

# Common US Political Party Platforms

## Differences Between Republicans and Democrats

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### What does each Party stand for?

Political Party affiliation is a quick way to find out the basic ideas and philosophy for each candidate, both Republicans and Democrats. Political affiliation can be used to understand the core beliefs of each candidate and there are significant differences between them.

### Core Beliefs

**Republicans** believe that each person is responsible for his or her own place in society. Government should enable each person the ability to secure the benefits of society for themselves, their families and for those who are unable to care for themselves.

The Republican philosophy is based on limiting the intervention of government as a catalyst of individual prosperity. Government should only intervene in specific cases where society cannot effectively act at the individual level. With the core belief that individual destiny should be in the individual's hands, governmental power and resources should be kept close to the people, through their state and community leaders, and not centralized in distant federal government agencies.

**Democrats** believe it is the responsibility of government to care for all individuals, even if it means giving up some individual rights and/or subordinating enterprise and initiative.

Democrat Party administrations have pushed for the centralization of power in Washington D.C., with only secondary consideration for the rights of both individuals and communities. Democrats have favored federal-level interventions that replace community-based solutions to community problems. These tactics have created several federal regulations and controls that are often in the hands of unelected bureaucrats, causing a severe erosion of local authority.

### The Economy

**Republicans** believe free enterprise has brought economic growth and innovations that have made this country great. Government should help stimulate a business environment where people are free to use their talents.

**Democrats** believe that the economy is too complicated for individuals to navigate alone. They believe that business decisions should be guided by government officials and in the best interest of labor unions.

### Taxes and Government Spending

**Republicans** work tirelessly to cut government spending and to eliminate government waste. Republicans believe individuals should control both their own and their government's pocketbook - the people should authorize all tax increases.

**Democrats** believe that government knows what is best for individuals. They argue that federal bureaucrats better understand the needs of a community than a locally elected council and the federal government should define the tax burden necessary to meet its obligations, because this is too complicated for individuals to understand.

## National Defense

**Republicans** believe in a strong national defense. Republicans know that defending our nation against its enemies must be a fundamental commitment of the federal government and this requires the best-trained, best-equipped and most effective military in the world. With

America as the world's only superpower, Republicans believe that true security comes from the strength of character to act collaboratively, when possible, and alone when necessary. After the tragedy of 9-11, America must be ready to fight terrorism abroad in order to prevent it at home.

In the past 10 years, **Democrats** have advocated for scaling down our military and reducing the money spent on military intelligence. Democrats believe that true security comes from negotiations with foreign nations, even if they harbor or have financial ties to terrorist groups. Democrats believe that we must ask other nations for permission before we act to protect our own security.

## Education

**Republicans** believe all students, regardless of race or socio-economic background, should become proficient in both reading and math. While it is desirable that children learn more than one language, mastery of the English language will allow our children to be competitive at the university level. Republicans also believe that schools should be held accountable for student progress through testing, which can be used to identify individual childrens' needs. These reports, at both the student and school level, should be provided to the parents to ensure accountability.

**Democrats** believe that tests burden teachers and waste classroom instruction time. They also believe children should be forced to stay in schools that fail to teach the basic skills. Democrats argue that literacy should be left for unions to define rather than local PTAs or other parent groups.

## Immigration

**Republicans** recognize that our nation is enriched by immigrants seeking a better life. In many cases immigrants have fled violence and oppression searching for peace and freedom. All suffered and sacrificed but hope for a better future for their children in America.

Republicans agree that the lack of security along our borders has contributed to the flow of narco-trafficking, gang violence, and the yearly forced servitude and slavery of over 50,000 women and children from foreign countries by human smugglers. While our nation has been enriched by the determination, energy, and diversity of immigrants, Republicans believe that in this nation of laws, immigration policies should be followed and that securing our borders is vital to ensuring the safety of our citizens.

**Democrats** believe that as the world superpower, it is a fundamental right for the United States to provide unconditional aid and comfort to the citizens of other nations. Democrats believe in open borders, unconditional amnesty, and that the laws of this nation be curtailed to provide non-emergency assistance and legal forms of identification to foreign nationals.



# *LIBERTARIAN PARTY PLATFORM*

*As adopted in Convention, May 2012, Las Vegas, Nevada*

## *PREAMBLE*

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As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty; a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others.

We believe that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized.

Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and welcome the diversity that freedom brings. The world we seek to build is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power.

In the following pages we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy stands derived from those principles.

These specific policies are not our goal, however. Our goal is nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

## *STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES*

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We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life -- accordingly we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action -- accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property -- accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

## *1.0 PERSONAL LIBERTY*

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Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and to accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. No individual, group, or government may initiate force against any other individual, group, or government. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices.

### *1.1 Expression and Communication*

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We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation or control of communications media and technology. We favor the freedom to engage in or abstain from any religious activities that do not violate the rights of others. We oppose government actions which either aid or attack any religion.

### *1.2 Personal Privacy*

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Libertarians support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, and property. Protection from unreasonable search and seizure should include records held by third parties, such as email, medical, and library records. Only actions that infringe on the rights of others can properly be termed crimes. We favor the repeal of all laws creating "crimes" without victims, such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes.

### *1.3 Personal Relationships*

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Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals, such as in current marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, license or restrict personal relationships. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships.

### *1.4 Abortion*

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Recognizing that abortion is a sensitive issue and that people can hold good-faith views on all sides, we believe that government should be kept out of the matter, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration.

### *1.5 Crime and Justice*

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Government exists to protect the rights of every individual including life, liberty and property. Criminal laws should be limited to violation of the rights of others through force or fraud, or deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Individuals retain the right to voluntarily assume risk of harm to themselves. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. We oppose reduction of constitutional safeguards of the rights of the criminally accused. The rights of due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must not be denied. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.

### *1.6 Self-Defense*

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The only legitimate use of force is in defense of individual rights — life, liberty, and justly acquired property — against aggression. This right inheres in the individual, who may agree to be aided by any other individual or group. We affirm the individual right recognized by the Second Amendment to keep and bear arms, and oppose the prosecution of individuals for exercising their rights of self-defense. We oppose all laws at any level of government requiring registration of, or restricting, the ownership, manufacture, or transfer or sale of firearms or ammunition.

## ***2.0 ECONOMIC LIBERTY***

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Libertarians want all members of society to have abundant opportunities to achieve economic success. A free and competitive market allocates resources in the most efficient manner. Each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. The only proper role of government in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. All efforts by government to redistribute wealth, or to control or manage trade, are improper in a free society.

## *2.1 Property and Contract*

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Property rights are entitled to the same protection as all other human rights. The owners of property have the full right to control, use, dispose of, or in any manner enjoy, their property without interference, until and unless the exercise of their control infringes the valid rights of others. We oppose all controls on wages, prices, rents, profits, production, and interest rates. We advocate the repeal of all laws banning or restricting the advertising of prices, products, or services. We oppose all violations of the right to private property, liberty of contract, and freedom of trade. The right to trade includes the right not to trade — for any reasons whatsoever. Where property, including land, has been taken from its rightful owners by the government or private action in violation of individual rights, we favor restitution to the rightful owners.

## *2.2 Environment*

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We support a clean and healthy environment and sensible use of our natural resources. Private landowners and conservation groups have a vested interest in maintaining natural resources. Pollution and misuse of resources cause damage to our ecosystem. Governments, unlike private businesses, are unaccountable for such damage done to our environment and have a terrible track record when it comes to environmental protection. Protecting the environment requires a clear definition and enforcement of individual rights in resources like land, water, air, and wildlife. Free markets and property rights stimulate the technological innovations and behavioral changes required to protect our environment and ecosystems. We realize that our planet's climate is constantly changing, but environmental advocates and social pressure are the most effective means of changing public behavior.

## *2.3 Energy and Resources*

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While energy is needed to fuel a modern society, government should not be subsidizing any particular form of energy. We oppose all government control of energy pricing, allocation, and production.

## *2.4 Government Finance and Spending*

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All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a "Balanced Budget Amendment" to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.

## *2.5 Money and Financial Markets*

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We favor free-market banking, with unrestricted competition among banks and depository institutions of all types. Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. We support a halt to inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws.

## *2.6 Monopolies and Corporations*

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We defend the right of individuals to form corporations, cooperatives and other types of companies based on voluntary association. We seek to divest government of all functions that can be provided by non-governmental organizations or private individuals. We oppose government subsidies to business, labor, or any other special interest. Industries should be governed by free markets.

## *2.7 Labor Markets*

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We support repeal of all laws which impede the ability of any person to find employment. We oppose government-fostered forced retirement. We support the right of free persons to associate or not associate in labor unions, and an employer should have the right to recognize or refuse to recognize a union. We oppose government interference in bargaining, such as compulsory arbitration or imposing an obligation to bargain.

## *2.8 Education*

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Education is best provided by the free market, achieving greater quality, accountability and efficiency with more diversity of choice. Recognizing that the education of children is a parental responsibility, we would restore authority to parents to determine the education of their children, without interference from government. Parents should have control of and responsibility for all funds expended for their children's education.

## *2.9 Health Care*

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We favor restoring and reviving a free market health care system. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the level of health insurance they want (if any), the level of health care they want, the care providers they want, the medicines and treatments they will use and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions. People should be free to purchase health insurance across state lines.

## *2.10 Retirement and Income Security*

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Retirement planning is the responsibility of the individual, not the government. Libertarians would phase out the current government-sponsored Social Security system and transition to a private voluntary system. The proper and most effective source of help for the poor is the voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals. We believe members of society will become more charitable and civil society will be strengthened as government reduces its activity in this realm.

## ***3.0 SECURING LIBERTY***

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The protection of individual rights is the only proper purpose of government. Government is constitutionally limited so as to prevent the infringement of individual rights by the government itself. The principle of non-initiation of force should guide the relationships between governments.

### *3.1 National Defense*

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We support the maintenance of a sufficient military to defend the United States against aggression. The United States should both avoid entangling alliances and abandon its attempts to act as policeman for the world. We oppose any form of compulsory national service.

### *3.2 Internal Security and Individual Rights*

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The defense of the country requires that we have adequate intelligence to detect and to counter threats to domestic security. This requirement must not take priority over maintaining the civil liberties of our citizens. The Constitution and Bill of Rights shall not be suspended even during time of war. Intelligence agencies that legitimately seek to preserve the security of the nation must be subject to oversight and transparency. We oppose the government's use of secret classifications to keep from the public information that it should have, especially that which shows that the government has violated the law.

### *3.3 International Affairs*

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American foreign policy should seek an America at peace with the world. Our foreign policy should emphasize defense against attack from abroad and enhance the likelihood of peace by avoiding foreign entanglements. We would end the current U.S. government policy of foreign intervention, including military and economic aid. We recognize the right of all people to resist tyranny and defend themselves and their rights. We condemn the use of force, and especially the use of terrorism, against the innocent, regardless of whether such acts are committed by governments or by political or revolutionary groups.

### *3.4 Free Trade and Migration*

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We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders. However, we support control over the entry into our country of foreign nationals who pose a credible threat to security, health or property.

### *3.5 Rights and Discrimination*

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Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights. We reject the idea that a natural right can ever impose an obligation upon others to fulfill that "right." We condemn bigotry as irrational and repugnant. Government should neither deny nor abridge any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits, political preference or sexual orientation. Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs. This statement shall not be construed to condone child abuse or neglect.



### *3.6 Representative Government*

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We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the federal, state and local levels. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries and conventions. We call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws which restrict voluntary financing of election campaigns. We oppose laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties, deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider all legitimate alternatives. We advocate initiative, referendum, recall and repeal when used as popular checks on government.

### *3.7 Self-Determination*

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Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of individual liberty, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to agree to such new governance as to them shall seem most likely to protect their liberty.

### *4.0 OMISSIONS*

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Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination should not be construed to imply approval.



## Green Party Platform

### A Call to Action

The Green Platform presents an eco-social analysis and vision for our country. In contrast to the major political parties that create their platforms through back-room deals by insiders and power-brokers, we have created a grassroots process that invites submissions from every local Green Party and every Green individual. Through democratic process we arrive at a final draft to present for approval. The Green Platform is an evolving document, a living work-in-progress that expresses our commitment to creating wise and enduring change in specific policies and in the political process itself. The Green Party is committed to values-based politics, as expressed in our Ten Key Values. These values guide us in countering and changing a system that extols exploitation, unsustainable consumption, and destructive competition.

### Preamble

Never has our country faced as many challenges and crises as we do now. Levels of federal revenue are the lowest they have been since 1950 because of tax cuts and breaks for the very rich and for corporations. Government agencies charged with safeguarding public health and safety are operating with slashed budgets that paralyze their efforts. Jobs are being permanently relocated outside the country, while social and educational programs are being gutted. Our food, water, air, and soil are increasingly found to bear toxins and debilitating pollution. Every single level of government — local, county, state, and federal — is operating in the red, running up crushing amounts of debt. Many of our allies and former friends around the world are disgusted with our imperialist foreign policy, militarism, and arrogant corporate behavior. Realizing that our actions will be judged by future generations, we ask how we can draw on the best of our traditions, calling forth a spirit of ingenuity and citizen participation to achieve a free, democratic, just, and responsible society, one that actively responds to the crucial ecological challenges of our time, rather than denying them.

We submit a bold vision of our country's future, a Platform on which we stand:

- Our Ten Key Values as a guide to a politics of vision and action,
- A creative, pragmatic plan for a prospering sustainable economy, and
- A call to restore and protect a healthy, diverse environment and to cultivate a sense of community at all levels, from the local to the planetary. We propose a vision of our common good that is advanced through an independent politics free from the control of corporations and big money, and through a democratic structure and process that empowers and reaches across lines of division to bring together our combined strengths as a people.

We, the Green Party, see our political and economic progress, and our individual lives, within the context of an evolving, dynamic world.

As in nature, where adaptation and diversity provide key strategies through which life flourishes, a successful political strategy is one that is diverse, adaptable to changing needs, and strong and resilient in its core values:

- Participatory Democracy, rooted in community practice at the grassroots level and informing every level, from the local to the international.
- Social Justice and Equal Opportunity emphasizing personal and social responsibility, accountability, and an informing ethic of Nonviolence.
- Ecological and Economic Sustainability, balancing the interests of a regulated market economy and

community-based economics with effective care for the Great Economy in which we are embedded: the ecosystems of the Earth.

The Green Party Platform seeks to identify the most crucial problems facing our country and offers ideas for responsible action to solve them. Looking to the future with hope and optimism, we believe we can truly correct the course of reckless, destructive governance that has allowed and encouraged the degradation of our ecological life-support systems, gutted our economy, and strained the social fabric to the point of causing material hardship for millions of Americans. Our common destiny brings us together across our nation and around the globe. We act in service to our children and the future generations of all our relations in the Earth community. We act in service to the future we are creating today.

2010 Platform

### **1. Grassroots Democracy**

Every human being deserves a say in the decisions that affect his or her life and should not be subject to the will of another. Therefore, we will work to increase public participation at every level of government and to ensure that our public representatives are fully accountable to the people who elect them. We will also work to create new types of political organizations which expand the process of participatory democracy by directly including citizens in the decisionmaking process.

### **2. Social Justice and Equal Opportunity**

All persons should have the rights and opportunity to benefit equally from the resources afforded us by society and the environment. We must consciously confront in ourselves, our organizations, and society at large, barriers such as racism and class oppression, sexism and homophobia, ageism and disability, which act to deny fair treatment and equal justice under the law.

### **3. Ecological Wisdom**

Human societies must operate with the understanding that we are part of nature, not separate from nature. We must maintain an ecological balance and live within the ecological and resource limits of our communities and our planet. We support a sustainable society which utilizes resources in such a way that future generations will benefit and not suffer from the practices of our generation. To this end we must practice agriculture which replenishes the soil; move to an energy efficient economy; and live in ways that respect the integrity of natural systems.

### **4. Non-Violence**

It is essential that we develop effective alternatives to society's current patterns of violence. We will work to demilitarize, and eliminate weapons of mass destruction, without being naive about the intentions of other governments. We recognize the need for self-defense and the defense of others who are in helpless situations. We promote non-violent methods to oppose practices and policies with which we disagree, and will guide our actions toward lasting personal, community and global peace.

### **5. Decentralization**

Centralization of wealth and power contributes to social and economic injustice, environmental destruction, and militarization. Therefore, we support a restructuring of social, political and economic institutions away from a system which is controlled by and mostly benefits the powerful few, to a democratic, less bureaucratic system. Decision-making should, as much as possible, remain at the individual and local level, while assuring that civil rights are protected for all citizens.

### **6. Community Based Economics**

Redesign our work structures to encourage employee ownership and workplace democracy. Develop new economic activities and institutions that will allow us to use our new technologies in ways that are humane, freeing, ecological and accountable, and responsive to communities. Establish some form of basic economic security, open to all. Move beyond the narrow "job ethic" to new definitions of "work," "jobs" and "income" that reflect the changing economy. Restructure our patterns of income distribution to reflect the wealth created by those outside the formal monetary economy: those who take responsibility for parenting, housekeeping, home gardens, community volunteer work, etc. Restrict the size and concentrated power of corporations without discouraging superior efficiency or technological innovation.

#### **7. Feminism and Gender Equity**

We have inherited a social system based on male domination of politics and economics. We call for the replacement of the cultural ethics of domination and control with more cooperative ways of interacting that respect differences of opinion and gender. Human values such as equity between the sexes, interpersonal responsibility, and honesty must be developed with moral conscience. We should remember that the process that determines our decisions and actions is just as important as achieving the outcome we want.

#### **8. Respect for Diversity**

We believe it is important to value cultural, ethnic, racial, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity, and to promote the development of respectful relationships across these lines. We believe that the many diverse elements of society should be reflected in our organizations and decision-making bodies, and we support the leadership of people who have been traditionally closed out of leadership roles. We acknowledge and encourage respect for other life forms than our own and the preservation of biodiversity.

#### **9. Personal and Global Responsibility**

We encourage individuals to act to improve their personal well-being and, at the same time, to enhance ecological balance and social harmony. We seek to join with people and organizations around the world to foster peace, economic justice, and the health of the planet.

#### **10. Future Focus And Sustainability**

Our actions and policies should be motivated by long-term goals. We seek to protect valuable natural resources, safely disposing of or "unmaking" all waste we create, while developing a sustainable economics that does not depend on continual expansion for survival. We must counterbalance the drive for short-term profits by assuring that economic development, new technologies, and fiscal policies are responsible to future generations who will inherit the results of our actions. Make the quality of life, rather than open-ended economic growth, the focus of future thinking.



## Immigration

We affirm the integrity of the international borders of the United States and the constitutional authority and duty of the federal government to guard and protect those borders, including the regulation of the numbers and qualifications of immigrants into the country.

## The Judiciary

We support Congressional enforcement of the constitutional rule of good behavior and to restrain judicial activism by properly removing offending judges through the process of impeachment.

## Money and Banking

We support a debt free, interest free money system. We oppose fractional reserve banking and would repeal the Federal Reserve Act, restoring control of our money to Congress and reverting Federal Reserve Banks to be clearing houses only.

## Personal and Private Property Security

We affirm the Fourth Amendment right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures including registration, general and unwarranted electronic surveillance, national computer databases, and national identification cards.

## Pornography, Obscenity and Sexually Oriented Businesses

We call on local, state and federal governments to uphold our right to free speech by enforcing laws against obscenity.

## Religious Freedom

Our Constitution grants no authority to the federal government either to grant or deny the religious expressions of the people.

## Social Security

The Constitution grants no authority to the federal government to administer a Social Security system. We advocate phasing out the Social Security program, while continuing to meet the obligations already incurred under the system.

## State Sovereignty

Our federal republic was created by joint action of the several states. The federal government has no authority to mandate policies relating to state education, natural resources, transportation, private business, housing, health care, and infirmity.

## Statehood

We acknowledge that each state's membership in the Union is voluntary, and support the equal footing doctrine that all states enter the Union as co-equal with the original thirteen states.

## Tariffs and Trade

We oppose the unconstitutional transfer of authority over trade policy from Congress to agencies, foreign or domestic, which exercise policy-setting functions, and insist on the withdrawal of the United States from agreements and treaties wherein agencies other than Congress improperly assume responsibility for establishing American trade policies.

## Taxes

We support a tariff based revenue system, which was the policy during most of our nation's history. We would abolish the Internal Revenue Service and oppose any flat-rate tax, national sales tax, or value added tax proposals being promoted as improvements. To the degree that excises and tariffs on foreign products are insufficient to cover the legitimate costs of government, we will offer an apportioned "state-rate tax" in which the responsibility for covering unmet obligations will be divided among the several states in accordance with their proportion of the total population.

## Terrorism and Personal Liberty

We oppose violent acts of sedition, treason and guerilla warfare on U.S. soil. Individuals responsible for acts of terrorism, as well as the organizations and governments that condone them must be punished for their crimes, including the infliction of capital punishment where appropriate. We oppose legislation and executive action that deprive the people of their Fourth and Fifth Amendments rights under claims of necessity to "combat terrorism" or to "protect national security."

## Veterans

We appreciate the contributions of our servicemen and veterans to the preservation of American freedom, and will continue to recognize their contributions to the national welfare by providing equitable pay and benefits to our military personnel, and generous health, education, and other benefits to veterans.

## Welfare

Charity, and provision of welfare to those in need, is not a constitutional responsibility of the government. We encourage individuals, families, churches, civic groups and other private organizations to help those in need.



# National Platform In Brief



To read our entire platform,  
please visit:

[www.ConstitutionParty.com](http://www.ConstitutionParty.com)

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## **Preamble**

The goal of the Constitution Party is to restore American government to its Biblical foundations as enumerated in the *Declaration of Independence* and *Constitution of the United States*, which together establish a Republic, administered by elected representatives, to protect Life, Liberty and Property under rule of law.

## **Sanctity of Life**

We affirm the God-given legal personhood of all human beings from fertilization to natural death, without exception. Legalizing the termination of innocent life, born or unborn, is a direct violation of their unalienable right to life. We oppose legalization of euthanasia, infanticide and suicide.

## **Bring Government Back Home**

The closer government is to the people, the more responsible, responsive, and accountable it is likely to be. We pledge to work to restore to the States and to the people their rightful control over legislative, judicial, executive, and regulatory functions not constitutionally delegated to the federal government.

## **Character and Moral Conduct**

Our party leaders and public officials must display exemplary qualities of honesty, integrity, reliability, moral uprightness, fidelity, prudence, temperance, justice, fortitude, self-restraint, courage, kindness, and compassion. If they cannot be trusted in private life, neither can they be trusted in public life.

## **Congressional Reform**

Congress must be held accountable to the people and obedient to the Constitution, repealing all delegation of legislative powers to regulatory agencies, private organizations, international agencies, the President, and the Judiciary.

## **Conscription**

Compulsory government service is incompatible with individual liberty. We oppose imposition of the draft, registration, compulsory military training or any other form of compulsory government service.

## **Constitutional Convention**

We affirm the original text of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and oppose any attempt to call for a constitutional convention, for any purpose whatsoever, because it cannot be limited to any single issue.

## **Copyrights and Patents**

We oppose the unconstitutional transfer of authority over copyright and patent policy from Congress to other agencies, foreign or domestic, and favor vigorous efforts to protect the interests of owners in their copyrights and patents.

## **Cost of Big Government**

Only those duties, functions, and programs specifically assigned to the federal government by the Constitution should be funded. We call for a rapid systematic elimination of federal debt.

## **Crime**

Crime, in most cases, is to be dealt with by state and local governments. We favor the right of states and localities to execute criminals convicted of capital crimes, to require restitution for the victims of criminals, and that juries be fully informed of their right to nullify the law.

## **Defense**

A primary obligation of the federal government is to provide for the common defense. We oppose unilateral disarmament and dismemberment of America's defense infrastructure.

## **Domestic Federal Aid**

Domestic federal "aid" not authorized by the Constitution is not only illegal, it is immoral.

## **Drug Abuse**

We uphold the right of states and localities to restrict access to drugs and to enforce such restrictions.

## **Education**

We support the unimpeded right of parents to provide for the education of their children in the manner they deem best. The federal government has absolutely no jurisdiction concerning the education of our children.

## **Election Reform**

Each citizen has a right to seek office in accordance with qualifications set forth in federal and state constitutions. We seek to restore an electoral process controlled at the state and local levels, and urge an end to electronic or mechanical voting processes.

## **Electoral College**

We encourage states to eliminate the "general ticket" system and return to the procedure intended by the Framers.

## **Energy**

We call for eliminating the Department of Energy.

## **Environment**

We support realistic efforts to preserve the environment and reduce pollution - air, water, and land. We reject, however, the argument that this objective ought to be pursued by costly governmental interference.

## **Executive Orders**

We oppose the use of Presidential executive orders to make law or otherwise usurp the authority of Congress.

## **Family**

Marriage between one man and one woman is the foundation of the family, and fundamental in maintaining a stable, healthy and prosperous social order. We recognize that parents have the right and responsibility to nurture, educate, and discipline their children.

## **Foreign Policy**

The United States is a free and sovereign republic which should strive to live in peaceful commerce with all nations without interfering in their internal affairs, and without permitting their interference in ours. We oppose interventionist policy, and call upon the President and Congress to commence a systematic withdrawal from treaties and agreements which hold the potential to plunge America into foreign wars or deprive United States citizens of their rights under the United States Constitution.

## **Gambling**

We oppose government sponsorship, involvement in, or promotion of gambling, such as lotteries, or subsidization of Native American casinos in the name of economic development.

## **Government/ Private Partnership**

We oppose public-private partnerships and call for a return to the true "free enterprise" system.

## **Gun Control**

We uphold the right of the citizen to keep and bear arms as inherent in the right of self defense, defense of the family, defense against tyranny, as well as to help preserve the independence of the nation.

## **Health Care and Government**

The Constitution has no provision to regulate or restrict access to medical care, supplies or treatments; therefore we oppose government regulation of medicine and advocate eliminating the federal Food and Drug Administration.