vote in the US, and must prove compliance with eligibility standards, and must provide picture ID and proof of citizenship when registering to vote.
8. We expect our elected officials to lead by example. No one is above the law or too big to prosecute. All government officials should be held to the strictest standards in obeying laws.
9. We support a constitutional amendment that requires at least one citizen parent for a baby born in USA to be considered an American citizen.

PLATFORM OF THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY ADOPTED APRIL 9, 2016

SECTION 2: TAXES AND SPENDING

Elected officials have a responsibility to control taxation and eliminate wasteful, inappropriate government spending. Spending must be aligned with priorities of government, as those priorities are 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 openness and transparency in governmental and fiscal decision making, including third party audits to assure tax dollars are being spent appropriately.
7. Sales tax should not be collected on public works projects.

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

Reducing government regulatory interference and taxation 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 as opposed to more government involvement.
3. We recognize the right to organize into private sector unions and to do so by secret ballot. We also recognize the right of individuals to opt out of union membership.
4. We oppose government unionization.
5. We support the rights of union members to determine the allocation and use of their dues.

SECTION 5: FAMILY, MARRIAGE AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

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 should be defined as the legal union between one man and one woman. We support an amendment stating such to the U.S. Constitution.
2. We support the right of individuals to exercise their religious principals, either in their personal life or in the conduct of a private business.

**PLATFORM OF THE
SNOHOMISH COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
ADOPTED APRIL 9, 2016**

3. We strongly oppose the new Washington law allowing individuals to use the bathroom or locker room of their choice. We call on the legislature to pass a law requiring people to use the facility that matches their biological gender, or use a private bathroom or locker room.
4. We support the original intent of the 1st amendment concerning religion, which was just to limit Congressional influence on religion.

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.
4. Washington State funds should not go to Planned Parenthood.

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 unworkable 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.
7. Government does not have the right to any personal information exchanged between health care provider and patient.

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. Ending all entitlement access to illegal immigrants.
5. Making English the official language of the United States.

PLATFORM OF THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY ADOPTED APRIL 9, 2016

Additionally,

- We reaffirm the right of states to enforce immigration laws without federal government interference.
- We support legal immigration, and ask that immigrants support and adapt to US culture, rather than requiring US culture to adapt to immigrants.
- We oppose the practice of sanctuary cities.

SECTION 9: SECURITY AND 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.
3. Gun-free zones are not an effective deterrent to crime or terrorism, but rather encourage those things. We support the right of the individual to be responsible for their own security.
4. We call for the full repeal of the Iran nuclear treaty.

SECTION 10: 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. We support reducing dependence on foreign energy. We support off-shore 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. We support the free-market determination of which energy production methods are best.
5. Global warming is not settled science. We oppose policies, taxes, or regulations based on the politics of climate change.

SECTION 11: ENVIRONMENT AND 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 from government intrusion.

**PLATFORM OF THE
SNOHOMISH COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
ADOPTED APRIL 9, 2016**

5. We support full and fair 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, public and private schools, and voucher programs 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.
6. We believe that local control of school curriculum serves students better than federal curriculum and Common Core standards.

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 first, prior to government involvement.
3. Homeless encampments in public areas should be cleaned up and prohibited.

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. We oppose any changes to zoning ordinances that allow higher density housing without a commitment to additional roadway infrastructure to support it.
2. We adamantly oppose adding any new tolls to the state highway system; it is double taxation. We call for removing the toll structure on I405.
4. Fuel taxes shall be used for the purpose of road and infrastructure construction and maintenance, and not be diverted to subsidize mass transit and bicycle lanes.
5. We oppose the use of GPS or any other means to tax automobile use per mile.