

GRANT COUNTY REPUBLICANS

2010 PLATFORM

PREAMBLE

Republicans believe that good government is based on the individual and family, that each person's ability, dignity, freedom and responsibility must be honored and recognized. Our basic freedom, the value that makes our country unique in the world, is rooted in our constitution and through the words of our founding fathers as written in the Declaration of Independence: "we hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness – that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed." Our republic was founded as one nation under God on principles clearly set forth in the Declaration of Independence and codified in our Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Knowing that our United States Constitution was drafted to secure these God given rights, we therefore reaffirm our allegiance to our Republic, and pledge to honor and uphold the United States Constitution, which guarantees a republican form of government.

We believe our three-branch form of government, as established by the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Washington, with its inherent system of checks and balances, is the best in the world. We believe in a strict adherence to our nation's founding documents with full consideration of their original intent. They clearly define the roles and limitations of each branch as:

- Legislative in making laws
- Executive in administering and enforcing the laws
- Judicial in deciding cases according to the laws

We firmly support the 10th Amendment of the United States Constitution and reject efforts to use the "Commerce" clause to weaken its restrictions on the Federal Government. We believe that the People and the States retain all powers not expressly delegated to the Federal government; those remaining powers not specifically delegated do not constitute a stepping-stone to becoming an all-powerful government Leviathan.

We further believe in enforcing the 10th Amendment to the US Constitution which specifically States: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." We must reclaim our dual-sovereignty system that places limitations upon Federal powers. We further support the U.S. Supreme Court rulings in *New York vs. United States* and *Printz vs. United States* that the Federal government cannot compel the States to enforce Federal statutes such as those contemplated by a National ID, Nationalized Health Care and/or a Nationalized Cap & Trade.

A. Taxes and Spending / Government Effectiveness

We strongly support our Attorney General Rob McKenna's actions of joining Florida States lawsuit against the Health Care Bill and his effort to ensure that the Federal government does not exceed its authority in certain provisions of the health care bill, and that the citizens of the State of Washington are given the respect that the Constitution requires.

We believe government exists to serve the people, and not the other way around. Above all, we believe in limited government. Government should be "of the people, by the people and for the people."

The State budget has increased and the surplus is gone due to irresponsible state spending. The bureaucratic agencies are running rampant creating and enforcing unnecessary control thereby, reducing efficiency of the state government.

We support responsible State spending and efficient use of our tax dollars. Government must adhere to a strict standard of financial accounting.

We support reducing the size of Government at all levels. We renew our commitment to regular performance and fiscal audits and call on all elected and appointed officials at all levels to eliminate government waste including regular audits of the private federal reserve and supporting HR1207.

We will continue to oppose a State Income Tax or any other new tax, fees or penalties. Government must operate within their budgets.

We will support the elimination of the inheritance "death" tax.

We support the Sunset Commission to review, evaluate and recommend changes or terminations of laws and/or programs after a certain number of years.

B. Economic Opportunity

We believe the private sector is the creator of the majority of jobs, whether in agriculture, manufacturing, services, technology or transportation. We believe that retaining current businesses within our State along with enticing new businesses to locate here are necessary to our economic well being. It is therefore imperative the Legislature and State and local agencies continually find ways to decrease redundant, intrusive, regulatory and governmental impediments that drive up business costs and slow productivity. This is especially important to small businesses. Individuals, families and communities depend upon successful businesses to create and foster the jobs, services, products, economic benefits and opportunities that are the very foundation of our country's economic system and our way of life.

We believe economic opportunity is best achieved by:

- Reducing excessive regulation on businesses in Washington State and examining existing regulations to ensure that they are currently relevant and reflect the intent of the law.
- Reducing taxes and fees on businesses and individuals; eliminating the B & O tax.
- Expanding international export trade while protecting national security.

- Establishing and maintaining various energy resources within our State and Nation.
- Ensuring our State Transportation policies consider the needs of commercial traffic which depend on our roads, rails, ports and waterways for conducting business.
- Enacting tort reform to eliminate frivolous lawsuits.
- Supporting hydroelectric power being considered as renewable and on a footing equal to wind power and solar power.
- Promoting policies that facilitate the success of small business, which is the growth engine of the American economy.

C. Election Reform

Fair and open elections are vital to retaining our liberties and preventing our Republic form of government from becoming a tyranny. We believe it is the duty of government to provide for clean elections by ensuring:

1. Only legally registered citizens' vote.
2. Only legal ballots are cast.
3. All legally-cast ballots are properly and impartially counted.
4. That both voters and elections officials adhere to the laws of this State.

We also believe that citizens have the right to actively monitor all aspects of the elections process and challenge irregularities as they occur. In order to restore the integrity of our elections, we believe it is necessary to encourage voter dedication, responsibility and accountability. With this in mind we support:

- Development of a State Wide Voter Database.
- Require original source document, or certified copy, including official governmental issue photo identification, as proof of US citizenship in order to register and eliminate fraud.
- Verify the accuracy of current voter rolls and require that all registered voters be reviewed and updated annually against felon records, death records and immigration records provided through the departments of Health, Immigration and Justice to the proper election officials (Auditor).
- Establish consistent standards for determining voter intent and ensuring a uniform application of these standards across the State.
- Investigate and prosecute, to the fullest extent of the law, all credible cases of election fraud, every time.
- Support our Polling places and eliminate vote by mail while maintaining absentee ballots and a paper ballots.
- Protection of Washington States Initiative Process.
- Eliminate motor voter registration.

D. Agriculture

Agriculture is Washington's number 1 industry. Irrigated agriculture is the economic driver for Grant County and an important part of the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project (CBP). Grant County is the 5th largest county in the United States and the largest county in Washington State based on acres irrigated. The market value of crop sales in 2007 was nearly \$847 million and with the multiplier of 3 makes \$2,541,000,000 economic impact of irrigated agriculture in Grant County. Direct and indirect jobs created by agriculture are 50% of total jobs in Grant County. Property taxes paid on agriculture land in 2009 is nearly 18 million.

Efforts by special interests continue to try to stop all irrigation in the name of environmental protection. Therefore Grant County Republicans recognize the value and importance of irrigated agriculture in Grant County and the State of Washington. We support the CBP and will work to keep it a viable industry for Grant County and the State of Washington and will oppose all efforts to dismantle the industry.

Grant County Republicans recognize the value of irrigated agriculture and supports completion of the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project. Additionally, a water exchange using surface water from Lake Roosevelt rather than ground water will solve the environmental crises in the undeveloped portion of the CBP and the depletion of the Odessa sub-area aquifer. It will further maintain and increase the economic benefit of irrigated agriculture to Grant, Adams, Franklin and Lincoln Counties.

Our government needs to recognize our domestic food supply is a critical component of our National Security. The Federal and State Governments need to assure this vital security system is protected.

1. All imported agricultural products must be inspected under the same stringent regulations of US products. We believe products should not be allowed into the US that have been treated with chemicals banned for use by US farmers, or in plants using unacceptable processes and materials.
2. We urge our Legislators and Congressmen to insist that waters in our Northwestern States be reserved for use within these States since these supplies are limited.
3. We deplore the drawing down of water levels behind the dams of the Snake and Columbia Rivers in an attempt to rejuvenate the fish industry. We encourage the acceptance of the hatchery fish that, although not "native" are identical for all intents and purposes. We encourage the enforcement of 200 mile offshore fishing limit, and the banning of all commercial net fishing on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.
4. We insist that agriculture, transportation, energy, recreation, tourism, and municipalities should not be put at risk until there is a better understanding of the problem.
5. Promote agriculture's role in economic recovery by not increasing taxes, fees or regulations on the industry.
6. End excessive regulations that result in higher labor costs, reform workers' comp to make it more effective and enhance programs for seasonal and full-time workers to promote a legal, stable workforce.
7. Foster sound environmental outcomes by recognizing the benefits derived from farming and encourage farmers to continue to practice and enhance stewardship.
8. Ensure efficient farm-to-market transportation.

9. Require State and Federal agencies to complete an agricultural impact Statement in advance of any action that is implemented which impacts farmland.
10. Support agricultural research, extension and commodity programs.
11. Oppose removal of Snake River & Columbia River Dams.

E. Traditional Family Values

The traditional family is the cornerstone of our free society. Strong caring families with both a father and mother provide the ideal environment for raising and preparing children to become positive, contributing members of their community. We recognize that not all families have both parents in the home. We recognize that there are many single parents, grandparents, and others, such as extended family members and adoptive parents, who accept the responsibility of preserving families. It is the right and responsibility of both parents to provide for and direct all matters concerning the health, welfare, education and moral training of their minor children. Our laws must strengthen and sustain family rights and the traditional family structure. We support:

- Protecting the institution of marriage and its benefits to society by defining marriage as between a man and a woman as exists in Washington State Law.
- Government practices and policies that strengthen the role of family and personal responsibility but do not negate, interfere or diminish existing parental authority.
- Respect for the dignity of all human life, whether unborn, born, young or old.
- English as the official language of the United States of America and the State of Washington.

F. Education

Parents have the primary responsibility and authority for educating their children. To that end the education system in Washington State should be available to assist parents in preparing their children to become intellectually mature and productive citizens. Much remains undone in restoring the American education system and its improvement has become a top priority for the Republican Party, our State and the nation.

We support excellence in education through:

- Restoring and reaffirming local control of our schools.
- Teach a view of our nation's history, ideals and accomplishments with academic integrity relying on unedited, fundamental founding documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, Magna Carta, the Mayflower Compact, the Federalist Papers, the Articles of the Confederation, and the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Washington and require it to be part of K-12 school curriculum and that the curriculum be equal to or greater than the naturalization requirements. We support and encourage the signing of the petition and the proposed measure known as Initiative 1058. Without knowledge of history there is no future.
- We support performance based employment for teachers and oppose tenure.

- Teachers must be held accountable for academic education of their students and have in place measurable academic outcomes.
- Requiring all children to master the English language.
- Provide language programs focused on integrating non-English speaking students as quickly as possible.
- Reduce administration costs so that more tax money reaches the classroom to benefit students.
- Legislation to allow us to proudly display the United States flag in all public school classrooms and to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Support inclusion in Grant County curriculums "History of Grand Coulee Dam" and Columbia Basin Irrigation Project."
- Elimination of the state and federal Departments of Education.
- We support charter schools and a voucher program that allows the dollars to follow the student. We support home and private schooling.

G. Property Rights

The core of ownership in America has always been ownership of private property a citizen can call his or her own. Republicans respect this fundamental right. For reasons both Constitutional and environmental, therefore, we support the safeguarding of private property rights and the enforcing of the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment to provide just compensation whenever private property is needed to achieve a compelling public purpose. We oppose efforts to diminish the rights of private citizens to the property they own.

We strongly request our legislature to clarify the laws of Washington to make it clear: The right of eminent domain shall not be used to enhance a jurisdictions tax income, but only if it can be proven that the condemnation is for the PUBLIC good and absolutely necessary, and properly compensated.

- Support legislation that will prohibit the State's use of eminent domain for the development of private property in order to increase revenue.
- Support the utilization of the Washington's Competitive Contracting Laws policies and procedures for contracting out of public services as defined under RCW 41.06.142.
- Support public input before closing public lands and parks.
- Remove "one-size-fits-all" State mandated Growth Management Act and allow counties to write their own policy without State oversight.
- Support full completion of the Columbia Basin Reclamation Project.
- Continue support of the current water policy of "first in time, first in right."
- Support PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) on all government owned lands.
- Support privatization of the Hanford Reach Monument properties.
- Require all federal, state and environmental laws that affect the enjoyment and use of private property and lessen their value to include compensation to land owners at fair market appraisal value.

H. Courts and Judiciary

For trust to exist between citizens and government, transparency and accountability is an expectation of a free people. America and Washington State are governed by three branches;

The Executive, the Legislative and the Judiciary. More and more we are seeing examples of these branches conducting affairs not just in secret but also refusing to even release details. In October 2009, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled that the Judiciary is exempt from public disclosure requirements under the State's Public Records Act. Effectively cutting off the public's right to review what is being done by one of the most powerful sectors of government.

- We support legislators who will pass laws that clarify the Public Records Act and bring the Judiciary under its requirements. The wording of the Public Records Act must be changed to deny abuses and refusals of transparency by any and all branches and agencies of Government.
- We support term limits for judges.
- We support requirements that when frivolous lawsuits are brought to trial, the loser will be required to pay all legal fees and court costs.
- We support that judges do not legislate from the bench.
- Courts shall only utilize decisions made within the United States of America.
- Judges issue opinions, they do not make law. Their opinion is not the law of the land. If the constitution needs amending, there is a process in place to do so.

Chairman, Grant County Republican

Date Signed

Vice Chairman, Grant County Republicans

Date Signed

Date Adopted

Resolutions 1, 3 and 4 attached, are made a part of this Platform as per adoption at the 2010 Grant County Republican County Convention April 10, 2010.

2010 Resolution #1

Resolution on Immigration

WHEREAS being a nation of immigrants from every corner of the planet, we accept and encourage the lawful entry and assimilation of law abiding, productive persons.

WHEREAS providing for such health care, education and welfare and other social entitlement programs, to those that enter our country illegally only serves as an encouragement and enticement to ignore our laws and to enter our nation.

THEREFORE, WE the Grant County Republican Party believe that all government agents and agencies must uphold the immigration laws and not aid and abet illegal immigrants. An effective and enforceable workers visa program must be established to meet the needs of agriculture and other industries when citizens are unavailable to fill those jobs.

Submitted by: Jon Smith
For the 2010 County Platform

2010 Grant County Republican Convention
Resolution # 3

THE CONSTITUTION

Whereas, this Constitution and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof: and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, **are the supreme Law of the Land.** (Article VI United States Constitution) and,

All officeholders both of the United States and of the several States shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation to support this Constitution. (Article VI, last paragraph, paraphrased).

Whereas, The Constitution "fixed the limits" of political power and Thomas Jefferson said, "In questions of power, then, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but **bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.**" (Thomas Jefferson in his draft of Kentucky Resolutions 1798)

Whereas, because of man's propensity to abuse power, those in power must be constrained. Our constitution was written for that purpose. All elected and appointed officeholders must be held accountable to their responsibility to limit their activities to those specifically granted in the constitution.

Therefore, we encourage all candidates for public office to make a written and public pledge willingly binding themselves to the limits placed on them by the constitution while in public office.

We support legislation to require all candidates and office holders, both elected and appointed, to take a course on the constitution and the original intent of its framers using the debates during the constitutional convention and the federalist papers to support original intent.

We also support legislation requiring any bill introduced in congress to cite the constitutional authority for the bill.

We affirm that refusal to adhere to the requirements of the Constitution is grounds for impeachment and removal from office. For example Article II Section 3 of the Constitution states that the President "shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed." No President has the prerogative to refuse to enforce the immigration laws, or any other laws unless there is a question of their constitutionality.

Submitted by: Keith Easterly
Moses Lake 7, Grant County, Washington
509-765-9217

2010 Grant County Republican Convention
Resolution #4

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

Whereas, America from its inception has been ONE NATION UNDER GOD. We, as a people, have always acknowledged our dependence upon Him for our life and liberty as a free people.

Whereas, "In God we trust" has been the battle cry of American liberty. Our national anthem established this phrase as our national motto and we have inscribed it on our money as a constant reminder that we are ONE NATION UNDER GOD.

Whereas, our Declaration of Independence confirms the Biblical truth that governments are accountable to our Creator and the people, in their charge to secure the God given, unalienable rights of the people, under God.

Whereas, Both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson confirmed our dependence upon God to remain a free people.

George Washington issued a national Day of Thanksgiving Proclamation on October 3, 1789 which he stated, "It is a duty of all nations to acknowledge that providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and to implore His protection and favor."

Parts of this statement by Thomas Jefferson are engraved on the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. "God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever."

Therefore, we the members of the Republican Party freely, willingly and uncompromisingly proclaim that we are ONE NATION UNDER GOD, dependent upon Him for our life and liberties. Our dependence upon God is the heart and soul of American Republicanism. We encourage all Republican candidates and officeholders to unashamedly proclaim this truth.

Submitted by: Keith Easterly
Moses Lake 7, Grant County, Washington
509-765-9217