



PLATFORM 2018

ADOPTED March 24, 2018

FEDERAL

1. Public Acknowledgment of God - We affirm that the public acknowledgment of God is undeniable in our history and vital to our prosperity and strength as a nation. We affirm the constitutionality of public symbols of faith such as "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, and "In God We Trust," our national motto, and public displays of the Ten Commandments.

2. Universal Truths - We believe in the existence of universal truths and absolute morality and reject the illogical fallacy of moral relativism pervasive in our society today.

3. Religious Liberty - We oppose any criminal penalties or civil liabilities being brought against those persons, businesses, or organizations who act out of sincere faith, conviction, or belief in traditional values at the federal, state, or local level.

4. Sovereignty of the Church - We support and acknowledge that the Church is a God-ordained institution with a sphere of authority separate from that of civil government, and thus the Church is not to be regulated, controlled, or taxed by any level of civil government.

5. Role of Government - We hold that the only just and proper role of government is in the protection of man's God-given rights, which are Life, Liberty, Property and the Pursuit of Happiness.

6. Abolish Federal Departments - We encourage abolishment of any and all federal agencies not based on an enumerated power granted by the U.S. Constitution such as: Education, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Commerce, Health and Human Services, Labor, and Interior (specifically, the Bureau of Land Management).

7. Abolish the Federal Reserve - We support the abolition of the Federal Reserve System. As long as it exists, we support full, comprehensive, and regular audits of the Federal Reserve System.

8. Baseline Budgeting - We support an elimination of baseline budgeting and adoption of zero-based budgeting for all federal departments and agencies.

9. Balanced Budget - We support a balanced federal budget, except during wartime, defined as a period following a congressional declaration of war. We further support the State of Texas leading the effort to utilize the Constitutional Amendment process, pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution, to require a balanced federal budget.

10. Debt Ceiling Increases - We oppose raising the debt ceiling any further.

11. Entitlement Reform - We support reform to entitlement programs that allows young people to opt out while preserving the benefits promised to retired Americans.

12. Government Surveillance - We oppose all forms of warrantless government surveillance of United States citizens and businesses.

13. Executive Orders - We oppose the unconstitutional abuse of executive orders and support repeal of all executive orders that violate the U.S. Constitution and the separation of powers.

14. Second Amendment - We believe that the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is a natural, inherent, and fundamental right granted by God to individuals and we oppose any efforts to limit that right for any law-abiding citizen.

15. Tenth Amendment - We oppose federal involvement in issues that should be left to the states. We believe that non-enumerated governmental authority is to be left to the states or to the people, as required by the 10th Amendment.

16. Fourteenth Amendment - We support amending the 14th Amendment to end birthright citizenship and require that at least one parent be a citizen of the United States.

17. Sixteenth Amendment - We support abolishing the Internal Revenue Service & the 16th Amendment, as well as overhauling our current tax system.

18. Seventeenth Amendment - We support the repeal of the 17th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which took the power to select U.S. Senators from our state legislators.

19. Restoring State Sovereignty - We support nullification to enable the States to regain the balance of powers reserved to them by the U.S. Constitution.

20. Electoral College - We oppose the National Popular Vote (NPV) or any attempt to circumvent the Constitution. We remain committed to the Electoral College and the ideals of a republican form of government.

21. Habeas Corpus - We oppose any bill or provision that would suspend habeas corpus for American citizens, except as addressed by the U.S. Constitution.

22. English as Official Language - We support legislation to make English the official language of United States and Texas.

23. Social Security - We oppose taxation of Social Security Benefits.

24. Election Integrity - All election related software must be uncompiled, and shall have its source code open for inspection, and must be certified pre- and post-election. All voting machines and source code shall be available for random inspections.

25. Term-Limits for Federal Offices - We call for term-limits for all federal elected and appointed officials, including judges.

26. Eliminate Congressional Superiority - Congress shall pass no law affecting Americans that does not equally apply to themselves and all other federal employees. All existing laws and precedents that do not meet this criterion shall be declared null and void.

27. Federal Court in Brazos County - We support legislation establishing a Federal court in Brazos County, Texas.

28. Presidential Appointment of "Czars" - We oppose the President appointing "czars." These officials must be approved by the U.S. Senate.

29. Judicial Restraint - Judges are to judiciously interpret and apply the law according to the U.S. Constitution as written, not make law.

30. Bathroom Privacy - We support legislation that maintains privacy, safety and traditional designations for public bathrooms.

31. Refugee Resettlement - We support nullification to enable the states to refuse the resettlement of refugees by the federal government.

32. Sharia Law - We oppose any efforts to implement or recognize Sharia Law as valid in the United States. We oppose allowing separate Sharia courts.

33. Drug Testing - Elected officials, government workers, and welfare recipients should be subjected to random drug testing for illegal drugs.

34. Welfare Programs - We support the abolition of all federal welfare programs, as they are not an appropriate role of the federal government.

35. Unfunded Mandates - We oppose all unfunded mandates to state and local governments.

36. Mandated Paid Leave - We oppose any Federal or State mandates requiring paid leave benefits.

37. Government Bailouts - We oppose all bailouts. In a free market economy, no entity is "too big to fail."

38. Burdensome Regulations - We urge Congress to eliminate regulations that burden the economy and to support market-based solutions.

39. Equal Treatment Under the Law - We call on Federal and State prosecutors to prosecute public officials to the same degree as private individuals.

40. Domestic Drilling - We support drastically reducing or eliminating restrictions on domestic drilling.

41. Internet Freedom - We oppose all efforts to further regulate the Internet in the United States or internationally, or to impose taxation upon internet goods and services. We oppose Net Neutrality.

42. Public Employee Unions - We oppose public employee unions and associations. While they are in existence, we support legislation prohibiting public sector unions and associations from endorsing or supporting candidates or engaging in tax funded lobbying. We oppose mandatory union membership, mandatory dues collections from paychecks and card check.

43. Elective Gender Related Surgery - We oppose the use of tax funds for any type of gender dysphoria treatments or sex change operations and/or treatments.

STATE

44. Property Tax Relief - We support tax reform to reduce the property tax burden on property owners.

45. No New Taxes - We oppose any new statewide taxes, including a personal income tax, property tax, real estate transaction tax, or any further tax increases. We support a repeal of the Margin Tax (Franchise Tax).

46. Tax and Expenditure Limit - We support a tax and expenditure limit on the State budget so that any budgetary increases shall be no more than the percentage growth of population plus inflation.

47. Tolls on Freeways - We oppose the conversion of freeway lanes into toll lanes, and oppose gas tax revenues from being used to build, subsidize, or maintain toll roads.

48. Tax Support for Sports Facilities - We oppose the use of tax funds for the building of stadiums for professional or semi-professional sports teams.

49. Legislator Retirement Pay - We believe that legislators should not have the authority to increase their own retirement plan. Any increase approved by legislators shall not take effect until the successor of that legislator takes office.

50. Legislative Accountability - All votes cast in the Texas Legislature should be recorded votes.

51. Term Limits - We support term limits for the House of Representatives, Senate, statewide elected officials, district court judges, and all appellate judges.

52. Speaker of the House -

a) Republicans in the Texas House shall select a conservative speaker nominee by secret ballot in a binding caucus without Democrat influence and shall vote for that member.

b) Committee chairs must be chosen by that committee's members rather than by the Speaker of the Texas House.

53. Constitutional Carry - We support the right of law-abiding citizens to carry firearms without a license, either concealed or openly, known as "Constitutional Carry."

54. Campus Carry - We support strengthening the concealed carry on campus law, so that unelected administrators and bureaucrats cannot subvert the true intent of the law by banning licensed concealed carry in any public university facility or in the facilities of any university receiving public funds.

55. Criminal Justice - We support the abolishment of civil asset forfeiture to ensure private property only be forfeited upon criminal conviction.

56. Vote Fraud - We support legislation making vote fraud a felony in Texas to help ensure fair elections.

57. Ban the Box – We oppose any effort to hide criminal conviction history from employers, such as “Ban the Box” legislation.

58. Judicial Reform - We oppose any effort to diminish the right of trial by jury. We believe the appellate judiciary should endeavor to give substantial deference to jury decisions.

59. Jury Nullification We support the State of Texas passing legislation to require that juries be notified of their right to nullify unconstitutional acts.

60. Hatch Act We support the adoption of the original Hatch Act, to be employed in the State of Texas.

61. Historical Sites and Monuments: Historical sites and monuments in Texas should be preserved and maintained so that individuals can understand and judge the past in historical context.

62. Radical Islamic Organizations - We call on governmental agencies and elected officials to avoid and suspend all activities with all radical Islamic organizations, such as the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR).

LOCAL

63. Local Debt - We urge local tax authorities to establish limits on total debt.

64. Taxes - We oppose tax increases by local governments and support tax rates being as low as possible.

65. Corporate Welfare - We oppose local government handouts to businesses and other private entities in the name of economic development.

66. Bond Transparency - Costs and details of bond proposals shall be clear in the ballot language of bond elections.

67. Development Regulations - We oppose unnecessary development regulations that are burdensome to businesses, including excessive enforcement of building codes, costly permitting, bureaucratic processes, and unreasonably restrictive zoning. We oppose municipal regulations outside the municipal boundaries.

68. Electricity Deregulation - We support deregulation of municipally owned electric utilities. We believe that citizens should be able to purchase electricity on the open market.

69. Annexation - Residents and landowners, in an area proposed for annexation, should have the right to vote to approve or reject the annexation.

70. Special Taxing Districts - We support restricting the authority of special taxing districts, such as Municipal Utility Districts and Municipal Management Districts, so that they are accountable to the people they serve and may not incur bond debt without a vote of their residents.

FOREIGN POLICY

71. Strong National Defense – We support building and maintaining a national defense, including cyber security, during times of war and peace that is powerful enough to defend our national interests and safety against any enemy on multiple fronts.

72. Declaring War - We believe that a declaration of war is necessary for the United States to enter into war and urge Congress to return this Constitutional principle to practice in the future.

73. Korean Unification – We support the U.S. led initiative to find a peaceful solution to the current Korean conflict, the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and the democratic unification of North and South Korea.

74. Foreign Aid - We oppose all foreign aid, except when national defense or disaster may require it.

75. United Nations - We support the withdrawal of the United States from the U.N. and the removal of U.N. headquarters from U.S. soil. No foreign agency or country should have authority over the United States, its citizens or armed forces.

76. Support of Israel - We call on the Republican Party to support mutual defense with the nation of Israel, considering Israel’s position as a strong ally of the United States. We believe that per the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, “Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of the State of Israel and the United States Embassy in Israel should be established in Jerusalem.”

77. International Organizations - We support United States’ withdrawal from the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the World Bank.

78. Free Trade - We support free and responsible trade as a necessary component of American capitalism and of the United States’ influence in the world.

79. Mexico and Central America - We support policies which help the regions of Mexico and Central America strengthen their Constitutions. We support aggressive military and law enforcement cooperation to address the corruption, drug cartels, and human trafficking.

IMMIGRATION

80. Streamlining Immigration - We support legal immigration and streamlining the process, including eliminating chain migration and Visa lottery.

81. Enforcement of Existing Laws - We oppose illegal immigration and demand the enforcement of existing state and federal laws regarding border security, national security, immigration, and employment.

82. Amnesty - We oppose blanket and/or incremental amnesty. We support efforts to increase and enhance border security, including the arrest and immediate deportation of those who enter the U.S. illegally.

83. Taxes & Government Assistance - We believe all U.S. residents should be subject to tax law regardless of status; we do not believe illegal immigrants should receive government assistance, including in-state tuition.

84. Sanctuary Cities - We support legislation to ban, and withhold state and federal funding for, sanctuary cities and support the prosecution of any elected official who ignores or obstructs Federal immigration laws.

85. Employer Enforcement - We support legislation requiring the use of E-Verify.

EDUCATION

86. School Safety – To protect students and staff, we support strengthening school security measures, including voluntary rigorous firearms training for school personnel.

87. Local Control - We support returning the control of public schools to the local level.

88. School Choice - We support giving parents the freedom to choose their children's education according to their own values and tax dollars should follow the child.

89. Parental Rights in Education - We support parental rights in education via private, parochial, and homeschools, free from government control, including extracurricular activities.

90. CSCOPE - We urge the Texas Legislature to ban CSCOPE or “Common Core” from being taught in Texas schools.

91. School Finance - The school finance system in Texas is in need of serious reform and should prioritize classroom instruction. We support a simple, fair, and efficient method for financing our public school system.

92. Back to Basics - Primary & secondary education should include extensive content in history, math, reading, writing, science & English, with added emphasis on computer literacy, basic logic and programming skills, rules of reasoning and argument, and the basis of American civil society. Other than basic biology, sexuality should not be part of the curriculum in public schools.

93. Higher Education Reform - We support merit-based admissions, post-tenure review, and ending tuition deregulation.

94. Vocational Education - Recognizing that not every student will choose to go to college, we support increasing technical and vocational education in public high schools and community colleges.

95. School Prayer - We support the rights of students to pray in school and urge school personnel to inform students of their First Amendment rights to engage in religious speech, individually or in groups, on school property.

96. Equal Access to State Grants - We believe that all Texas students, whether graduating from public, private or home schools, should have equal access to all State supported grants, scholarships, and loans.

97. Radical Islamic Charter Schools - We oppose the public funding of charter schools with ties to radical Islamic groups, both foreign and domestic.

98. American Identity, Patriotism, and Loyalty - We favor strengthening our common American identity and loyalty, which includes the contribution and assimilation of different racial and ethnic groups. Students should pledge allegiance to the US and Texas flags daily to instill patriotism.

FAMILY

99. Right to Life - We believe in the sanctity of human life, and that all life from conception to natural death is a natural, inherent right granted by God that cannot be infringed upon by government. We believe that abortion, genocide, euthanasia and assisted suicide are infringements upon the right to life as stated in the preamble to the U.S. Constitution. Therefore, we believe human abortion is murder and that human abortion should be abolished in Texas.

100. Taxpayer Funding for Abortion - We oppose all taxpayer funding for abortion and abortion providers.

101. Judicial Bypass - We oppose judicial permission for minors to receive abortions without parental consent.

102. Pro-Life Legislation - We urge the Texas Legislature to repeal section 19.06 of the Texas Penal Code, which sanctions the murder of unborn children, and to repeal section 166.046 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, which enables the withdrawal or withholding of life-sustaining treatment without the patient's or patient's family's consent.

103. The Sanctity of Marriage - We believe that marriage is between one natural man and one natural woman. We support the right of the States to define marriage.

HEALTHCARE

104. Repeal Obamacare - We support the repeal of Obamacare and oppose replacing it with any new government-run healthcare system.

105. Medicaid - We support block granting federal Medicaid funds to the States, requiring a nominal co-pay for Medicaid patients, and oppose Medicaid expansion in Texas.

106. Reduce Healthcare Costs - We support free market reductions in healthcare and health insurance costs by increasing healthcare competition, reducing government regulations, and the ability to purchase insurance across State lines.

107. Opioid Epidemic – We support efforts to combat opioid addiction without infringing upon legitimate medical needs.

PARTY IMPROVEMENT

108. Support the President - We call on the Republican members of the U.S. Congress to unify behind our Republican President and responsibly legislate according to conservative Republican principles.

109. Platform Enforcement - The Republican Party of Brazos County (RPBC) shall require all candidates filing

in the Republican Primary to indicate their positions on each plank of the RPBC platform. The positions of candidates shall be made publicly available.

110. Code of Fair Campaign Practices - We encourage all candidates involved in Brazos County to sign and adhere to Brazos County's Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

111. Closed Primaries - We call on the Republican Party of Texas (RPT) to support closed primaries.

112. Review of Candidates - We call on the RPT to review the qualifications of candidates for all elected positions, including so-called non-partisan offices.

113. Rule 40 - We call on the Republican National Committee to return to the pre-2012 party rules.