

Foreword

Steven County Republican Platform

In order to fully understand the significance for the Stevens County Republican Party platform, one needs to understand the process by which that platform is created. A platform is the descriptive term that is used for the document that is used to express the core beliefs and principals of the political organization. It is the foundation on which the organization is built.

Every four years a process occurs that culminates in the county party convention. The process begins with precinct caucuses that occur in the early part of the year. Individuals who show themselves to be voting Republicans from the precincts, gather at identified and advertised locations to review the current county platform. Out of this precinct meeting comes suggestions about:

- Additional core principle statements
- Elimination of parts of statements or sections that may no longer apply
- To improve on existing wording or statements due to the issues of the day.

Delegates are elected from attendants at these same caucuses to go to the county convention that is then held. The suggestions made from the caucuses are compiled and folded into the current county platform as suggested changes. These suggested changes are presented to the delegates to be discussed, amended, and then voted on by the convention delegates. The finished platform becomes the county party's platform for the next four years.

This process has a long history in the Republican party nationwide, because it is a bottom-up method of determining what the Republican party stands for at the local level. This process is repeated at the state level by delegates that are elected at the county convention to go to the state convention and then the National convention. It has its most representative characteristics at the county level by virtue of the grass roots involvement at the very basic stage of the process, at the precinct and county level.

Stevens County Republican Platform

2020

PREAMBLE: We reaffirm the words of our founding fathers as written in the Declaration of Independence.

“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. That whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”

FREE ENTERPRISE: The engine of economic growth is privately held property, used productively with inspired resourcefulness, ingenuity and innovation.

- 1.1 We assert that the survival of the Republic depends on advancing the Founders understanding of the “Pursuit of Happiness” as the pursuit of moral, productive and enterprising lives.
- 1.2 Government’s responsibility is not to prop up, bail out or favor any private industry or individual, but rather to support it through a minimal regulatory climate, locally driven planning and the encouragement of the general spirit of industry throughout all levels of society.
- 1.3 We oppose a Washington State income tax and the Business and Occupation tax.
- 1.4 We support simplification and modification of the Federal Income tax system.
- 1.5 We believe, as a privately held entity, the Federal Reserve must be accountable to the citizens of the United States through regular and thorough audits of its assets, liabilities, ownership and performance.
- 1.6 We support a two-thirds approval vote of registered voters of the State of Washington before any new state taxes can be levied on its citizens.
- 1.7 The proper role of any welfare program is to be innovative and compassionate, with the goal of helping people to help themselves. We support personal responsibility in securing a job and recognize that many non-profit and faith-based organizations are far more effective at helping people through challenging times than government programs.
- 1.8 In the interest of National Security and economic independence and stability, we the people and our elected officials will follow the original intent of the Commerce Clause in the Constitution and encourage local consumption and exportation of American agricultural products and their exclusive use within the Armed Forces.
- 1.9 We support a national, state and local plan for energy independence, uniquely tailored to the resources available in each region, such as, but not limited to, oil, coal, biomass, nuclear, and hydro-electric and call for immediate building of the Keystone Pipeline.
- 1.10 We support the elimination of mandated or coerced labor union membership and/or dues.

1.11 We support a strong nationalistic monetary policy that takes immediate steps to lessen the interdependency of our monetary and economic systems with foreign interests or manipulation.

1.12 We recognize that Washington State's trend towards the highest minimum wage in the nation places local small businesses at a significant competitive disadvantage with other States and the rest of the world. We support a plan that would gradually transition the minimum wage to a market-driven level instead of a government regulated level. Furthermore, economic policy favoring the creation of long-term living-wage jobs should be favored over simply reducing unemployment numbers with low-paying temporary jobs.

1.13 We believe that the encouragement of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness was-and is-inextricably connected to an individual's right to own private property.

EDUCATION: It is the ultimate responsibility of parents and individuals to make use of the highest and best educational resources available to them for the preservation of a free and productive society.

2.1 Complete control of public education should be at the local level through elected school boards.

2.2 The public education system should augment and enable the educational efforts of the parents, and should never impair or usurp it, and should not impede the ability of parents to choose public, private, charter or home-schooling options.

2.3 State Education funding should not be garnered from property taxes, but by revenue generated from state lands and assets – such as natural resource income.

2.4 All of the funding for the US Department of Education is a violation of the Constitution, and should be returned to local districts and states. The US Department of Education should be abolished.

2.5 We support an educational system that promotes reasonable testing of students in areas of reading comprehension, writing, math, science, history, economics and constitutional studies.

2.6 All students should be able to read and write the English language in order to graduate.

2.7 Public educators' pay should be based upon their performance and effectiveness.

2.8 We strongly encourage administrators, educators, coaches and para-educators to implement servant leadership as one of their dominant leadership styles, because servant leadership has been proven through doctoral research to reduce bullying and creates a more positive school environment.

FAMILY: We assert that the cornerstone of any just and enduring society is the preeminence of strong, loving families defined by the traditional view of marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman.

3.1 We oppose pornography and human trafficking in all of its forms.

3.2 We oppose lifestyle orientation and sensitivity training in our schools.

3.3 We affirm that restroom use and sports participation should be consistent with a person's biological sex.

LIFE: We recognize that every being of human origin is a person, and that all human beings possess the equal, inalienable and most fundamental right to life. Government, having derived its legitimacy from

the preservation of this and other inalienable rights, must protect the lives of the innocent and vulnerable among us.

4.1 We recognize the right to life of every innocent human being from the moment of conception until natural death. We hold that life is a gift of God and no one has the right to take or aid another in taking an innocent life.

4.2 We recognize that the conditions bringing a woman to consider an abortion are often catastrophic and emotionally overwhelming. We therefore encourage the growth and presence of a variety of privately funded and faith-based counseling services that provide education and support to those who may be considering an abortion regarding other options including adoption. Further compassionate support should be provided to those mothers who have had an abortion so that they may be empowered to change or overcome the circumstances that led to this choice.

4.3 The gift of Life and the liberties and inalienable rights it entails are equally granted by God to all mankind. As the party of Lincoln, we validate racial equality and categorically denounce racially prejudiced policies.

4.4 The gift of Life, and the liberties and inalienable rights it entails are equally granted by God to men and women, and we support a culture that encourages all of its citizens to rise to the peak of their potential and reject those influences that would seek to devalue anyone through sexual exploitation, objectification or discrimination.

4.5 No organization that participates in the administration of human abortion or the use of aborted human fetal tissue should receive Federal, State or Local funding of any sort or for any purpose.

HEALTHCARE: It is the inherent responsibility of each citizen to provide and prepare for his or her own healthcare needs.

5.1 Doctor and insurance plan selection should be the exclusive responsibility of each individual citizen and should in no way be mandated or assigned by any government agency. Health Savings Accounts and other personally financed options should be encouraged to facilitate individual accountability.

5.2 We categorically reject the implementation of government mandated, socialized healthcare in any form. We assert private insurance options are far superior to any government or socialized healthcare program, and strongly support the ability of insurance companies to do business across state lines, and to form "high risk pools" for those with preexisting conditions. Small businesses and individuals should be encouraged to form or utilize insurance co-ops and other non-profit options.

5.3 All medical insurance premiums should be tax deductible, and no healthcare benefit should be taxed.

5.4 We support Tort Reform legislation and other technological or innovative solutions to reduce the waste, inefficiencies, and corruption within the medical, insurance, and tort systems.

5.5 We understand that the Constitution provides for equal opportunity, not equal outcomes. We oppose the use of disparities and equity to drive healthcare policy.

5.6 We believe in family and individual rights in healthcare, to choose or decline services, without coercion or penalty.

CRIME AND THE SECOND AMENDMENT: It is the natural right of every lawful citizen to secure the safety of their person, lawful liberty, families and property, and the primary intent of the Second Amendment to the US Constitution was to guarantee this right through the right to keep and bear arms. Furthermore, the Fourteenth Amendment, Section I, constrains all states from infringing on any privileges and immunities guaranteed by the Constitution. Therefore, it is the federal government's obligation to ensure no state passes laws that infringe upon these privileges and immunities.

6.1 The role of local, State and Federal law enforcement or military agencies should always be to support and enhance the basic personal right to keep and bear arms, and never to usurp, replace, diminish or subjugate it.

6.2 We support swift and appropriate sentences commensurate with the crime. Criminals should pay for damage from or caused by their actions as well as the costs of their punishment. When appropriate, capital crimes should be swiftly punished with the death penalty, with a limit of three death row appeals.

6.3 We oppose the government regulation of the internet.

6.4 We oppose the legalization of marijuana, heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine.

6.5 We oppose bathroom and locker room usage policies based on gender-identification (rather than biologic reality) that criminalize measures to ensure the safety of vulnerable persons.

6.6 We support trained military personnel having the ability to carry their weapons while on duty.

6.7 We oppose any targeted tax on weapons or ammunition.

6.8 We oppose restrictions on semi-automatic firearms.

6.9 We support prompt passage and enactment of Kate's Law, House Resolution 3011.

6.10 We are totally opposed to any sanctuary cities.

6.11 We support our law enforcement officers as they support the laws of the Constitution of the State of Washington.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES: The responsible use of our natural resources is the base from which all other industry grows, and proper stewardship of these resources is the guarantee of future economic stability.

7.1 We support multiple use of all public lands.

7.2 We support policies that protect our fishing resources without detrimental draw-downs, bypass, or dam breaching which harms agriculture and destroys jobs.

7.3 We affirm the fact that hydropower is a cheap, clean and renewable form of energy for renewable energy portfolio consideration.

7.4 Government must compensate property owners at market value when their property (e.g., timber, water, and mineral) rights are damaged, impaired or taken by government action.

7.5 We believe that court cases involving public lands, environmental policy enforcement and water rights conflicts should be heard only in the local jurisdiction where such public land is situated.

7.6 We support a policy of reduction of federal and state holdings of lands and assets, and oppose the establishment of United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Biosphere Reserves on American soil, Agenda 21, the Yukon to Yellowstone buffer zones, or any other international or domestic plan designed or leading to the impairing of private property rights or the environmentally destructive under-utilization of public lands.

7.7 We believe water rights should stay with the landowners and other water users and not be transferred to state ownership or federal ownership.

7.8 Any land management standards imposed on private lands shall also be imposed on Federal and State lands.

7.9 We question the accuracy of the information used to suggest man-made climate change and reject any and all attempts to use this as an excuse to levy taxes or regulate business through a State or Federal program, including "Cap and Trade".

7.10 Wolves should not be listed as a state and/or federal endangered species. Further, the WDFW should immediately terminate the state Wolf Recovery Plan.

7.11 Land owners should be allowed to trap problematic or nuisance animals using leg holds or snares on their own property.

7.12 We believe that in natural resource lawsuits filed under the Equal Access to Justice Act that the plaintiff post a bond equal to one half the value of the proposed project or action. Should the plaintiff lose the lawsuit, the bond will be awarded to the proposed action agency.

7.13 We support the return of all public lands held in trust by the federal government, with the exception of those holdings as enumerated by the United States Constitution, to the state governments.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY: One of the primary responsibilities of the Federal government is the securing of our national borders and interests through a strong, well-prepared military supplied with the best technology, intelligence, and resources available and that these borders and interests should never be subordinated to or breached by another nation or organization.

8.1 Participation in the United Nations threatens the sovereignty, security, or national interests of the United States; that participation should be discontinued.

8.2 Immediate action should be taken to bring a decisive halt to illegal immigration and trafficking of drugs, people, and other illegal substances across our borders, using military force, assets or technology where necessary. All existing immigration laws should be enforced, and any public entity or official should be tried as a criminal for refusing to do so. In pursuit of strong, secure borders, the border wall should be completed,

8.3 United States military personnel should never be placed under foreign or United Nations command.

8.4 We oppose the use of Foreign Aid.

8.5 In the interest of national security, we insist that our Nation's critical assets and infrastructure be owned, operated, maintained, and controlled by domestically owned or controlled public or private interests.

8.6 As a matter of national defense and security, resources necessary to respond to any emergency must be produced in the United States.

8.7 Illegal immigrants should not be afforded the rights and benefits of citizenship, and should be removed to their country of origin upon discovery. Children born in the United States to persons who illegally enter or reside in the United States should not be granted the rights, benefits and privileges of citizenship.

8.8 Non-US citizens committing war crimes or acts of terrorism against the United States or its citizens should be tried in a military court and afforded the rights of the Geneva Convention, but should not be given the rights of a U S Citizen or tried in a civilian court.

8.9 The military should be allowed to develop and implement its own policies regarding sexual orientation, and should not be forced by any branch of government to adopt policies regarding this issue that may jeopardize national security and disrupt order or chain of command.

8.10 Congress should withdraw the United States from the World Trade Organization (WTO), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

8.11 We support our Constitutional obligation to uphold our treaties with our allies including Israel.

8.12 United Nations should be removed from United States soil and no American funding should be provided, including return of any lands held in interest by UN World Heritage center sites.

8.13 Refugee immigrants should be prevented from entering the United States until thorough vetting processes are in place, and refugee placement should occur only in those jurisdictions where all local government has taken positive action to welcome said approved, legally recognized refugees.

8.14 No United States citizen should be punished for a crime unless they are indicted by a jury of their peers.

LIMITED GOVERNMENT AND ELECTION REFORM: In a Constitutional Republic, only when Self Government is maintained can State and Federal Governments be restrained to their proper constitutional parameters and local governments empowered to preserve the sacred rights of their sovereign citizens. Furthermore, a secure and transparent system of elections and campaign finance is vital for the maintenance of a strong Republic.

9.1 We support the downsizing of Federal, Washington State, and local government and bureaucracy at all levels, and insist that the powers of each branch of government be strictly limited in scope and ability according to Constitutional parameters.

9.2 We support the elimination of unfunded mandates by all levels of government.

9.3 Growth management planning should be locally driven and controlled by County elected officials.

9.4 We support the Constitutional protections guarding private property from the threat of unjustified seizure by eminent domain.

9.5 We support the reaffirmation that the United States is a Republic and not a Democracy.

9.6 We support a federal level balanced budget amendment.

- 9.7 We affirm our unwavering support for the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.
- 9.8 All State governmental agencies (CPS, DOE, etc.) should have their ability to enforce regulations, policy and procedure strictly limited to Constitutional parameters, and should be held strictly accountable to all local elected officials. All alleged violators of social, medical, environmental or any other existing policy or law should be considered innocent until proven guilty, and the burden of proof lies with the accuser.
- 9.9 All domestic government business should be conducted exclusively in the English language.
- 9.10 The Federal Reserve's policies of unrestrained printing of paper money have devalued our currency, led to wholesale corruption, and ruined our economy. We demand that a system utilizing a basket of commodities including gold and silver be made legal tender as an alternative to, and in competition with, existing fiat currency; with the ultimate objective to abolish the Federal Reserve and return to Constitutional, sound money.
- 9.11 Any form or method of voter registration or vote casting or counting in any local, state or national election shall employ a secure and transparent means of verification of the identification and qualifications (i.e. 18 years old by Election Day, US citizenship, Washington State residency) of those casting a vote.
- 9.12 We support full and immediate public disclosure of revenue and disbursement of campaign monies or other donations.
- 9.13 We support the repeal of the Presidential Campaign Fund donation check-box on federal income tax forms.
- 9.14 We demand a State primary system that will allow partisan choice of candidates.
- 9.15 We support the repeal of the "McCain-Feingold Campaign Law."
- 9.16 We affirm the value of the electoral college and oppose any effort to dismantle it.
- 9.17 We acknowledge Article 3 Section 4 of the Constitution allows for the formation of a new state, and that doing so may be in the interest of the people, culture and values of Eastern Washington.
- 9.18 The Constitution did not delegate any power or authority to oversee any family-related matters. Therefore all matters, policies, regulation and laws that are encroachments must be revoked and left to the states of the Republic, and the Department of Health and Human Services must be abolished.
- 9.19 The Constitution is a contract created by and for the states. The federal government's roles, responsibilities, and powers are limited and defined by the US Constitution. The States are the ultimate stakeholders of this compact. Therefore, the States are obligated and duty-bound to protect and defend the Constitution from all encroachments. Thus, the States must coalesce to audit the Constitution, to place the federal government back into the framework and scope of the Constitution.

The preceding Stevens County Republican Platform Planks and supporting items are presented in no particular order with regard to importance.