

2002 SALT LAKE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

INTRODUCTION

We believe many of our deepest social problems are due to a lack of character and values. We deplore the diminished authority of the four great repositories of American values — religion, law, education and families. We believe respect is earned, not given. We believe in merit, not quotas. We reject philosophies that encourage our citizens to become dependent on government programs.

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Salt Lake County Republican Party, set forth in this Platform values and ideals we embrace and believe should control our government.

We believe in our Creator as the ultimate source of our inalienable rights and liberties; and in upholding the principles and articles outlined in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution of the State of Utah.

We believe that it is the opportunity and duty of individuals, not government, to provide acts of charity and benevolence, and to achieve personal development and accomplishment. Individuals must be held accountable by due process of law when they infringe upon life, liberty, or the property of others. When governmental intervention is necessary, constitutional government at the most local level possible is the best system suited to achieve these goals.

We urge all citizens to assist us in electing candidates who are dedicated to these principles and values.

PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

FREEDOM

1) **FAMILIES & CHILDREN:** We recognize that family strength and stability is the keystone of our society. We affirm that parents have the inalienable right and primary responsibility to nurture, educate, and raise their children. Individuals who abuse or neglect a spouse or offspring, or who fail to fulfill family responsibilities should, by due process, be held accountable. Responsible citizens and government should strengthen and support the family in its fundamental and prominent role in society.

- 2) **EDUCATION & CHILDREN:** We believe that all people should have access to quality education designed to allow them to reach their highest potential. The primary right and responsibility to choose and direct the education of children belong to parents. We support the right to choose public, private, or home education. We encourage initiatives to help all Utahns become literate in English. The Education system must be directed to promote the academic excellence and parental participation and discipline of each student.
- 3) **HUMAN LIFE:** We believe that families and society have the responsibility to preserve and maintain the sanctity of human life.
- 4) **RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE:** We believe in allowing individuals to reasonably practice religious beliefs in both public and private settings.
- 5) **HUMAN RIGHTS:** Infringement on our God-given rights by individuals, groups, or government is unacceptable.
- 6) **RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:** We support the individual constitutional right of the people to keep and bear arms for security and defense of self, family, others, property, or the state, as well as for other lawful purposes. Inseparably connected to the right to keep and bear arms is the duty to exercise individual responsibility to be trained in the proper care and use of firearms.
- 7) **DIVERSITY:** We believe in the free enterprise system and in equal opportunities for all people. If we remove fair and open competition, our diversity does not benefit us. We deplore discrimination, special rights, privileges or quotas based on sex, ethnicity, skin color, creed, or group affiliation. We believe hiring and continued employment should be based on qualifications and good work ethic.
- 8) **THE ECONOMY:** We believe in a strong, diversified economy based on a positive work ethic, a well trained and educated work force, an entrepreneur-friendly environment, and a safe workplace to help Utah compete in a global economy. Deregulation and privatization promote a healthy economy. An open market system, along with deregulation and privatization, promotes a healthy and fair economy. Economic markets operate most efficiently and fairly when controlled by natural economic forces. Government should not influence or compete in private markets unless there is overwhelming need and justification. We are in servitude to the state when the state usurps the power to determine the value of our labor or our property. We support the Utah Right to Work Law.
- 9) **DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY:** Society's needs are best satisfied first by the individual, second by the family, third by community groups and private enterprise, fourth by county and municipal government, fifth by state government, and lastly, by federal government.

10) STATES RIGHTS: Municipal, county, state, and federal governments each have rights and duties that should not be infringed upon or usurped by other government entities.

11) NATIONAL SECURITY: The federal government has the primary responsibility to adequately fund a strong military to protect our national security interests.

JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

12) CRIMINAL JUSTICE: The accused and the victim each have a right to a fair and speedy trial and a prompt satisfaction of judgment. The judicial process should incorporate restitution and fair sentencing to satisfy, protect and preserve these rights.

13) GOVERNMENT MANDATES: The government entity that mandates a program should fund that program and be required to abide by the rules and regulations of the mandate.

14) EQUAL JUSTICE: No government body, whether legislative, administrative, or judicial, may exempt itself from the laws, rules, or regulations promulgated by that governmental body.

15) CAMPAIGN FINANCE: All elected officials should fully, publicly, and promptly disclose campaign contributions, gifts, and spending.

16) TAXATION: Taxation, as granted by the legislature, and government services should be at the closest possible level to the people so that the collection and spending of tax revenues can be better monitored by those who are taxed.

17) BUDGETS: We believe in a balanced budget at all levels of government, and we oppose deficit spending except in time of war.

18) ENVIRONMENT: The quality of our air, water, and land are at the heart of our existence and must be protected through balanced management.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND CHARITY

19) CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Should government intervention be required, precautions must be taken to make sure the resources go to those in need and not to those who have a vested interest in the continued helplessness of other people. Safeguards must be established to prevent taxpayer moneys from being used by publicly funded entities to lobby for programs and policies.

20) **UNITY OF PURPOSE:** Society is not enhanced by encouraging class, ethnic, or racial division, but by promoting self-sufficiency, developing unity of purpose and constant individual efforts.

21) **PERSONAL INITIATIVE:** People cannot be permanently helped by others doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

22) **RESPECT:** There are issues upon which people may disagree. We can disagree, without being disagreeable. This diversity of views is a source of strength, not a sign of weakness. When conflicting situations exist, all parties should be amenable to negotiation and to arrive at a settlement that least intrudes upon the rights of others.

RESOLUTIONS ON POLICY REFORM

LOCAL

1) **TAX INCREASES:** We are opposed to current laws that allow counties, special districts, and school districts to raise taxes without a public vote.

2) **LIBRARY OVERSIGHT:** Material that is vulgar, obscene, or that has the sole intent to promote violence or hatred should not be found in public libraries. A certain degree of discretion is important. Community standards do apply to the purchase of materials for public libraries.

STATE

3) **TAXES:** Amend State Constitution to require a public vote or a two-thirds majority of the taxing authority in order to raise taxes.

4) **CONCEALED WEAPONS PERMITS:** The laws pertaining to concealed weapons and permit holders should remain as they are, without any further hindrances, except as there may be a need to clarify the preeminent rights of employers and private property owners.

5) **CONCEALED WEAPONS PERMITS:** Be it resolved that the issue of private property rights regarding the carrying of firearms be addressed to the extent that if the property is regularly accessed by the public it does not qualify as an exemption to the "Concealed Weapons Act."

6) **RETROACTIVE LAWS PROHIBITED:** We sustain the U.S. Constitution's prohibition on ex-post-facto laws, and direct Legislators to enact legislation which specifically clarifies that no law and/or amendment to a statute shall have any jurisdiction or effect on actions occurring prior to the enactment date.

7) ENGLISH: We support the recognition of English as the nation's common language and call for the repeal of the mandated and unfunded bilingual ballot provisions of the federal Voting Rights Act.

FEDERAL

8) TAXES: Amend the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by abolishing income taxes and adding the authority to collect sales taxes with the requirement of a two-thirds majority vote in Congress to raise taxes.

9) NATIONAL SECURITY: We support the Constitutional authority of Congress to provide for a well disciplined military. We call upon Congress to ensure our troops remain under U.S. command at all times.

10) NATIONAL SECURITY: We strongly encourage Congress to enact legislation prohibiting foreign troops from being based or positioned within the United States on a long or short-term basis. Exceptions to be granted for short term training and joint exercises, and would require all such troops to leave the country at the conclusion of the exercise.

11) CORPORATE WELFARE: We oppose and call on government at all levels to abolish all forms of direct corporate subsidies.

12) ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION: We demand increased efforts to secure our borders from the influx of illegal immigrants into our nation.