



# THE PLATFORM OF THE DAVIS COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

*As Amended April 13, 2019*

## **PREAMBLE**

We, the Republican Party of Davis County, affirm our beliefs in a Divine Providence and recognize the need for moral and spiritual foundations. We affirm our support for the freedoms expressed in the Declaration of Independence and protected in the Constitution of the United States of America, and recognize the efforts of others to seek the freedoms we enjoy. The Republican Party is a party for the people and by the people. It represents the values of productive citizens and its goal is to bring the best quality of life to all.

## **THE PROPER ROLE OF GOVERNMENT**

Government exists by the consent of the governed and must be restrained from intruding into the freedom of its citizens. The function of government is not to grant rights, but to protect the unalienable, God-given rights of life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness. Law that governs the people should be made by their elected representatives and not by courts or government agencies. We urge all citizens to understand government actions more fully and to seek ways to improve government's performance.

We support the right of citizens to petition government and to use the initiative and referendum processes to control taxes and budgets at all levels of government as provided in the Utah Constitution. We oppose the use of public funds, or personnel, acting in the capacity of their office, using facilities, supplies, or school children, organized by virtue of being school children, to promote or oppose petitions or referenda.

## **Private Property**

We recognize the rights of the individual to own property. We resist any effort by government to take private property without both an overwhelming need for public use and just compensation.

## **Reaffirmation of States' Rights**

We oppose congressional, judicial, and administrative abrogation of the principle that any powers not delegated to the central government of the United States of America by said Constitution, nor prohibited by said Constitution to the states, are reserved to the states respectively or to the people.

We demand that Federal law and administration be amended to require that administrative law fully comply with unalienable individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution. We are persuaded that government actions under administrative law have not ensured the basic constitutional rights of the citizens. Legislative action is essential to require government agencies to formulate rules and regulations that are consistent with unalienable individual constitutional rights.

To assist in balancing the federal budget, we demand an independent, outside policy, operational and financial audit of the Federal Reserve System, or by the General Accounting Office, similar to H.R. 1468, a bill in the 102nd Congress. We proclaim the constitutional right of any state to require such an audit. (1) We encourage Utah's Attorney General to initiate an audit by proceeding directly before the United States Supreme Court under a state's right of original jurisdiction. (2) Article I, Section 9, paragraph 7, of the Constitution of the United States. Article III, Section 2, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the United States.

## **Ethics and Standards**

Public officials must be honest, have personal integrity and high moral standards and be accountable to the electorate. We will work to prevent undue influence by the power and money of special interest groups. Members of legislative bodies must be accountable to the same laws and code of ethics imposed on others. Legislators should not grant themselves special privileges. While we expect all Republican candidates to support the principles in this Platform, we recognize honest disagreement may exist in some areas. We call on all candidates to state their position on important issues clearly so voters can compare them with their party's platform.

## **National Security and Public Protection**

We support military force of sufficient strength and readiness to deter any threat to our national sovereignty or to the safety of our citizens. We also support the efforts of law enforcement agencies to protect citizens in their homes and in their communities. We urge reform of the legal system to accomplish a swift and balanced administration of justice. We support capital punishment when appropriate. We urge political leaders to honor the Constitution by prohibiting the placement of United States government troops under any foreign command.

## **Firearms**

We support the individual unalienable constitutional right of the people to keep and bear arms for security and defense of self, family, other, or the state, as well as for other lawful purposes. We encourage personal responsibility for the care and use of firearms.

## **Freedom of Religion**

Government must protect freedom of religion, not freedom from religion, with the same tenacity as our other freedoms. We affirm the right and benefit of allowing prayer in public meetings.

## **Family Values**

We recognize that the strength and stability of the traditional family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the core of our society. All legislation should have a positive effect on the stability and tradition of the family unit. We affirm that parents have unalienable rights and primary responsibility in nurturing and rearing their children and affirm parental rights.

## **Right to Life**

We believe in the unalienable right to life for both the born and unborn. We strongly oppose abortion, except to preserve the life of the mother or in cases of rape and incest. We oppose tax-financed abortions and support legislation encouraging adoption.

## **Human Services**

We believe the primary responsibility for meeting basic human needs rests with the individual, the family, and the voluntary charitable organizations. We oppose national or state health care sponsored or controlled by the government. Access and the choice of quality, affordable health care is ideal. We believe, however, that there may be special social needs that can be addressed through state human service programs. We support human service programs that encourage recipients who are capable of working to obtain training and employment. We oppose the treatment of any communicable disease as a civil rights issue or political issue at the expense of good public health policy.

## **Culture**

We support diversity and the value of ethnic cultures to enhance the quality of life in Utah. We encourage all individuals to work together in the Republican Party to maintain the quality of life in Utah. We support English as the official language. We would encourage all to have a common language of expression.

## **Equal Rights**

We strongly affirm that no individual or group is entitled to rights that exceed or supersede the unalienable rights of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America and as addressed in the Declaration of Independence. Equal rights are essential for all people.

## **EDUCATION**

We believe that all children should benefit from quality education. Parents have the primary right and responsibility to educate their children and have the right to choose among public, private, and home education and the use of funding incentives to promote excellence in education. Parents have the primary responsibility for sex education. In their sex education programs, schools should teach abstinence as the only certain and acceptable method for avoiding teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. We strongly oppose the dispensing of any contraceptives in our schools, and the teaching of homosexuality as an acceptable alternative lifestyle, either by teachers, counselors, or any public servants.

## **THE ECONOMY**

### **Taxation**

We recognize the necessity for taxation in order for government to perform and administer those services that meet the public needs. However, we recognize the power to tax is also the power to control, and that the best way to control government is to strictly control the amount and form of taxes imposed on the people. We encourage further simplification of tax systems and broad based tax reduction where possible. We also recognize inflation, licensing, and user fees as forms of taxation. Taxes: (1) should be inexpensive to administer and collect; (2) should not create excessive burdens on taxpayers; (3) should not create competitive disadvantages; and, (4) should not excessively distort markets.

### **Regulation**

We recognize that government regulation can be a major impediment to productivity and competitiveness. We must rely more on market forces and less on government. Regulatory power exercised by the federal government must be returned to state and local governments.

### **Economic Development**

We believe in a strong diversified economy based on a positive work ethic and a business friendly environment. We support the Utah Right to Work law. We also support the idea of fair and free trade and deplore any trade agreement that compromises national sovereignty.

### **Fiscal Responsibility**

We believe in paying our own way and as such decry deficit spending. We applaud the balanced budget approach required by Utah's Constitution and believe it encourages small government and good government. Financial transactions should be transparent, ethical and allow for appropriate accountability both to citizens and the governing body authorizing the transaction.

## **THE ENVIRONMENT**

The quality of our environment, the air, the water, and the land is the heart of our existence and must be protected through balanced management. We support reasonable laws and volunteer efforts to improve air and water quality. We support reasonable resolutions to the wilderness question that protects the environment and is in the best interest of the citizens of Utah.

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### **Document History**

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Adopted April 24, 2004 – Todd Weiler, Chair.

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