

2008 Sioux County Republican Platform

The Sioux County Republican Platform Committee submits the following proposed platform to the Sioux County Republican Convention:

Statement of Principles

We believe that faith in God, individual liberty and personal responsibility, together with limited government, free enterprise, and a strong national defense have made America great. We believe a government that is strong but limited preserves liberty. We also believe that free market capitalism is the only economic philosophy consistent with and supporting of these commitments. Further, we believe that the U.S. Constitution sets the framework and establishes the boundaries within which each of these assertions functions best.

Agriculture

- 1.1 We support limited governmental regulations of agriculture that maintain quality products, values environmental safety, and allows for economic viability.
- 1.2 We oppose additional restrictions on present animal husbandry practices or on the use of animals in medical research.
- 1.3 We support the definition of manure as a natural fertilizer.
- 1.4 We support country-of-origin labeling on food.
- 1.5 We oppose National Premise I.D. registration.
- 1.6 We oppose additional taxes or surcharges on all forms of meat, poultry, fish, and dairy.
- 1.7 We support bio-technical agriculture and any effort to open worldwide markets to bio-technical products.
- 1.8 We support allowing Iowans to sell farm products directly from the farm to the consumer.
- 1.9 We support increased efforts to convert and incorporate farm products into value-added products.
- 1.10 We support the promotion and public awareness of, and tolerance for, standard farming practices, increased preservation of farmland, and efforts to preserve Iowa's family farms.
- 1.11 We support the use of state approved scientific guidelines to site locations for livestock facilities.
- 1.12 We support an investigation into the differences between the price of cattle, hogs, and captive supply based on hoof weight and the price of packaged weight to ensure fair pricing for the independent producer.
- 1.13 We support the organization of open cooperatives of independent producers for the marketing of Iowa agricultural products.
- 1.14 We oppose meat packers owning their own feedlots.
- 1.15 We oppose the use of agricultural commodities as a weapon of foreign policy.
- 1.16 We support research and development through our land-grant universities into other uses for our farm products.
- 1.17 We support 4-H through the ISU Extension system.
- 1.18 We support limiting the purchase of property by Federal and State agencies.
- 1.19 We oppose the filing of "nuisance" lawsuits by anyone who knowingly moved into areas zoned as agricultural.
- 1.20 We support the right of any established resident to file suit against an agricultural expansion

or development that infringes on their property rights.

1.21 We support the review and reduction, where appropriate, of the farm subsidy program.

1.22 We support maintaining the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture as an elected office and not an appointed one.

1.23 We support management practices for the Missouri River that take into account the importance of its use in shipping raw materials and agricultural commodities.

Business and Economic Development

2.1 We support streamlining government agencies and services to reduce costs and to make Iowa friendlier for creating and expanding businesses.

2.2 We support reducing premiums that businesses pay for worker compensation insurance.

2.3 We support specific, finite periods for all government programs at every level and tying government funding to periodic program evaluation.

2.4 We support regulations and tax codes that encourage business development and growth.

2.5 We support “paycheck protection” that would bar corporations and unions from collecting and using employees’ money for political purposes without expressed written consent.

2.6 We oppose government mandating wages or the price of goods.

2.7 We support continuing Iowa’s Right to Work Law and the passage of a National Right to Work Law.

Education

3.1 We believe the best schools are marked by strong parental involvement, excellent teachers, safe and orderly classrooms, high academic standards, and a commitment to teaching the basics. Raising academic standards begins with increasing local control and accountability of schools to parents.

3.2 We support the elimination of the Federal Department of Education.

3.3 We support the teaching of the documents and beliefs of our founding fathers, with an emphasis on patriotism, U.S. history, the Constitution, and our religious heritage.

3.4 We support displaying the Ten Commandments and the American flag as well as the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in its entirety, including the phrase “under God,” in Iowa schools.

3.5 We support the use of the Bible as a resource to be allowed as a local option.

3.6 We support voluntary teacher or student led prayer in public schools and that the right of responsible religious expression should be neither required nor prohibited in public schools.

3.7 We oppose any curriculum in public schools that promotes homosexuality as a healthy and acceptable lifestyle.

3.8 We oppose scholarship programs that exclusively benefit homosexual students.

3.9 We support the teaching of alternative theories on the origins of life, including both Darwinian Evolution and Intelligent Design, and believe that each should be given equal weight in presentation.

3.10 We support equal shelf space in tax funded schools and libraries for different theories on the origins of life.

- 3.11 We support choice in education, the expansion of charter schools and easy open enrollment, and believe parents have the right to choose public, private, home, or alternative education for their children.
- 3.12 We support expanding tax credits for funds expended on schooling of all types.
- 3.13 We support the use of a school voucher system.
- 3.14 We support school system accountability for taxpayer dollars.
- 3.15 We oppose public funding of education for illegal aliens.
- 3.16 We oppose the practice of social promotion for students who have not mastered their grade level.
- 3.17 We support standardized testing of our school children to measure their academic progress.
- 3.18 We support programs that reward superior teachers, tie teacher compensation to the performance and improvement of their students, and that outline clear procedures for local school boards to remove ineffective teachers.
- 3.19 We support fast-track teacher certification to allow competent professionals to teach in our schools.
- 3.20 We believe that education cannot be fixed simply by throwing more money at it, nor that raising teacher pay is the only way to improve education.
- 3.21 We oppose a compulsory federal or state-run preschool system and any proposal that would lower the age at which children are required to attend school.
- 3.22 We support equal employment practices for all teachers regardless of union affiliation.
- 3.23 We support English as the official language in the Iowa educational system, and a requirement that all educators have comprehensive communication skills in English.
- 3.24 We support adding knowledge of illegal status to the mandatory reporting requirements for schools.
- 3.25 We oppose any proposed federal multi-lingual education requirements.
- 3.26 We support educators who stress abstinence as the only guaranteed way to prevent pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, and the psychological problems associated with sex outside of marriage.
- 3.27 We oppose the distribution of condoms in public schools.
- 3.28 We support the Area Education Agency concept as a service delivery system for the entire state of Iowa.
- 3.29 We support an equitable distribution of state education funds in view of the different levels of ability of school districts to support a quality local school system.
- 3.30 We support districts sharing resources and oppose state-mandated school consolidation.

Energy and Transportation

- 4.1 We support exploration and drilling for oil and natural gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the outer continental shelf.
- 4.2 We support the construction of oil refineries in the state of Iowa.
- 4.3 We support the promotion of alternative fuels and energy sources through tax incentives.
- 4.4 We believe access to an adequate transportation infrastructure is necessary for a market economy to succeed and for national security to be served.
- 4.5 We support the completion of the widening of US Highway 20 to a divided four-lane highway.
- 4.6 We support the widening of US Highway 34 in western Iowa to a divided four-lane highway.

- 4.7 We oppose the use of earmarks for funding highway projects.
- 4.8 We support the expanded use and production of nuclear energy.
- 4.9 We oppose the Kyoto treaty on the environment and the language of the UN Kyoto Protocol.
- 4.10 We support incentives to the auto industry for the production of products with a minimum of 5% more fuel-efficiency and more flex-fuel or alternative-fuelled vehicles each year.
- 4.11 We support a ban on the gasoline additive MTBE.

Family Values

- 5.1 We support an amendment to both the state and federal constitutions defining marriage as the exclusive union between one man and one woman.
- 5.2 We support the elimination of no-fault divorce.
- 5.3 We support adoption only by heterosexual married couples consisting of one man and one woman.
- 5.4 We oppose the creation of a protected class based on sexual orientation.

Government

- 6.1 We support restoring the use of eminent domain to its historical and traditional Constitutional application.
- 6.2 We oppose removing references to God from our government buildings, monuments, or currency.
- 6.3 We support the use of picture identification to confirm voter eligibility.
- 6.4 We support the repeal of the Civil Rights Attorneys Fees Act of 1976 which helps fund groups like the ACLU with taxpayer monies.
- 6.6 We support maintaining social security funds in a trust not accessible by Congress for use in the general fund.
- 6.7 We oppose judicial activism in all areas including but not limited to school prayer and gay marriage.
- 6.8 We support an expedient vote on all judicial nominees.
- 6.9 We support increasing maximum contribution to \$5000 per year for IRAs & Roth IRAs.
- 6.10 We support restricting lobbyist activity and reducing their influence.
- 6.11 We believe prayer in public institutions should be neither required nor prohibited, and that current restrictions on voluntary prayer should be removed.
- 6.12 We support revoking the pension of any member of Congress convicted of corruption or bribery.
- 6.13 We support English as the official language of Iowa.
- 6.14 We support making English the official language of the United States.
- 6.15 We support a study of and revision of the present bottle bill.
- 6.16 We support equal access for nonunion and union contractors to government and school district projects, without requiring contractors to sign project labor agreements.
- 6.17 We support term limits on all elected and appointed officials.
- 6.18 We support an amendment to the Iowa constitution to provide for the recall of elected officials.

- 6.19 We support a thorough review of those laws allowing the creation of governmental bodies exempted from the general election process to ensure continued relevance, adequate oversight, and accountability for public funds.
- 6.20 We oppose the increased dependence on gambling money to fund the state budget.
- 6.21 We support efforts to reduce the influence of gambling in our state.
- 6.22 We support the removal of automatic teller machines from gambling establishments.
- 6.23 We support the ban on allowing people to take cash advances on credit cards at casinos and gambling establishments in Iowa.
- 6.24 We support analyzing cost/benefit on the social/economic impact of gambling in Iowa.
- 6.25 We support placing the Iowa Lottery under the jurisdiction of the Racing and Gaming Commission.
- 6.26 We oppose government ownership of any gambling facility or activity.
- 6.27 We support term limits of twelve years for senators and representatives on the federal level.

Health and Human Services

- 7.1 We oppose a universal socialized national health care system.
- 7.2 We support the right of citizens to choose their own medical care and medical provider.
- 7.3 We support shifting health care to universal usage of Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) by making contributions to those accounts 100% tax deductible.
- 7.4 We support making all medical expenses 100% tax deductible for every US citizen.
- 7.5 We support the classification of AIDS as a communicable disease.
- 7.6 We oppose the designation of AIDS as a disability.
- 7.7 We support mandatory AIDS/HIV testing of all healthcare professionals, and the right of patients and their families to access the results of those tests.
- 7.8 We support the right of all healthcare and mortician professionals to have knowledge of the AIDS/HIV status of patients prior to providing services.
- 7.9 We support a cap on medical malpractice awards for other than actual damages.
- 7.10 We support a patient's right to sue an HMO if the HMO was responsible for denying necessary care or for refusing to make proper referrals.
- 7.11 We support the right of all citizens, including military personnel, to opt out of any experimental immunizations, medications or procedures.
- 7.12 We support welfare reform that creates a short-term safety net designed to elevate the recipient to a self-sufficient status.
- 7.13 We oppose the use of means testing to assign benefits in Medicare or Social Security.
- 7.14 We support reforming health insurance to make it more affordable for individuals.
- 7.15 We support refocussing our health care system on keeping people healthier through disease prevention, care management, and targeted incentives to encourage self management and prevention.
- 7.16 We support promoting healthy lifestyles and disease prevention and management in every community – including places of employment and schools.
- 7.17 We support improving the quality of care for those with chronic diseases by encouraging innovation in the treatment of diseases at the research and bedside levels, as well as by encouraging continued American investment in pioneering science that will result in better treatments to prevent and lessen the toll of chronic disease.

- 7.18 We support accelerating improvements in the quality and availability of health information technology throughout the health system.
- 7.19 We support reducing barriers to health care for all populations.

Homeland Security and Immigration

- 8.1 We support the construction and completion of a hardened wall or fence to secure our border with Mexico.
- 8.2 We support the enforcement of existing immigration laws.
- 8.3 We support the use of military-style technology, and establishing a volunteer citizen corps to work alongside Border Protection agents to protect our borders from illegal entrance.
- 8.4 We support the deportation of all illegal aliens.
- 8.5 We support a Federal law to issue driver's licenses only to citizens or legal residents of the United States.
- 8.6 We support modernizing the Department of Immigration's database systems to ensure our ability to identify and track aliens.
- 8.7 We support holding employers accountable to verify, by consulting a national database, the employment eligibility of workers.
- 8.8 We support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would prevent the automatic granting of citizenship to children born in the United States whose parents are illegal aliens.
- 8.9 We support increasing immigrant visa quotas for professionals holding a Baccalaureate degree or above, for skilled workers, and for workers in short supply in critical jobs.
- 8.10 We support an immigration policy that requires citizen sponsorship of immigrants seeking entrance into the United States.
- 8.11 We support a working knowledge of the English language as a requirement for U.S. citizenship.
- 8.12 We oppose taxpayer funding for services provided to persons who are in the U. S. illegally.

Law and Justice

- 9.1 We support the reinstatement of the death penalty in Iowa in cases of heinous crimes against society showing extreme depravity and malice, including kidnapping, sexual assault, and murder.
- 9.2 We support "Jessica's Law" which is a twenty-five year prison sentence for the first offense of sexual abuse of children under eleven years of age.
- 9.3 We support increased penalties for any child sex abuse or child endangerment conviction.
- 9.4 We support limiting the sex offender registry to those who have been convicted of a heinous offense or pose a threat to the public.
- 9.5 We oppose the use of foreign or international law to influence or decide any court decision.
- 9.6 We support tort reform and a cap on punitive damages.
- 9.7 We support international cooperation designed to protect and defend the intellectual property rights of the United States citizens and companies.
- 9.8 We support the enforcement of existing federal obscenity and pornography laws.
- 9.9 We support requiring individuals, including juveniles, to make restitution for their crimes.
- 9.10 We support faith-based initiatives for prisons and other rehabilitative providers.
- 9.11 We support eliminating work permits and weekend jail sentences for convicted drunk drivers.
- 9.12 We support increased penalties for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs or

alcohol.

9.13 We support increased penalties for manufacturing or delivering illegal drugs.

9.14 We oppose the enactment of “hate crimes” legislation, and the granting of special status or extra privileges to any group.

9.15 We support changes in legislation and court rules to grant judges greater authority to dismiss cases and assess court costs and attorney fees to litigants who file nuisance and frivolous lawsuits.

9.16 We support an individual’s right to keep and bear arms as stated in the Second Amendment.

9.17 We support the Second Amendment right to store a legal firearm in a locked vehicle.

9.18 We support regulation of hand guns outside of the military and law enforcement and we support a national gun registry.

9.19 We support impeaching judges who broaden their powers by legislating from the bench.

9.20 We support laws requiring all publicly accessible computers with internet access in Iowa libraries use strong anti-pornography filters at all times.

9.21 We oppose government mandated affirmative action programs, which are discriminatory by nature.

9.22 We support enforcement of laws requiring non-custodial parents to financially support their children.

9.23 We oppose gender-based favoritism in child custody and visitation decisions.

9.24 We support reciprocity between the state of Iowa and other states with similar right to carry permits.

9.25 We support criminalizing the behavior of women who ingest illegal drugs while pregnant.

9.26 We support hair follicle tests of all law enforcement personnel for drug testing at least once per year.

9.27 We support increased penalties for people knowingly infecting others with HIV/AIDS.

9.28 We oppose the reinstatement of convicted felons’ voting rights without full restitution for their actions.

9.29 We believe evolution should be considered a religious belief and the establishment of evolution is a violation of the establishment clause of the Constitution’s First Amendment.

9.30 We oppose special rights or privileges for those who do not speak English.

National Defense and Foreign Policy

10.1 We support a strong national defense.

10.2 We support increased funding to support and strengthen our military.

10.3 We support providing funding sufficient to maintain a military force capable of preserving U.S. sovereignty.

10.4 We oppose any treaties that compromise the sovereignty of the United States or that are prohibited by the Constitution.

10.5 We support the withdrawal of the United States from the United Nations and the eviction of the United Nations from the United States.

10.6 We oppose any attempt by the United Nations to undermine the sovereignty of the United States.

10.7 We oppose requiring United States military personnel to serve under the command of any foreign government or international body.

- 10.8 We oppose U.S. membership in the World Trade Organization.
- 10.9 We support providing the men and women who serve in the U.S. armed forces a wage befitting their service.
- 10.10 We support the Terrorist Surveillance Program to intercept communications between terrorists in other countries and individuals in the United States.
- 10.11 We support the Patriot Act.
- 10.12 We support the policy of preemptive confrontation and the defeat of those who engage in terrorist acts or who aid and abet terrorism.
- 10.13 We support the war in Iraq and continuing to do so until a stable government is established.
- 10.14 We support a continued economic and military partnership with our strong ally Israel.
- 10.15 We support the expansion of democracy in the Middle East and around the world.
- 10.16 We support restricting the transfer of technologies deemed to be sensitive to the well being of the United States.
- 10.17 We support the deployment of the Strategic Defense Initiative.
- 10.18 We oppose the Law of the Sea Treaty.
- 10.19 We support the death penalty for someone convicted of carrying out a terrorist attack in the United States.
- 10.20 We believe Congress should make it a crime to advocate acts of terrorism, violent conduct or the killing of innocent people in the United States.
- 10.21 The Department of Homeland Security and other government agencies should develop programs to teach Americans what they can do as individuals to help in the fight against terror.
- 10.22 Terrorist websites at home and abroad should be closed down using computer warfare.

Natural Resources and Environment

- 11.1 We support an environmental policy that protects the rights of humans before those of other species.
- 11.2 We support a balance between environmental concerns and economic considerations for families, farms, businesses, and industry.
- 11.3 We oppose the practice of allowing other states to ship waste that is mandated to be recycled in that state and then dispose of it in Iowa landfills.
- 11.4 We oppose the issuance of permanent conservation easements and support limiting conservation easements to a fixed period with agreement of both government and landowner.
- 11.5 We oppose excessive fines or confiscation for unknowingly or unwittingly threatening or harming any protected species.
- 11.6 We oppose attempts to eliminate the hunting and trapping of game.
- 11.7 We support longer deer hunting seasons, encouragement of out-of-state hunters, and doe-only hunting to control the deer population.
- 11.8 We oppose the protection of mountain lions and bears by the DNR in the state of Iowa.
- 11.9 We support watchful management of our water, soil, and air.
- 11.10 We support legislation that would prohibit the importation of wild swine into Iowa.
- 11.11 We support reforming DNR regulations for closed septic systems with the understanding that they do not work well in the clay and glacial till formations of southern Iowa.
- 11.12 We support only limited purchase of property by Federal and State agencies, and the levying of property tax and drainage district assessments.

11.13 We oppose the establishment of a tax on carbon emissions to combat global warming.

Right To Life

12.1 We support the conviction that any individual, regardless of age or degree of dependency, including the unborn child, has the God given and Constitutional right to life beginning at conception and ending in a natural death.

12.2 We believe that human life begins at conception as established by medical and scientific fact.

12.3 We support the ban of partial birth abortion.

12.4 We oppose human cloning in all circumstances.

12.5 We oppose taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood.

12.6 We oppose the use of federal and state revenues to fund organizations that promote abortion.

12.7 We support the Human Life Amendment to the Constitution of Iowa and the United States Constitution which affirms the right to life of the unborn beginning at conception.

12.8 We support the Woman's Right to Know Law requiring abortionists must provide, prior to the abortion, complete factual information to the pregnant woman about the complications of abortion, the biological development of the unborn, personal sonograms, fetal pain, and the availability of alternatives to abortion.

12.9 We support the reversal of Roe v. Wade and the return of the decision-making on abortion to the states.

12.10 We support restrictions on RU-486 to allow use by prescription only.

12.11 We oppose Euthanasia.

12.12 We support the expansion of Iowa's current "Parental Notification Law" to include parental consent provisions for abortion on minors, with a judicial opt-out in the case of abuse. The Parental Consent Law should require proof of identity of the parent in order to protect children from continued abuse by sexual predators who pretend to be the parent taking their child for an abortion.

12.13 We support the prohibition of transporting a minor across state lines for the purpose of evading parental notification of abortion procedures performed on a minor.

12.14 We believe that if a minor child is taken to a facility for an abortion by someone other than that child's parent or legal guardian, that person, and not the child's parent, should be responsible and liable for any and all expenses or health issues that may arise from the abortion.

12.15 We support the confidential statistical reporting of abortion procedures to the State Health Department by all doctors and facilities performing abortions in the state of Iowa.

12.16 We support umbilical cord and adult stem cell research.

12.17 We oppose embryonic stem cell research.

12.18 We reaffirm our support for the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of human life.

Taxes and Spending

13.1 We support the FairTax national tax reform legislation (HR 25), to replace all federal income, payroll, and Social Security taxes.

- 13.2 We support passage of the People's Right to Vote Amendment, a proposed amendment to the Iowa Constitution that would require a vote of the people to ratify any tax increase before it can take effect. We also expect our elected representatives in the Iowa House and Senate to work and vote to submit the People's Right to Vote Amendment to the people of Iowa for final ratification.
- 13.3 We support a limit on budget obligations to an amount not more than actual revenue from the previous fiscal year.
- 13.4 We support the elimination of the state income tax on Social Security and pensions.
- 13.5 We support a reduction in the commercial real-estate tax rate so as to create a business environment in Iowa that is competitive with surrounding states.
- 13.6 We support property tax relief.
- 13.7 We oppose spending the tobacco settlement money on anything other than medical costs for smokers and ex-smokers.
- 13.8 We oppose an increase of the tax on cigarettes.
- 13.9 We support the creation of a commercial vehicle license rate that does not penalize businesses for their investment, and the equalization of taxation for non-commercial vehicles.
- 13.10 We believe that churches in the state of Iowa should be exempt from paying all state sales taxes.
- 13.11 We believe that monies in tax-sheltered flexible spending accounts (Cafeteria Plans) should roll over from year to year.
- 13.12 We oppose moving road use or highway safety funds to the general fund.
- 13.13 We support a sunset clause on all tax or spending increase legislation.
- 13.14 We support making President George W. Bush's tax cuts permanent.
- 13.15 We support changes in tax or spending laws that would result in a net decrease in personal and business taxes.
- 13.16 We support an application of the 27th Amendment which would prohibit Congress from raising their compensation by means of Cost of Living Allowances, thereby bypassing the intent of the Amendment.
- 13.17 We support the elimination of the capital gains tax, death tax, inheritance tax, the alternative minimum tax, the marriage tax penalty, and taxes on social security benefits.
- 13.18 We support 100% deduction for medical insurance premiums from federal and state income taxes.
- 13.19 We support a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- 13.20 We oppose unfunded mandates.
- 13.21 We oppose taxpayer funding for businesses involving sports, entertainment, and the arts.
- 13.22 We oppose continued taxpayer salaries for elected officials after they leave office.
- 13.23 We support continuing the step-up in basis to fair market value of assets at death.
- 13.24 We support requiring that the federal government should maintain a balanced budget through fiscal responsibility and budget control.
- 13.25 We support the ability of Iowans to fully deduct the amount they pay in federal income taxes on their Iowa income tax return and oppose any attempt to impose a state tax on money used solely to pay a federal tax.
- 13.26 We support Social Security reform that would allow individuals to invest a portion of their Social Security taxes in private accounts.
- 13.27 We support current Iowa law that requires a 60% voter approval for bonding proposals.
- 13.28 We call for eliminating "baseline budgeting."

Respectfully submitted by the Platform Committee,
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