

2024 WASHINGTON STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

Passed by the delegates of the 2024 State Convention

The Washington State Republican Party stands for freedom, prosperity, and opportunity. The principles of our party recognize our God-given liberties while promoting opportunity for every American.

We are dedicated to preserving an independent, constitutional republic through active participation by citizens for the protection and preservation of foundational values including: the sanctity and dignity of human life; religious freedom; personal rights and responsibility; preserving a free society, free markets, and free trade; limited government; low taxes; minimal bureaucracy; national security and sovereignty; and private property rights.

We believe good citizenship begins with protected rights and ends with accompanying responsibilities. We believe government should be the last resort for individuals and do only those necessary things individuals cannot do for themselves.

We reaffirm the words in the Declaration of Independence, “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 just powers from the consent of the governed.” And we maintain the most effective government is that which is closest to the people.

We are the party of the first Republican President, Abraham Lincoln, founded in 1854 to abolish slavery. Republicans passed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution permanently abolishing slavery. Republicans passed the 14th Amendment granting citizenship and voting rights to Black men. Republicans passed the 19th Amendment giving all women the right to vote. Republicans in the U.S. House and Senate, in far greater percentages than Democrats, passed the 1964 and 1968 Civil Rights Acts.

To each generation falls the responsibility to uphold the values that have made the United States the freest, most prosperous, compassionate, and successful civilization in history. As we confront security threats from international unrest and terrorism, economic threats from ever-increasing state intervention, and social and political threats from liberal cultural elites, Republicans stand firm in defense of our nation and its ideals. We see these times and the challenges they represent as an opportunity to return to those principles that have made us great.

Republicans believe in the promise of our great nation and in the inherent goodness of its ideals. We reaffirm the principles of [The American’s Creed](#) which was established by our founders over two centuries ago. We believe their vision is best preserved by supporting the principles outlined in this document.

The American’s Creed

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable;

established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

Written by William Tyler Page in 1917 and accepted by the U.S. House of Representatives on April 3, 1918

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SECTION 1: CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

We believe civil and religious liberties protect the sovereignty of the individual citizen. Natural rights as enumerated in the first four amendments in the Bill of Rights within the U.S. Constitution (which include religious liberties) are God-given and therefore unalienable. These fundamental liberties include the freedom of speech, freedom of association, and freedom of conscience, and are proclaimed in The Declaration of Independence, protected in The Bill of Rights, and reaffirmed in Article I of the Washington State Constitution. It is the obligation of government at every level to observe, respect, and secure these liberties.

Our freedom of religion ensures the individual's right to practice the religion of their choice—not only privately, but publicly. A citizen shall not be punished, persecuted, or prosecuted for exercising this right, and businesses shall not be required to perform services which violate the religious beliefs of their owners.

Constitutional rights must never be suspended on grounds of an emergency. Emergency powers deployed by the state should last no longer than 30 days. Mandates imposing any medical procedure, therapy, or preventative measure without individual informed consent should never be permitted. Free expression such as diverging opinions on medical treatment should never be suppressed.

We believe the status, rights, and responsibilities of personhood can only be assigned to individual human beings. A human being's rights are superior, and not equal to, environmental elements, artificial intelligence, animals, inanimate objects, corporations, or governmental entities. Only human beings can be granted personhood and any right that personhood entails by the state or federal government.

SECTION 2: LIMITED GOVERNMENT

We believe limited government is essential to a free society, by the consent of the governed, with required transparency and accountability to the governed.

Our founders created a constitution granting the federal government only limited and enumerated powers, underscored by the passage of the Tenth Amendment. Constitutional limitations on powers of the federal and state governments are essential toward building economic prosperity and fostering individual freedom. Needless duplication and contradictions within state and federal programs and policies should be identified and eliminated.

All citizens shall be free from violation of their Fourth Amendment rights, including through data collection, storage, and use without their knowledge or consent. Government shall not target individuals with abusive investigations and prosecutions nor coerce or partner with private companies to suppress the rights guaranteed by the first four amendments in the Bill of Rights.

Because long-term entitlement destroys dignity, and creeping socialism enslaves and creates destructive incentives and a dependency relationship, we affirm the importance of self-governance, which is the freedom and responsibility of the individual in society. Therefore, we call on our elected officials at all levels of government to return power to individual citizens.

SECTION 3: RULE OF LAW AND JUSTICE

We call upon all branches and levels of government to defend the U.S. Constitution, while upholding states' rights. We believe that upholding our rule of law and justice is based upon our U.S. Constitution, the common law, and Judeo-Christian heritage. This recognizes that liberty and individual responsibility best protect and promote a moral and just society.

The role of the judiciary is to uphold the law in a manner faithful to the legislative intent and the original intent of the State and U.S. Constitutions.

Laws should reduce and deter crime through the application of prompt, strong, and appropriate punishment—up to and including the use of the death penalty. They should deter recidivism and require offenders to pay restitution, with the goal of reintegrating offenders back into society as productive citizens. We support the brave men and women of law enforcement.

We oppose laws and sentencing guidelines resulting in catch-and-release for repeat offenders. We support equality of all citizens before the law. We oppose the divisiveness of identity politics.

The Governor does not have the right to circumvent or override the Constitution of the United States through executive order or emergency proclamation. Legislators and government officials shall not exempt themselves from laws applicable to the people. Lawmakers shall not delegate lawmaking to any individual, department, commission, or agency not elected by the people.

We oppose any attempts to abolish the role established in the U.S. Constitution for the Electoral College, including by the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

We affirm both the State and U.S. Constitutions' strict protections for the individual right to keep and bear arms. We oppose mandatory gun registration, licensing of gun owners, and restrictions on law-abiding citizens' right to purchase, own and carry arms, ammunition, or their components.

SECTION 4: ELECTION INTEGRITY

We believe the legitimacy of government depends on the absolute and unquestioned integrity of the election process. Electoral fraud threatens the very foundation of our Republic and must be aggressively investigated and prosecuted. Officials have a duty to guarantee the integrity of the elections process—from trustworthy and verifiable data to transparency of process and management. We advocate for:

- Same-day voting
- In-person voting with photo ID by U.S. Citizens only
- Valid absenteeism for military/ex-pats and the incapacitated
- No 'ranked-choice' voting
- Eliminating 'Inactive' registered voters
- Hand-counted, paper ballots—eliminating digital ballot scanning and machine tabulation
- Requiring auditors to actively canvass their county roll annually

SECTION 5: NATIONAL SECURITY

We believe that national security is a central function of government and that a strong America is a free America. A strong national defense is necessary for government to fulfill its primary function which is protecting its citizens and their individual rights. The security of our nation is the responsibility of government, military, law enforcement, and a vigilant public. Peace comes through strength and deterrence.

A strong America is a force for good at home and abroad. Republicans support and honor the past and continuing service of all veterans and members of the United States' armed forces and the Washington State National Guard.

At a time when the United States faces a variety of threats ranging from an aggressive and militarizing China, jihadist terrorism, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and rogue regional powers, we endorse policies that will ensure peace through strength.

We believe United States armed forces shall never be subject to any foreign or United Nations' control, whether direct or indirect.

United States foreign policy should support our national security and economic interests. We support our allies and strategic partners (such as Israel) as well as people seeking freedom from repressive regimes.

To protect national security, we support international free and reciprocal trade, while also encouraging domestic production of key products to avoid over-reliance or concentration of production with one trading partner.

We believe withdrawal from the national reserve of strategic materials should be limited to national defense, national security, or Presidentially-declared disasters and emergencies as defined by Congress.

We oppose state or federal monies being used to indoctrinate our military with agendas such as Critical Race Theory, the 1619 project, or other programs that teach hatred and racism under the guise of equity.

SECTION 6: NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

We believe the preservation of liberty is dependent upon the sanctity of our national sovereignty.

The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land. The President shall not negotiate, and the Senate shall not ratify, any treaties, U.N. resolutions, agendas, or foreign laws—religious or otherwise—contrary to the U.S. Constitution. Agenda 21/2030, Paris Climate Accords, Sharia Law, and other agreements, legal systems, and the like threaten our sovereignty. Judges, state, and local authorities must be barred from using or applying foreign agendas, laws, and resolutions for the purposes of interpreting the State and U.S. Constitutions and laws passed pursuant thereto and must be bound by their original intent.

The sovereignty of the people of the United States must be protected and preserved.

SECTION 7: BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION

We believe our national borders are best protected by a fair and enforced immigration policy. We applaud efforts to secure the borders of the United States of America. The United States government must protect all our borders from illegal crossings.

We support the immediate enforcement of all existing immigration laws and withholding federal funding from cities and towns that refuse to enforce federal immigration laws, especially sanctuary cities.

America is enriched by the economic and cultural benefits of legal immigration. The benefits of citizenship should be reserved to lawfully-present citizens. Neither entitlement programs nor amnesty should be extended to those here illegally. To this end, we support:

- Lawfully-controlled immigration and authorized residency
- Ending catch-and-release and the abuse of parole release
- Border fortification via barriers, electronic surveillance, and enhanced patrols
- Banning funding to NGOs aiding in the trafficking of individuals into the country
- Removal of individuals who are in the country illegally
- Ending “Birthright Citizenship” for children born to illegal immigrants

We believe that when the federal government abdicates its responsibility to defend American borders as required by federal law, the doctrine of federal supremacy shall no longer pertain, and the states are free to take such actions as they deem necessary to defend their own borders.

SECTION 8: SOUND FISCAL POLICY

We call for Congress to implement gradual spending controls so that government spending stops growing faster than the gross domestic product (GDP). The government-controlled portion of the economy should not be allowed to grow faster than the private sector, and our children should not be saddled with the interest on trillions spent irresponsibly before they were born.

We oppose a state income or capital gains tax, which causes many of our most productive taxpayers to leave Washington in favor of lower-tax states. We oppose death taxes and unfunded mandates.

We call for a restoration of long-term fiscal stability via a balanced budget amendment, a simplified and flattened tax code, and a legislative super-majority required to increase taxes.

The federal government should only deficit spend to effectively deal with a contingency such as a catastrophic natural disaster, terror attack, or war for which one cannot budget.

We support bipartisan efforts to reform Social Security and Medicare programs.

We support each student providing payment for their own student loans.

We oppose the growth and initiation of taxation, fees, fines, or penalties by non-elected boards, commissions, agencies, departments, and councils.

SECTION 9: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

We believe economic opportunity ensures that each generation is better off than the one before it. We support free enterprise that promotes liberty, justice, prosperity, and charity as morally superior to the tyranny of socialism.

We oppose the Growth Management Act (GMA). We support dissolving the Growth Management Hearings Board.

We believe the greatest economic opportunity can best be achieved through imposing as few restraints as reasonably possible on private property, industry, recreational opportunities, and trade. We support a substantial reduction in government regulation to foster private sector job creation, entrepreneurship, and retaining business and industry in our country and state. This includes minimizing business and personal taxes, eliminating state capital gains taxes (disguised as excise taxes), eliminating unnecessary regulations, adopting right-to-work legislation, and removing prevailing wage laws.

SECTION 10: SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

We believe that the family unit is the cornerstone of a free and moral society. We believe that decisions regarding marriage and family structure should be made as close to the people as possible and should not be usurped by the federal government.

We recognize and defend the unalienable right of human life, from conception to natural death. Public funds should not be used for any act, individual, or institution which violates the right to life of the innocent.

We acknowledge the Supreme Court has recognized that under the U.S. Constitution, states retain the right to decide if and when pregnancies may be terminated. The Washington state Reproductive Privacy Act/RCW 9.02 as passed in 1991 asserts that women are allowed to terminate pregnancy within legal limits. We advocate that women receive complete information regarding informed consent, including facts on physical risks, stage of development (including a sonogram), potential psychological, and emotional aftereffects of abortion. We believe in educating people on the viable option of adoption as an alternative to abortion. We advocate for legislation and policies that ensure women have access to a full range of public and private services to aid in carrying a baby to full term including financial, housing, education, and food support. We support legislation that parents and guardians of minors be notified prior to such minors procuring medical procedures, including abortion.

We believe laws and regulations which pertain to males and females should be based on genetics and biology rather than one's individual state of mind. Biological males should not be allowed to compete in sports as females. We oppose providing minors with any gender-transitioning drugs, surgeries, or procedures.

We oppose special legal privileges or protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

SECTION 11: QUALITY EDUCATION

We believe a good education is critical to equip our children to be responsible adults. We believe that our education system should be focused on academics and student performance. State policies that have led to chronic absenteeism, poor discipline, and even violent behavior should be corrected. We oppose the non-transparent embedding of ideologies such as Critical Race Theory, Social Emotional Learning, and Gender Identity into the core curriculum.

We believe the primary authority and responsibility of educating our children resides with the parents, including important moral, religious, and values-based education. We believe these topics should be taught at home and not included in graduation requirements.

We support school choice through vouchers including: home schooling, private schools, public schools, charter schools, and vocational and technical training. States may set minimum graduation requirements. Education priorities and curriculum should be determined at the local level but must include the study and understanding of the Constitution and history of the United States of America and our founding documents.

We support the elimination of the federal Department of Education and returning its control and funding to the states. Teacher performance should be monitored and rewarded at the local level. We recognize that the educational needs of students vary throughout the country, which cannot be met with a single mandate requiring one size to fit all. We support the elimination of Common Core standards.

We believe a strong higher education and vocational training system is critical for economic vitality. The federal government should not fund or guarantee student loans. State supported post-secondary institutions need to give priority access to Washington state students. Colleges and universities should emphasize courses that promote understanding and a practical application of each discipline and avoid indoctrination and political correctness.

SECTION 12: QUALITY HEALTHCARE

We believe the greatest healthcare system in the world is best preserved by minimizing government control. We support competitive, free market solutions, and personal choice in health care. This would be accomplished through:

- Interstate competition among insurers and healthcare providers and organizations
- Abolishing mandates which restrict or prevent catastrophic health insurance plans
- Health Savings Accounts
- Tort reform

We believe physicians, healthcare providers, pharmacy owners, and healthcare organizations must retain the right to exercise their professional judgment and freedom of conscience to provide for their patients in a manner consistent with the Hippocratic Oath of “First, do no harm.”

We support the absolute right of individuals and families to make medical determinations for themselves. Their loved ones must never be surrendered to any government body or agency without vigorous due process as the result of criminal activity. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and

ensuing debate concerning future vaccinations, we strongly oppose mandatory vaccination policies.

We believe the homeless, chemically dependent, and mentally ill are best served by local, community-based, non-governmental, and charitable organizations.

SECTION 13: PROPERTY RIGHTS

We believe there is a fundamental relationship between free societies and the protection of private property rights. The proper role of government is to protect life, liberty, and property. When governments unnecessarily withhold or expand the amount of land they own and abuse the power of eminent domain and regulatory takings, everyone's freedom is at risk.

We support strong laws that protect individuals' rights and property by requiring federal and state agencies to uphold contractual and historical land rights for water, grazing, forestry, agricultural, and land management. Every person has the right to acquire, own, use, possess, enjoy, and dispose of private property as they see fit.

We affirm the Washington State Constitution that states, "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." For this reason, no government agency should participate in asset forfeiture without fair and impartial judicial process.

We oppose any governmental acquisition of private property for private development. We further oppose such acquisition for public use without constitutional due process and just compensation. Regulations that devalue real property constitute a taking for which the property owner needs to be justly compensated.

We support facilitating the creation of affordable housing through the removal of unnecessarily expensive and burdensome regulations and requirements. We oppose school impact fees.

SECTION 14: PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

We believe vibrant agriculture and natural resource industries are critical to the health of the Washington state economy and environment. Societies rise and fall based on the strength of agriculture. The free market is the best mechanism to secure a strong agricultural base. Abundant, domestically-produced fertilizer and food; and access to water, essential technology, and equipment are critical to our national security.

We believe agricultural employers and laborers have the right to negotiate their own wage and benefit standards, including overtime protections.

We insist on the return of federally managed public lands to the states as promised in their Enabling Act—excluding existing national parks, national monuments, congressionally-designated wilderness areas, tribal lands, and military installations. Federal public lands shall become state public lands to be managed in accordance with state and local plans. State or federal acquisition of land should be curtailed and procedures established for the disposition of lands for which there is no compelling public need. State trust lands need to be managed for the benefit of the entities entitled to their proceeds.

Should state or federal government agencies acquire any additional water/property or water/property rights, the government agency should be required to release back into private ownership equivalent water/property or water/property rights of equal value in the same county.

We encourage local government to fully utilize state and federal statutes mandating coordination with agencies in order to protect agricultural and timber industries from overreaching regulations in rule-making and plan revisions.

We believe instream flows should prioritize the well-being of the local community, regional quality of life, and the local economy. This includes maintaining the current operation of our dams while supporting efforts to preserve fish runs.

We believe government policies and regulations that protect natural resources and the environment must be based on valid peer-reviewed science, requiring the economic benefits of regulation to exceed the costs.

SECTION 15: ENERGY

We believe economically-sound energy independence is the best policy to ensure national security and personal liberty. Energy use is directly linked to economic growth and viability. A diversified energy portfolio is the best option for energy security. 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 abundant and cost-effective resources we have in the United States to reduce imports of such products. American production of energy is the cleanest, most regulated, and least polluting in the world.

We support the use of all forms of energy, including oil, gas, coal, nuclear, tidal, and hydro.

We oppose subsidies for any form of energy. Energy development should not be distorted by mandates, subsidies, or tax credits.

We oppose arbitrary regulations that dictate our energy choices. This includes the state prematurely closing fossil fuel power plants before adequate low-cost replacement plants are available.

We support the approval of safe and efficient pipelines for American energy independence, including pipelines from Canadian energy resources. We oppose the arbitrary moratorium on processing natural gas export facility permit applications.

We support investment in safe nuclear energy and the safe and permanent disposal of nuclear waste.

We support energy independence. This can be attained by relaxing restrictions on oil and gas drilling on public lands.

We support continued operation of Columbia and Snake River dams that produce renewable low-cost power and the formal designation of hydroelectric dams as renewable sources of electricity.

SECTION 16: ENVIRONMENT

We believe conservation is inherent in conservatism. As the pioneer of environmentalism a century ago, the Republican Party reaffirms the moral obligation to be good stewards of the God-given natural beauty and resources of our country.

We believe environmental policies must be based on valid and replicable scientific research, and subject to the scientific method and rigorous debate. Proposed solutions and environmental regulations must be based on unbiased, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence; sound economic analysis; and realistic weighing of costs and benefits.

We believe the responsibility to protect and best preserve the environment rests with individual citizens and government at the local level. Science is only as valid as those practicing it, and the further removed from the local level it is, the higher the standard of scientific proof required.

We oppose the Green New Deal and carbon taxes as being ineffective in solving the stated problem and detrimental to the economy.

We maintain that debate over climate change and environmental protection and other related scientific issues must take place without external pressure, and scientists must be free to present various theses without fear of retribution.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established to protect human health and the environment and clean up past pollution. We believe this regulatory agency has gone far beyond the clear limits of its statutory authority and should be abolished with authority returned to the states.

We support continued adequate funding for the restoration and expeditious cleanup of the Hanford Site.

There is no peer-reviewed scientific evidence that removal of the four lower Snake River dams will save fish, thus this option should be removed from consideration. We support efforts to maintain fish runs while continuing the current operation of our dams.

We maintain large-scale solar and wind turbine farms destroy natural habitats and represent significant fire risks, destroy flora and fauna, and leave hazardous eyesores when no longer in use.

We believe recent wildfires prove the necessity of responsible, proactive fire management tools such as selective harvesting, brush removal, and prescribed fires in our forests.

SECTION 17: EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

We believe the transportation system is important to our economic survival and quality of life.

We believe our transportation grid, comprised of roads, rail, air, and waterways, as well as our ports and ferries, is critical to moving people and products in Washington. We believe the highest priorities in transportation infrastructure should be safety, congestion relief, and the movement of

goods and services. These priorities must be achieved through the construction and maintenance of general-purpose roads.

We believe our state's limited transportation funding should not be squandered on commuter trains, the expansion of light rail, and concepts such as "complete streets." We oppose the mandating of electric vehicles and government prohibition of gas/diesel vehicle sales. We support a transportation system that enables people to make free choices for themselves and their businesses, not one that attempts to manipulate and control how they travel.

Furthermore, we reject the policies of Transportation 2050 with its ultimate goal of tolling nearly every highway in the state. These tolls and taxes will impede the flow of people and freight in the state.

We strongly oppose the imposition of 'tax by the mile' as an alternative or addition to gas taxes.

We believe transportation agencies must be accountable to the taxpayers through ballot measures, performance audits, and, as a last resort, the State Senate's confirmation process.

To prevent hidden transfer of funds from state to local governments, we call for the elimination of sales tax on all taxpayer-supported transportation construction projects.

SECTION 18: PRESERVING THE INITIATIVE PROCESS

We believe the initiative process is essential to providing a legislative voice for all the citizens of Washington State.

The Washington State Constitution provides, "The first power reserved by the people is the initiative," and, "The second power reserved by the people is the referendum." These fundamental rights of initiative and referendum should be free from unnecessary and burdensome regulation imposed by the state. We support prohibiting legislative abuse of emergency clauses to circumvent the people's power of initiative and referendum. We support providing that the courts can only overturn an Initiative passed by the people if it is found to be clearly in violation of a specific provision of the Washington State Constitution.