



ARIZONA REPUBLICAN PARTY 2010-2011 STATE PLATFORM

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**Approved at the Arizona Republican Party State Mandatory Meeting
January 2010**

PREAMBLE

Arizona Republicans believe in working hard and dreaming big, and are confident that in holding true to these two principles as guides our best days are indeed ahead of us. With this sense of optimism, we look toward the future with great hope for our state and nation, and do offer the following platform as a foundation of principles upon which our party might continue to grow into this still new century. For it is our purpose to usher in a new era of prosperity in Arizona: economic prosperity so that individuals, families and businesses might thrive; personal prosperity so that the citizens of our great state might blossom under new freedoms borne from less government regulation; and, the prosperity of a society that shall one day come to recognize fully the value of life, the value of each individual, the value of responsibility, the value of the rule of law, and the value of personal dignity. We hope these values shall be self evident to all citizens of Arizona and to the future generations who will provide leadership as Arizona and the United States of America face new challenges and opportunities in the years and decades to come. To those ends, we submit these Republican principles as our 2010 platform.

SECTION I: TAXES, JOBS & ECONOMY

The Arizona Republican Party:

1. Believes hardworking businesses and entrepreneurs create jobs and drive the economy. Government should reduce regulations, fees, and taxes to foster an ideal economic and business climate, government should not favor one private concern over another through the use of subsidies.
2. Believes we should continue to develop, maintain and improve a favorable climate for business, job creation, and entrepreneurship.
3. Supports only essential government regulation and calls on our elected officials to repeal those regulations upon individuals and businesses which are obsolete, unnecessary, or serve only to restrict personal freedom.
4. Believes reducing taxes not necessary to pay for essential government services creates jobs and economic growth, encourages new businesses to come to Arizona, and ultimately increases public sector revenues in our state.
5. Believes the federal income tax code is repressive and burdensome and should be replaced with a national consumption tax or national flat tax.
6. Believes Arizona workers deserve to take home more of their paychecks, deserve to have a say in how their union dues are spent, and deserve meaningful comp-time reform at the federal level.

SECTION II: LAW & JUSTICE

The Arizona Republican Party:

7. Believes it is the obligation of the state and local governments to protect the rights, person and property of its citizens.
8. Believes in the constructionist interpretation of the Second Amendment, that the right to keep and bear arms belongs and applies to law-abiding individuals.
9. Believes that the best way to decrease violence in our schools and in our communities; the best way to decrease crime on our streets; the best way to decrease spousal abuse and child abuse in our homes; is to pursue policies supporting a drug-free Arizona.
10. Supports the efforts of communities to prevent crime and create safe living environments because Republicans have shown that cleaning up cities and urban centers, stopping gang violence, and offering children and young adults viable alternatives to crime does indeed reduce crime and recidivism rates. We further support the fostering of strong families and moral values by supporting community and faith based programs.

11. We believe in swift enforcement of laws against violent crime, speedy trials of accused criminals, and long prison sentences for those convicted. In addition, repeat offenders should be ineligible for parole.
12. Supports the appointment of constructionist judges to the state and federal supreme courts who will interpret the constitutions of Arizona and the United States with the idea of enforcing the intent of the founding fathers.
13. Believes it is the duty of the federal and state government to protect our citizens by securing our borders, including:
 - a. Completing the border fence without delay;
 - b. Prevent illegal drugs and weapons from being smuggled into our country;
 - c. Increase the number of Border Patrol agents on Arizona's border;
 - d. Protect our children and schools from the drugs and weapons flowing over the border.
14. Believes government has an obligation to enforce all citizen-passed initiatives deemed constitutional, and that government must lead by example and first and foremost follow the rule of law.
15. Believes repeat sexual offenders, particularly those whose victims were children, should be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.
16. Supports consistent sentencing to impose appropriate, strict and severe penalties on crimes, including restitution to victims and their families.
17. Supports tougher sentencing guidelines and prosecution of smugglers, manufacturers, users and dealers of methamphetamines, and supports appropriating additional resources to law enforcement agencies to combat this tragic crisis.
18. Government should promote privatization whenever possible. Multiple private companies should be engaged to provide the same types of services in the same geographic area rather than hire just one company in order to foster competition and market reforms rather than extend the problems of government monopolies to private companies hired to do the work. When possible, government activities should be completely shifted to the private sector and eliminated as government functions.

SECTION III: GOVERNMENT REFORM

The Arizona Republican Party:

19. Believes government should protect, not infringe upon, individual rights and freedoms, and that “good government” begins with all elected officials being constantly aware of the tremendous responsibility they hold as public servants.
20. Supports an “Arizona Results Act” requiring each state agency and bureaucratic office to submit strategic plans which clearly outline where their agency is going, how their agency plans to get there, and whether it is headed in the right direction.
21. Supports an “Arizona Paperwork Reduction Act” reducing the bureaucratic requirements of state government imposed on other government agencies, private institutions and individuals by 20-percent annually in the next four years.
22. Supports our fundamental rights to free speech, to keep and bear arms, to private property without fear of government intrusion, and to those freedoms and liberties we hold dear that protect us in the Arizona and United States Constitutions from an oppressive government.
23. Supports state and national Right to Work legislation.
24. Opposes unfunded federal mandates on state or local governments; and opposes unfunded state mandates on local governments.
25. Supports the citizen-passed law of Arizona that individuals must provide proof of citizenship in order to register to vote and proper identification at the polls.
26. Supports additional systems of checks and balances to protect Arizona and American citizens from activist judges, including limiting the terms of judges.
27. Supports greater legislative oversight on all state executive agencies to protect Arizona children, veterans and all those who rely on state care.
28. Believes that a good budgeting process includes the disclosure of all sources and uses of funds received and spent by every state government agency.
29. We strongly support transparency in government regarding how taxpayer money is spent and with regard to actual and potential conflicts of interest on the part of government officials - elected and appointed - who are making decisions regarding government spending or government policy. This information should be provided to the public in a convenient, accessible, inexpensive format such as on a web site.

SECTION IV: EDUCATION

The Arizona Republican Party:

30. Believes the provision of public schooling is a function of the state as provided by the Arizona Constitution while also acknowledging that no student should be forced to attend a failing school. We affirm the right of parents to seek a quality education and comparable public funding at home, charter, private, or parochial schools. We acknowledge that a diverse marketplace of schools helps Arizona compete in the global economy.
31. Believes that State Government subsidies, such as the difference between in-state and out-state tuition, for college education should follow Arizona students enrolled in Arizona's public and private colleges rather than be appropriated directly to educational institutions. There should also be incentives for students to get college educated as economically as possible by providing a portion of unused subsidies to the student upon graduation.
32. Believes that Arizona's continued commitment to education at all levels, public and private, should remain among the highest legislative priorities.
33. Believes that parents naturally possess the primary responsibility for their children's education and should therefore have the right to choose the place and type and method of schooling without governmental interference.
34. Supports voluntary prayer and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in its present form in public schools.
35. Believes all school districts should institute mandatory drug testing and background checks for all public school employees.

SECTION V: CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Arizona Republican Party:

36. Believes that the core principles upon which the modern Republican Party has been built – *faith, family and freedom* – are as relevant today as ever before, especially as the basis of values to be taught to each new generation of Americans.
37. Believes that Arizonans should have access to affordable health care that provides for their physical and mental well-being with fair, reliable and portable insurance coverage. Also, individuals and insurers should be able to determine, without government mandates, the types of procedures and items to be covered as well as premiums, copays, limits, and deductibles.
38. Supports a range of reforms to retain health care professionals and improve the affordability and accessibility of health care, including meaningful federal and state lawsuit abuse prevention to keep trial lawyers and frivolous lawsuits from bankrupting doctors, hospitals and health care providers.

39. Supports allowing Arizonans to buy health insurance from providers in other states in order to encourage more competition, greater accessibility, and lower prices for consumers. We also support other states allowing Arizona health insurance companies to provide health plans to residents of their states.
40. Believes substance abuse, especially methamphetamine abuse, is a continuously increasing problem in Arizona and we support strong enforcement, education and treatment.
41. Opposes euthanasia or any physician assisted death, but supports individuals' and their legal guardians' or designee's right to refuse medical treatment.
42. Believes innocent life should be protected and supports alternatives to abortion such as adoption.
43. Supports the definition of traditional marriage as only a union between one man and one woman.

SECTION VI: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Arizona Republican Party:

44. Believes our nation should never surrender to terrorists and should never willingly weaken our position in the battle against terror. We call upon the congress and our nation's leaders to continue to prosecute the war to its successful conclusion.
45. Honors the brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and guardsmen at home and abroad who, through their courageous service to God and Country, secure the blessings of liberty and protect the freedoms under which we live today. They are our heroes and are always in our thoughts and prayers.
46. Honors the tremendous accomplishments and sacrifices of Arizona's 700,000 veterans who are responsible for defending our nation in countless wars and military actions, and for securing our freedoms for much of the past century. We pledge to them our service and our voice, and our promise that their great deeds shall never be forgotten.
47. Welcomes to our state and our nation all legal immigrants and newest citizens, and wishes them God Speed in their pursuit of the American Dream. We share their struggles, for once they were ours. We share their hopes, for they are ours today.

CALL TO ACTION

The Republican Party of Arizona today is honored to represent more than one million registered voters, and we are growing each day. We understand that not everyone believes in every principle outlined in this platform, but we offer it respectfully as a guiding document approved by a majority of voting members of our party's leadership with the hope that those who read it might find some comfort, reference, or even

inspiration in our words. We offer this platform at a time when our nation is at a crossroads in its war against Islamic terrorism, at a time when our politics at home are often heated and divisive, and at a time when we believe our bright hope for the future might help unite some wounds within our society.

As Arizona's Republican Party moves forward, united, determined, stronger in resolve than ever before to carry our message to the voters of this great state, we hope that those who read this platform will consider joining our ranks if they have not yet done so – or becoming more involved if you consider yourself a “proud Republican” already.

Ours is the party of Abraham Lincoln and of equality for all men and women. Ours is the party of Barry Goldwater and of true conservative principles, such as smaller, smarter government. Ours is the party of Ronald Reagan who once proclaimed, “What I'd really like to do is go down in history as the President who made Americans believe in themselves again.”

We hope the party of Lincoln, Goldwater and Reagan will be your party, too. May God bless you, may God bless Arizona, and may God bless the United States of America.

