

2016 PLATFORM, COMMENDATIONS
AND RESOLUTIONS
OF THE WALLA WALLA COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

Approved by the Walla Walla County Convention

On March 20 2016

Written by the

Committee on Platform, Commendations and Resolutions

Bob Turner, Chairperson
Virginia Carpenter
Mike Fredrickson
Ted Richerzhagen

PREAMBLE

We, the Walla Walla County Republican Party, affirm and support the foundational principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. These documents ensure our freedom from governmental tyranny and oppression, and shall never be superseded by any foreign government and/or treaty. We support the conservative principle that the powers of government derive from the consent of the people. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land and should be interpreted as originally intended. Article 1, Section 1 of the Washington State Constitution states "All political power is inherent in the people, and governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and are established to protect individual rights". Government's responsibility is to serve, not rule. Therefore we support smaller, more efficient and less obtrusive government.

We are proud to remember that our republic and our Republican party were founded with reverence to God. We continue to hold these ideas as essential to the true success of our nation.

Freedom is an essential part of what it means to be human and we unequivocally defend the rights of citizens. America is a land of opportunity, but success is not guaranteed and must be earned. The key to America's progress is the freedom, inventiveness and ambition of its people. Thus, achievement of the American Dream depends on personal responsibility, courage and talent.

THEREFORE we support the following principles:

ECONOMY/JOBS

A free, open and competitive market is the natural and proper order for economic exchange. The extent to which the free market can function effectively is limited by the degree of government intervention. Therefore government should not subsidize or "bail out" failing organizations. Monopolies, price control and extensive subsidies hinder and destroy the free market system.

Reducing taxation, paperwork, and regulations will encourage competition, entrepreneurship, and small businesses which will create jobs and must be implemented. To increase sales tax revenue which is the primary generator of income for Walla Walla County, the revitalization of all our cities' downtowns should be encouraged, and construction of the Blue Mountain Mall in Walla Walla should be facilitated as much as possible within the county's power.

Equitable and reasonable regulation of the financial system should be instituted, including an accountability audit of the Federal Reserve.

HEALTH CARE

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, "Obama Care," must be repealed because government is wholly inadequate and incompetent to manage health care decisions. Health care decisions are best made by the individual in conjunction with health care professionals, thus government intervention must be limited to supporting free and open market solutions to reduce the cost of health care. As long as the ACA is in effect, members of congress and their staff should be subject to its provisions as well, even if the number of employees in each office is less than fifty.

TAXES

The power of taxation is granted from the people to the government for limited purposes. Tax revenue shall be used only to fund such legitimate and constitutional government activities. Fines, fees, tolls, and assessments shall not be sources of general revenue, but shall be set to cover only those costs directly associated with the services provided.

Taxation that derives from the death of an individual is duplicative and must be repealed.

Government should be good stewards of tax revenue and must limit spending to reduce unnecessary expenditures and waste. As a start, we encourage the 'Penny Plan' by which each federal agency reduces its annual budget by 1% per year for five years. Legislators and government agencies shall not issue or authorize unfunded mandates, especially for education and educational infrastructure.

The Business and Occupation Tax is an inequitable burden on small businesses and should be repealed.

Our platform calls for beginning the nationwide process to add a balanced budget amendment to the United States constitution.

ENERGY

Energy independence is crucial to national security and prosperity, and must be an urgent national priority. Government must protect and encourage a robust and multifaceted national energy industry.

Domestic energy resources must be vigorously developed based on economic viability and market demands that are independent of tax subsidies, bail outs or stimulus funding.

International pipelines are crucial for North American energy independence and should be approved and allowed to be constructed immediately.

ELECTIONS, INITIATIVES, and REFERENDUMS

Fair, secure and accurate elections are the foundation of a democratic representative republic. Preventing fraudulent voter registration of non-citizens and persons whose voting rights have been removed must be a priority. Proof of citizenship should be required at registration. Violators must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the Law.

The Washington State Constitution allows for a direct voice of the people in the form of initiatives and referendums, which should be supported and respected by the legislative and executive branches.

FAMILY

We support and recognize the traditional family unit (i.e. mother, father, and children) for its continued contribution to our nation as its time-honored principles are the foundation of our society, thus it should be supported, encouraged, and protected by the government.

The state of Washington should rescind the Gender Neutral Bathroom Policy passed by the Washington state Human Rights Commission on December 26, 2015. A public bathroom should only be entered by persons whose birth-genders match the assigned designation of the facility. Exceptions will be made for those who have been surgically changed from their birth gender and are medically certified as such.

RIGHT TO LIFE

The right to life is the preeminent right. Liberty ends where it conflicts with another's life; therefore, Government must protect all innocent human life from its beginning to its natural death.

EDUCATION

Children should be taught to respect personal Responsibility, accountability, and to have a strong work ethic.

This is the responsibility of each parent. Government's role should be limited to assisting parents in meeting that responsibility. Local schools in conjunction with parents should set these standards. We encourage merit based management and competitive education models.

Elementary and secondary education must focus on the foundations of reading, writing, mathematics, sciences, United States history, and American government. A thorough knowledge of these subjects is vital for successful citizenship.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

The right of the people to be secure in their ownership of private property is guaranteed by the Constitution and is fundamental to our form of government. Secure property rights preserve economic stability, free markets and most importantly, principles of self-determination. The determination of land uses, zoning, water rights, and divisions of land varies from community to community and the Urban Growth Act should be rewritten so that regulation thereof remains local rather than with the state or federal government. Eminent Domain should be dictated solely in the case of imminent public "necessity and good" and subject to just and timely compensation.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Government should take a primary role in securing our borders and protecting the lives of citizens from foreign aggression and terrorism, with a strong, well-equipped and combat-ready military. Our military should be rebuilt to the standards determined by military professionals in order to carry out this mission.

We call on the Federal government to require more accountability in the procurement of weapon systems.

The military should not be used as a means of social engineering. Women will not be deliberately assigned to infantry, armor, nor other direct combat roles as determined by the respective heads of the separate service branches.

An essential part of modern warfare is intelligence gathering to discover the activities of our enemies which threaten the security of our nation. Government must promote cooperation among security agencies, intelligence departments and law enforcement, but shall not infringe on the constitutional rights of citizens.

The federal government should not forget the individuals that have served this great nation and should support the VA Hospital system so that we can take care of the individuals that have taken care of us. A system shall be established by which private care facilities can be utilized for VA care when necessary to increase access.

PERSONAL SECURITY

The constitutional right of individual citizens to keep and bear arms must be held inviolate by the Supreme Court and all other branches of government.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Government's responsibility is to protect life, liberty, and property from criminal activity. Local governments are responsible for providing adequate police protection for this purpose. The prosecution of individuals who commit crimes must be vigorous while simultaneously protecting constitutional rights and guaranteeing equal justice under the law.

IMMIGRATION

America's greatness flows from our history of inviting greatness from all nations. This invitation continues to all who desire to join this nation through lawful means.

Legislators must expand and enact programs for the temporary lawful entry of foreign workers with a system of verifiable immigration status to include the tracking of entry and exit status. The E-verify program shall be enforced. To ensure fairness and order, executive and judicial entities must enforce the laws written by the legislature.

There should be no "sanctuary cities." We support the municipalities in Walla Walla County to continue to abide by Federal immigration laws.

Immigration should be temporarily suspended from countries where terrorism is prevalent and where terrorist groups such as ISIS have acquired territory.

AGRICULTURE

A nation's security and prosperity depends on its ability to supply the agricultural needs of its populace. Government must protect agriculture and oppose burdensome regulations, unfair trade practices and the usurpation of agricultural water rights.

Family and small farms are major contributors to economic prosperity and must be relieved from **excessive taxation, excessive paperwork, and excessive regulation.** **The Death Tax** needs to be repealed at both the state and federal levels.

ENVIRONMENT

The responsibility to protect and preserve the environment rests with individual citizens and government at the local level. Environmental regulations must be based on unbiased, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence. Science is only as valid as those practicing and promoting it, and the further removed from the local level it is, the higher the standard of scientific proof required.

No peer-reviewed scientific evidence indicates that removal of the four lower Snake River dams would affect the fish population. These dams should remain in place.

FOREIGN TRADE

A foundation of national economic growth is the opportunity for people to market their goods to other nations. Foreign trade should be encouraged with nations that want to engage in fair and free trade.

Domestic policies must enable American trade to be competitive in a global free market economy. Unilaterally amending trade agreements can destroy substantial numbers of Washington jobs.

TRANSPORTATION

Government is responsible to provide and maintain a suitable and safe transportation infrastructure. Funds collected to meet this responsibility must be used in a timely and efficient manner to meet the purpose for which they were collected. In Walla Walla County this would include the completion of US Highway 12 and protection of the navigable river system.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVED THAT, a copy of this platform and this resolution shall be sent to the following officials by the Chairperson of this convention:

- Congresswoman Cathy McMorris-Rogers
- State Senator Michael Hewitt
- State Representative Maureen Walsh
- State Representative Terry Nealey
- County Commissioner Perry Dozier
- County Commissioner Jim Johnson
- County Commissioner Jim Duncan
- Mayor Allen Pomraning and Members of the Walla Walla City Council
- Mayor Julie Scott and Members of the College Place City Council

Mayor Walt Gobel and Members of the Waitsburg Town Council
Mayor Harry Oberg and Members of the Prescott Town Council
State Republican Chairman Susan Hutchinson.

Support of the Presidential Nominee

Whereas the mission statement of the Walla Walla County Republican Party states that the primary mission of the party is to elect Republicans to office,

And whereas we have a contested presidential primary that is undecided at the time of this convention,

We therefore resolve to support whoever the nominee of the Republican Party for president is and will encourage our family and friends to do the same.