

**Okanogan County  
Republican Party**

**2016  
Platform**

# Okanogan County Republican Party

## 2016 Platform

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## Preamble

We, the Republicans of Okanogan County, Washington, affirm our dedication to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We believe in an individual's civil right to own and control property without government intervention. We believe that each person must have the opportunity to make his or her own way and to accept his or her own responsibilities without undue interference from government and/or others. We believe that these pursuits are protected by freedom of speech, association, and opportunity and that these freedoms are derived from God to be protected by law under our Constitution. We believe that the proper role of government is to protect these freedoms against all enemies, foreign and domestic. We believe that the most responsible and best government is that government closest to the people. We oppose those trends which increase the growth of government power and bureaucracy and which concentrate that power at the federal level, resulting in improper governmental interference with our basic rights. Above all, we believe that government should be the people's servant, not their master, knowing that a government big enough to give us whatever we want is also big enough to take everything we have. We affirm the following Platform.

# Constitutional Rights

## General Principles

The Constitution affirms God given rights and limits the powers of government to the protection of the people and their property. Numerous forces are now eroding our liberties in violation of the U. S. Constitution. Within these United States, no law shall supersede the Constitution.

We support:

- Allowing the free expression of religious beliefs in public.
- The posting of the Ten Commandments in public buildings and monuments.
- Nullification of all unconstitutional laws and executive orders.
- Clearly defining and enforcing local, state and federal jurisdictional boundaries.
- Improving election integrity by requiring voter identification.

We oppose:

- Any Federal laws usurping State powers.
- Any organizations – such as the United Nations, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission – that are pressing for a centralized, one-world government of unlimited power.
- Governmental regulation of the Internet.
- Attempts to restrict the open and free exchange of information online and elsewhere, including the Stop Online Piracy Act, the Protect Intellectual Property Act, and the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act of 2011.

## The Right to Bear Arms

The Constitutional guarantee of the “right of the people to keep and bear arms” is an individual right. As law abiding citizens, we oppose all attempts to register, license or hamper the ownership, transportation, and use of firearms and ammunition.

We support:

- The right to open carry and conceal carry.
- The right of citizens to defend themselves and their families against intruders.
- Legislation that prevents intruders from filing civil suits against their victims for injuries they sustain because of self defense measures.
- The State of Washington entering into a reciprocal agreement with other states for concealed weapons permits.

## Law and Justice

Respect for law and order will be achieved only when the laws are so defined and enforced as to ensure that criminal offenders receive punishment commensurate with the severity of their crimes. Those who commit crimes should be responsible for paying full restitution to their victims and, whenever appropriate, paying the cost of their own incarceration.

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We support:

- The death penalty for capital crimes.
- An increased focus of time and resources on any crimes involving victims, whether against person or property, with a special emphasis on violent crimes.
- Capital punishment or castration of convicted sex offenders in certain cases.
- Enforcement of strong child abuse laws and harsh sentences for child sex abusers and traffickers.
- Aggressive efforts to arrest, prosecute, and punish individuals using minors to make pornography.
- Enforcement of laws concerning the sale, manufacture and transportation of drugs.
- Any person applying for any type of government aid shall be required to take a pre-enrollment drug and alcohol test and be available for random testing as long as they are receiving benefits.
- A regional residency requirement for all State Supreme Court positions, so each region of the State is represented on the Court.

We oppose:

- Endless, frivolous appeals.
- Reducing penalties for crimes committed while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

# Land, Water, and Environment

## Property Rights

Without property rights there are no civil rights. Over-regulation by government is gradually eroding the property owner's rights as guaranteed by the Constitution, including the exclusive rights to property, the right to use it and enjoy it as one chooses, and the right to dispose of it or to pass it on to loved ones. Therefore, any regulation, resolution or other law that results in any reduction of fair market value should be void and unenforceable, unless and until the landowner has been fully compensated for any such reduction to his private property. If the landowner is forced to defend this right in court and is successful in enforcing this provision, his reasonable attorney fees should be fully compensated. To the fullest extent allowed by law and except if absolutely necessary to prevent imminent threat to human health and safety, Okanogan County should not enforce nor cooperate with any governmental agency regulations or takings that reduce the use or value of private property, unless those damages have been fully compensated to the respective landowners.

Government should purchase private property or property rights only as an absolute necessity and only if it already has the funds to maintain such after the purchase. Before the government can acquire any additional property or property rights, the government should be required to release back into private ownership equivalent property or property rights of equal value in the same county.

We support:

- The government only acquiring private property or property rights if it receives 2/3 legislative and local county support.
- Requiring the government to justify continued ownership of any property or other property rights, and requiring the government to sell if there is no longer 2/3 legislative and local county support for ownership.

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- Rescinding the Growth Management Act and dissolving the hearings board.
- Allowing any county, by a vote of the people, to “opt out” of the Growth Management Act.
- Land use ordinances protecting the citizens of the county from the infringement of government agencies, such as Land Use Ordinance 2000-2 adopted into the Okanogan County Code.
- All government owned property being subject to higher Payments In Lieu of Taxes to more accurately reflect the substantial loss of tax funds to counties.
- Landowners preemptively fighting fires without restriction on state and federal lands contiguous with their property.

We oppose:

- The wholesale buyout of private property by government and other associations using grants and other taxpayer funds in Okanogan County and elsewhere.
- Government encroachment on property rights through the use of over-regulated zoning.
- Buffer zones.
- Use of eminent domain for private use or development.
- Charging and trying US citizens under 'domestic terrorist' laws for back burning on private property.
- Civil forfeiture of private property.

### **Natural Resources**

Water is the life blood for human survival, irrigation, energy, transport, and recreation as well as for fish and wildlife. We believe that vested water rights are a fundamental part of private property rights, as stated in our U.S. and Washington Constitutions, and must be determined by those people and communities that depend upon said water. We believe that natural resources and public land management are 10<sup>th</sup> amendment states' rights issues. We do not believe that the protection of streams or wetlands justifies the loss to private owners. Further, we believe private land owners are our best protection for a clean, healthy environment.

We support:

- Abolishing the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Ecology, and the Bureau of Land Management.
- The restoration of management of fish, game and wildlife to county control.
- Legislative affirmation that hydroelectric power is a “renewable” and “green” resource.
- Open grazing and timber harvesting on public lands.
- Requiring state and federal agencies to manage invasive weeds and animals on public lands.
- The transfer of public lands from federal to state government with county control of those lands within their borders.

We oppose:

- Water “use it or lose it” laws.
- Control, taxation and metering of water on private lands.
- Imposition of excessive fees to maintain water rights.
- Any actions toward removal or breaching of any dam on any river or its tributaries within the State of Washington.

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- Arbitrary “water dumping” that is not supported by verifiable scientific data, locally vetted and peer reviewed.
- The creation of International, Federal or State wilderness and roadless areas.
- The Discover Pass or any other permit or fee to use public land for recreation.
- Taxpayer funds being utilized to remove water rights from the place of origin.

### **Endangered Species**

Historically, natural forces and changes have always increased and decreased species populations. We believe the criteria used to determine “Threatened and Endangered Species” have been crafted by self-serving organizations in order to benefit their own particular interests and increase governmental control. Therefore, we believe the Endangered Species Act and the Environmental Protection Agency should be abolished.

However, in the interim, we support:

- That Federal action resulting from the Endangered Species Act listing of any species should be subject to state and county laws, and the first action in seeking restoration efforts should be to develop a collaborative approach that emphasizes locally derived solutions.
- Immediate legislation to amend the Endangered Species Act and the Environmental Protection Agency to place into consideration the social, economic, and cultural needs of the local citizens over the life and habitat needs of fish and wildlife.
- Requiring verifiable, locally vetted and peer reviewed scientific documentation of the habitat of any endangered species.
- Legislation to amend the Endangered Species Act to require that any person or organization who is attempting to restrain an economic activity must post bond sufficient to cover economic losses should the restraint be overruled.
- Demonstrating positive proof that a species is in imminent danger as a whole population, rather than in an isolated area, before any species is listed as endangered or threatened.

We oppose:

- The importation across state/federal lines of any predator into our region.

### **Climate Change**

Current climate variability is due to natural forces. Carbon dioxide content in the atmosphere and Earth temperatures have varied over geological ages and have often greatly exceeded our present age.

We oppose:

- Regulation of greenhouse gases in any form.
- Subsidies, grants and rebates that support energy programs to install renewable or alternative power sources.
- Carbon Cap and Trade schemes.
- Integration of climate change initiatives within County Comprehensive Plans.

# Economic Affairs

## General Principles

We encourage economic development in Okanogan County. We feel this can best be accomplished with an open attitude and as few restraints as possible on private property, industry and recreational opportunities.

We support:

- The repeal of minimum wage laws, and laws which unfairly hinder the ability of youth to work.
- Those laws, including provisions for automatic, binding arbitration, which would prevent strikes when work stoppage would jeopardize the life, health or safety of the general public.
- Removing the regulatory burden on small businesses, repealing the death tax, and reforming unemployment insurance.
- Passage of right-to-work legislation.

We oppose:

- Forced union membership and “Card Check” union legislation.

## Agriculture

Agriculture is a key foundation for a robust economy, continued national security, and a healthy environment. We support strengthening the family farm by providing tax relief, allowing families to use their land without government intrusion, and protecting access to water.

We support:

- Creation of new water rights for agricultural purposes.
- Legalization of non-psychoactive, industrial hemp.
- Abolishing the Farm Services Agency.

We oppose:

- Agricultural subsidies.
- All oppressive government laws and regulations which impede or restrict local agriculture production and distribution.

## Energy

Economically sound energy independence is the best policy to ensure national security. Energy use is directly linked to economic growth and viability. This is best achieved by the development of a wide variety of energy sources for transportation and electric energy generation, and by taking responsibility to utilize the resources we have in the United States to reduce imports of such products.

We support:

- Abolishing the Department of Energy.
- Developing our off shore and continental oil, shale, coal, natural gas, and other natural resources within the U.S.
- Removing regulatory obstructions preventing pipelines and refineries.



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- Nuclear energy.
- Hydro-electric power as a renewable resource.
- Private research funding for developing renewable, alternative or free energy, and removing regulatory hindrances.
- Flexible building and electrical codes that permit the private and public sectors to be innovative in order to save or produce energy.
- Reformation of the patenting process.

We oppose:

- National fuel standards.
- Government mandated “green” or efficiency standards.
- The “Smart Grid.”
- Regulations that hinder innovative energy solutions.

### **Taxation**

Government produces nothing. For government to give benefits to some, it must first take from others, thereby depriving them of the fruits of their labors. The United States government has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. Taxes should be levied only by a vote of the people or their elected representatives. Excessive taxation, and the use of Federal taxes to achieve social change, has stifled economic growth and development. All taxes levied for a specific fund should be placed in no other fund. All other taxes should be deposited in the general fund.

We support:

- A Balanced Budget Amendment to the United States and Washington State Constitutions with no tax increases.
- Requiring a 2/3 affirmative vote of the legislature to increase state tax rates and fees or to otherwise expand the tax base.
- Repealing the 16<sup>th</sup> amendment and abolishing the Internal Revenue Service. However, in the interim, drastically reducing Federal taxes and adopting a simplified, single rate tax system.
- Elimination of Capital Gains and Inheritance taxes.
- Legislation that would require the government to spend only revenues actually collected, not projected.

We oppose:

- Any attempt to raise taxes to reduce the state or Federal deficit.
- Any local tax proposal which does not specifically require an affirmative vote of 60% of the registered voters within the local taxing district.
- A State Income tax, Personal Property tax, and the B & O tax.
- Utilizing grant funds to finance and balance local and state budgets.
- Governments transferring funds between departments to give the appearance of balanced budgets.
- The growth and initiation of taxation, fees, fines or penalties by non-elected boards, commissions, and councils.
- Attempts to tax any form of internet exchange.

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# Social Issues

### Human Life

A nation under God does not sanction the premeditated murder of unborn babies. It is time to end the debate, stop the killing and implement laws to protect all babies, the unborn as well as the born, except to save the life of the mother when both lives would be lost, or in cases of rape or incest.

We support:

- Adoption as an alternative to abortion.
- Private individuals and organizations which assist pregnant women in preparing for childbirth and obtaining the help needed to keep the child, or in providing assistance to facilitate adoption.
- Reviewing the adoption process to make it less complicated and more expedient.
- Restricting stem cell research to non-aborted sources such as placenta or umbilical cord sources.
- Increasing the age of a child to 18 years of age to receive counseling in birth control and treatment without the consent of a parent.

We oppose:

- Government funding of abortions.
- The use of aborted fetuses for research or commercial purposes.
- The Federal government regulating reproductive issues.
- Government funding of erectile dysfunction drugs.
- Hypocritically allowing fathers to shirk accountability for their choices regarding abstinence, intercourse, and child care, while unjustly condemning single mothers who endure all the responsibility.
- Doctor-assisted suicide.

### Family

Marriage should be defined as the union between only one male and one female. The traditional family unit is the cornerstone of our society. It is the primary responsibility of parents to guide and discipline their children. Parents, rather than government bureaucrats, should choose the best and safest child-care for their children.

We oppose:

- Any action on the part of the Federal government to regulate family relations.
- Any child-care act which discriminates against parents' decisions determining who cares for their children at home.
- Interpreting mild physical disciplinary action, administered by a parent, as "child abuse."
- Special legal privileges or protection based on sexual orientation or lifestyle.

### Health Care

We must remain unequivocally committed to the best health care system in the world. Socialized medicine is not the answer. Utilizing free-market solutions is the best way to curtail skyrocketing health costs.

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We support:

- Immediate repeal of ObamaCare.
- Purchasing healthcare insurance across state lines.
- Medical savings accounts.
- 100% business write offs for insurance benefits for their employees.
- Reductions in the amount of red tape and paperwork imposed on health care providers.
- Standardization of forms.
- Tort reform to limit excessive court awarded damages.
- Encouraging direct transactions between informed shopper and health care provider, and allowing vigorous competition between providers for cheaper services.

We oppose:

- Government coercing the business sector to provide health insurance.
- Healthcare providers relying on government subsidies.

### **Charity**

The United States has a strong tradition of charitable giving. Every citizen has an absolute moral responsibility to help those in need and those less fortunate. However, government should not interfere nor mandate this very personal obligation. Voluntary charities have been statistically proven to be much more efficient than wasteful government bureaucracies at making sure funds spent actually go to the people in need. Government programs supposedly designed to help the destitute, have instead become self-perpetuating bureaucracies which force people into dependence. Further, such programs often cause citizens to believe they can morally ignore those in need because “that is the government’s problem, not mine.” More money would be available for actually alleviating poverty and other problems if fewer taxes were taken to support government bureaucrats and special interest groups.

We support:

- A drastic reduction in taxes.
- Voluntary donation to charities.

### **Education**

All children should have local access to the benefit of education. A good education supplies children with that knowledge which is essential for them to become informed, mature, rational adults able to make their own judgments. Children should be taught to think, to understand, to integrate, to prove. They should be taught the essentials of the knowledge discovered in the past and be equipped to acquire further knowledge by their own efforts.

A lack of funds is not what is harming education, but rather the lack of efficient use of funds. School districts should be allowed to make the decisions affecting them. They must accept and exercise their authority to maintain discipline and thereby protect the classroom learning experience.

We support:

- Local control of school systems.
- Abolishing the Federal Department of Education.

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- An education system which emphasizes the basics of reading, spelling, all forms of writing especially cursive writing, mathematics, sciences and civics/history in K-12 grades.
- Competition provided by private, charter and home schools.
- Vouchers to provide for freedom of educational choice.
- School choice, with money following the students.
- The rights of students to voluntarily pray, read the Bible or other religious writings, and discuss religious issues in school.
- Publicly-funded schools beginning each day with the Pledge of Allegiance as a reminder of the values which must be the core of learning in a free society.
- Abstinence-based curriculum to meet any state required sex education.
- Use of the free Eddie Eagle Program or a like program in elementary school.
- Repeal of the Common Core education policy and removal of federal funding requirements related to the Common Core program.
- All net lottery proceeds going into K-12 education.
- Property tax monies being returned to the benefit of the schools.
- Repeal of Article 9 of the Washington State Constitution which requires the State to monopolize basic education

We oppose:

- Unfunded mandates.
- Tenure for teachers.
- Condom distribution in publicly funded schools.
- Publicly funded schools teaching homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle.
- Schools “diagnosing” and promoting unnecessary prescription drug use by children.
- Union control of the teaching profession.
- The sale, transfer, or other disposition of school trust lands without the consent of the citizens’ elected representatives in the state legislature.

## National Affairs

### General Principles

We support:

- A constitutional balanced budget and a spending limit which ties future government growth to a fixed measure of economic growth.
- Ending Social Security and Medicare, in a manner causing the least amount of stress to those still dependent, while at the same time ensuring our younger generations will not be burdened with paying for these failed socialist programs bankrupting our country.
- Reducing entitlement programs.
- Elimination of the Federal Reserve.
- Government creating currency as mandated by the Constitution.
- A constitutionally mandated, sound money policy.
- Return to the gold standard.

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- Legislation declaring English as the National language of the United States of America.
- Abolishing the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

We oppose:

- All subsidies – foreign and domestic.
- The creation of currency being delegated to any private banking system.
- Affirmative Action or quotas.
- The Fairness Doctrine which requires radio talk shows to present the opposite side of any issue being presented without equal compensation.

### **National Defense**

Peace through strength is the best policy. Superior defense capabilities must be maintained against the threat of expanding foreign nuclear warheads or launching systems. Caution and foresight must guide any reduction in our military forces. We charge Congress to uphold its responsibility to declare or not to declare war.

We support:

- The reevaluation of the needs of our veterans and increasing the benefits and services to these veterans.
- The continual cost efficient modernization and upgrading of our military forces and equipment.
- Maintaining the sovereignty of the United States in dealing with the United Nations.
- Keeping American forces under American Commanders.
- Foreign nations providing for their own defense, and the Federal Government limiting itself to strictly providing for the common defense of all our individual states.
- Elimination of wasteful spending by the Federal Government, both foreign and domestic.
- Elimination of the federal debt.
- Abolishing the Transportation Security Administration.
- Repeal of the Patriot Act.

We oppose:

- The government detaining U.S. citizens indefinitely without being able to appear before a court of record.

### **Immigration**

The American people favor legal immigration and assimilation of those who sincerely want to become American. However, controlling our borders and ending illegal immigration is essential.

We support:

- Deportation of illegal aliens.
- The legal immigration of those individuals who wish to become U.S. citizens.
- Stringent enforcement of the immigration laws.
- Securing the borders to prevent illegal immigration and threats from those who seek to do harm to the U.S. and its citizens.

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- Requiring all government agencies to cooperate with Federal immigration officials in identifying and deporting illegal aliens.
- Employer responsibility, including fines to employers who knowingly employ illegal aliens.
- Enacting a requirement that illegal immigrants in an earned legalization program must pass an assimilation test that shows basic knowledge of English and our government.
- A responsible, technologically advanced, and manageable guest worker program which ensures future flow necessary to sustain the economy.
- A requirement to return home to become legal temporary workers.

We oppose:

- Automatically granting citizenship to children born to illegal or unnaturalized individuals.
- Granting public assistance, food stamps, housing, routine medical care, etc., to illegal aliens.
- Amnesty for the millions of illegal aliens residing in the U.S., regardless how long they have lived here.
- A national ID.

### International Relations

Economic opportunity for U.S. citizens should be the primary purpose of all trade agreements with other nations. Under no circumstances should the national sovereignty of the U.S. be subjugated to any foreign or international body. American resources, both human and material, should be reserved for the priority of protecting the domestic interests of America. Humanitarian efforts to spread freedom and prosperity across the globe should be considered secondary to the protection of American freedoms.

We oppose:

- The ratification of any treaties which circumvent the freedoms and the right to self government protected by the U.S. Constitution.
- The North American Union.
- U.S. funding of the United Nations.
- The North American Free Trade Agreement, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Central America Free Trade Agreement.
- Trade agreements that purport to be “free and equal,” but in reality contain unfair tariffs and taxes on U.S. goods or production.

## Regulatory Reform

Many state agencies have become unaccountable arms of state government beyond the effective control of the people and the legislature. The abuse of regulatory power by agencies has reached a point where comprehensive regulatory reform to rein in unelected bureaucrats is urgently needed. Regulatory power of state and federal agencies must be drastically scaled back. Local government should not be required to implement UNFUNDED mandates, and when funded, then implemented only during that time the mandate is funded. Many of the services currently being carried out by government could be better and more efficiently served through the private sector. The 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment takes precedence over federal overreach.

We support:

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- The Legislature balancing the State budget first before addressing any other issues.
- Efforts to enact meaningful regulatory reform by the legislature or through the initiative process.
- Adopting the “one senator, one county” rule, reducing the number of State Senators from 49 to 39.
- Changing the allocation of electoral voters so that one voter is chosen from the prevailing party in each congressional district, with the remaining two electoral voters chosen from the party carrying the state.
- Full disclosure of campaign financing.
- Term limits for all elected and appointed officials and judges.
- Two thirds of the U.S. Senate must approve Executive Orders within 90 days or the Order shall become null and void. The same cannot be ordered again.
- Repeal of the 17<sup>th</sup> amendment so that U.S. Senators are once again chosen by state legislatures.
- Elected officials signing affidavits they have fully read any bills before they can vote for them.
- Reforming the State’s ability to borrow money.
- Reforming public employee benefits.
- Eastern Washington becoming the 51<sup>st</sup> State.

### We oppose:

- Elected officials passing any laws that apply to citizens but not to themselves.
- Life-time benefits to duly elected representatives.
- Riders or attachments made to bills that are not germane.
- Any changes to initiatives once passed unless changes have been approved by the voters.