

# California Republican Party Platform

## PREAMBLE

The California Republican Party envisions a vibrant, prosperous and safe California defined by a robust world-class economy, strong and healthy families, and reformed and responsive state and local governments that serve all people while protecting individual liberties as enshrined in the US Constitution. As the party of Abraham Lincoln, we believe in dignity and equality for all.

We support:

- Choice and excellence in education for all Californians
- The safety and well-being of all California residents, including freedom of choice for health care
- Economic policies that promote economic growth and innovation, leading to increased affordability
- A reformed system of taxation that maintains and improves infrastructure and public safety while reducing the burden on working families, homeowners and older Californians
- Favorable environmental policies that supports California's farmers and ranchers
- Election integrity and ethical government

We are boldly confident about California's future and hold dearly all that is good about California's people.

*The following detailed platform appears in alphabetical order.*

## AFFORDABILITY

**Republicans are committed to making California more affordable for everyone.**

California has an affordability crisis. Californians from all parts of society are increasingly unable to afford basic necessities, such as purchasing or renting a home, buying a car, paying for electricity and gasoline, and putting food on the table. Our state government continues to pass high taxes and new, burdensome regulations that exacerbate the affordability crisis by increasing the wage gap and reducing employment opportunities. As a result, California has one of the highest rates of poverty in the nation. California's middle-class residents are leaving the state in droves, hollowing out our once prosperous society.

The California Republican Party supports tackling the affordability crisis by first incentivizing the construction of new housing to allow more opportunities for homeownership and access to rental housing. We also advocate reducing or eliminating high taxes and fees on cars, energy, gasoline, and food items that have pushed so many Californians to the brink of poverty. We support measures to encourage job creation so

that every Californian who is willing to work can do so. California Republicans back proposals to incentivize businesses to remain and invest in California, instead of leaving for other states.

## AGRICULTURE

**Agriculture, California's leading industry, exemplifies the free market at work.**

The California Republican Party recognizes that agriculture is one of California's leading industries and is essential to the future of California's economy and the health and well-being of its citizens.

Government should create a favorable policy environment that supports California's farmers and ranchers, maximizing their ability to receive the reward for the risks they take year after year, while strengthening their ability to provide quality products at reasonable costs to consumers. California's approach, rather, has been beset by over-regulation, environmental extremism, and restricted access to water, the agricultural sector's lifeblood.

## CONDEMNATION OF RACISM AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE

The California Republican Party condemns racism, xenophobia, religious intolerance, ethnic nationalism and white supremacy as antithetical to the fundamental values of the United States of America, and the Republican Party also condemns acts of violence committed in the name of racism, xenophobia, religious intolerance, ethnic nationalism or white supremacy.

## CRIME AND JUSTICE

**The California Republican Party believes one of the most fundamental duties of government is to keep its citizens safe by enforcing laws in a fair, just, and efficient manner.**

We believe the state, not the federal government, should govern, and so should set the criminal statutes and protect Californians' quality of life.

The California Republican Party believes that the rights of crime victims are essential in a just criminal process. We support the rights of crime victims to give statements and be heard by the court during bail hearing and parole proceedings. We believe in a victim's right to collect restitution from defendants as established by law, and to be given notification, if desired, upon release of prisoners.

The California Republican Party has historically backed legislation that kept the most dangerous and recidivist criminals incarcerated. We support efforts that contribute to the restoration and reclassification of laws intended to reduce crime and protect public safety.

Citizens have the right to expect the state and the judiciary to protect them from criminals during their sentences, and we support the surety bail process. To reduce crime and protect public safety, we support the repeal of AB 109, Proposition 47 and Proposition 57. To reduce recidivism and to increase the offenders' likelihood of successful rehabilitation, we support the expansion of California's Collaborative Justice Courts, including but not limited to drug courts, mental health courts, and veteran's courts, that combine judicial supervision with rehabilitation services and are rigorously monitored and focused on recovery. Additionally, we support rehabilitation and career technical education programs for those incarcerated in our county jails and prisons.

We support the death penalty as just punishment and effective deterrent for "special circumstances" murders. Special circumstances include murdering for financial gain; multiple murders; murder with the use of a bomb; murdering a peace officer, witness, judge, prosecutor, or juror; murder while lying in wait; murder during kidnapping, torture, or sexual assault; and murder to enhance gang activity. We support the death penalty for anyone convicted of carrying out a terrorist attack on the United States.

In the larger War on Terror, the California Republican Party supports the criminalization of activities that advocate acts of terrorism, violent conduct, or the killing of innocent people.

## THE ECONOMY AND JOBS

**We believe that people make better decisions than does government. Free enterprise, not subsidies and government regulation, is the key to creating jobs for all Californians.**

Freedom and free enterprise are fundamental to the American way of life; indeed, they are the backbone of our nation. Economic freedom leads to opportunity, opportunity leads to growth, and growth leads to progress. This is the story of America.

Economic growth depends on individual liberty, and it enables all citizens to maximize the opportunity to retain the rewards of their labor. Californians are some of the hardest-working and most entrepreneurial people in the world. We have seen disruptive technologies and business models such as ride sharing, short-term rentals, and intra-city mass transit improve the lives of California citizens. These path-breaking companies have made many California communities better places to live and visit. We believe that the government must support an environment in which jobs can be created, even as new technologies challenge the status quo and alter the way people live and work.

We believe that people make better decisions than does government, and the free market embodies this principle. The government's role is to ensure that markets are free and that there is genuine competition. Government should protect our citizens from international cartels and piracy of their intellectual property. We support right-to-work laws and reject mandatory closed union shops where workers are forced to join

unions against their will. We also reject union workers being forced to make political contributions to candidates or causes that they oppose.

For California's businesses to grow, thrive, and create wealth, a first-class physical infrastructure is necessary. We support investment in California's transportation infrastructure through "pay as you go" financing that utilizes existing revenue sources for their intended purpose. We oppose bonded indebtedness or the use of other revenues to fund high-speed rail.

## EDUCATION

### **Every child in California is entitled to a first-class education.**

Education is the great leveler in American society. It provides the opportunity for any child to rise based on hard work and achievement.

Unfortunately, this leveling effect is lost as California's schools deteriorate due to domination by union bosses, which contribute to the degradation of the curriculum and the marginalization of involvement by parents. While opposing the Common Core national standards, we support all reasonable measures to strengthen academic standards and maximize the influence and involvement of parents in the schools. We support an education system that ensures access and opportunity for all children, blind to the color of their skin, the circumstances of their neighborhood, or the socio-economic background of their home.

We believe that parents will make better choices than government in almost every case. Consequently, we support school choice programs, voucher and tax-credit scholarships, magnet schools, charter schools, homeschooling, educational savings accounts, the right of parents to choose to have their child taught in academic English, and to opt out of age-inappropriate and sexually explicit curriculum. We support the abolition of all regulatory barriers that prevent parents from exercising these options.

The top priority of our schools should be learning basic competencies, not social engineering. We support metrics such as exit exams to evaluate basic competency. We call for local schools to be controlled by parents and local school boards.

Schools cannot function unless they are safe. Besides providing a rigorous course of study, safety in schools at all grade levels should be the highest priority.

Admission to all public colleges and universities should be based solely on merit. We believe that the free exchange of ideas at institutions of higher learning is key to their fundamental purpose. We oppose all censorship of student speech on public universities through policies explicit or implicit. We believe that private institutions of higher learning must have clear and consistent policies, applied fairly, regarding student speech and expression. All universities have a responsibility to protect students seeking to engage in political activism from violent responses from those both affiliated and unaffiliated with the university.

## ELECTION INTEGRITY

**We support efforts to ensure that all qualified citizens may easily register and vote, including the elderly, the handicapped and military personnel.**

We support the right of political parties to nominate their own candidates for legislative office.

Every time a fraudulent vote is cast, it disenfranchises another voter who casts a legitimate vote. Recent changes to voter registration and election laws meant to increase voter participation must be balanced with preservation of election integrity. We therefore support requiring photo identification for voting in person, robust signature verification for voting by mail, verifiable chain of custody for all ballots, and proof of citizenship for voter registration. We also call for regular and thorough updating of the county voter rolls of inactive registrants.

## THE ENVIRONMENT

**The California Republican Party believes in long-term responsible stewardship of California's bountiful natural resources for future generations.**

Protection and stewardship of the environment began under a Republican President and our conservative values align with the goal of conservation: safeguarding the natural resources to which our health and economy depend.

Recognizing that environmental protection and economic growth are not mutually exclusive, we will hold our State government accountable for common sense and sustainable environmental regulations that both protect and allow for prosperity. We support environmental policies based upon sound science that encourage innovation and application of new technologies through market-based incentives whenever possible instead of regulation, taxation and litigation. Environmental regulations must be considered in light of the effects that they will have on workers and on the economy.

We believe that the United Nations approach has been fundamentally flawed because it enables increasing emissions from the largest sources of greenhouse gasses in the world. To be truly fair and effective, we believe that any solution to greenhouse gas emissions should involve equal incentives applied worldwide and should contain provisions to protect our farms and businesses from unfair competition by countries that do not follow suit.

We believe California industry should lead the world in developing and manufacturing safe, renewable and sustainable energy. We encourage the development of these new technologies and systems for use in the domestic market, as well as for export. We believe that entrepreneurs – using technology, innovation and incentives – are more likely to solve environmental problems than bureaucrats. We support the creation of tax

credits for homeowners and builders who incorporate alternative energy systems into their homes.

Dependence on foreign energy threatens both our national security and economic prosperity. Through private initiative and enterprise, we stand for the development of energy that is independent from foreign sources.

We favor clear environmental laws with consistent, straightforward interpretation and the elimination of third-party lawsuits by claimants without direct legal standing.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

### **The Republican Party is the historic party of equal opportunity.**

The Republican Party abolished slavery and has always stood for the right of all persons to succeed. During Reconstruction and throughout the shame of the Democratic Party's Jim Crow laws, the Republican Party championed racial equality against strong opposition. We also stood for women's rights, including the right to vote, and continue to support gender equality. We support laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or religion. We believe that all individuals should be judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin and understand that one cannot guarantee equality of results, only equality of opportunity.

## ETHICS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

### **We believe that public service is a trust—one of the highest callings to which any man or woman may aspire.**

Ethics in service to one's fellow citizens goes beyond the letter of the law. The California Republican Party calls on its elected and appointed officials always to serve others, always to demonstrate the highest standards of morality and honesty, and never to use their offices for personal gain. Republican officeholders should give their utmost effort to improve our society and to inspire others to serve.

## FAMILY

### **The California Republican Party affirms the family as the natural and indispensable institution for human development.**

A strong and healthy family unit is the heart of the home—a safe surrounding where family decisions are made, children are raised, and morality is taught. The family is a foundation on which American society has grown and prospered for over 200 years. We support the two-parent family as the best environment for raising children, and therefore believe that it is important to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman. The Supreme Court's ruling cannot and must not be used to coerce a church or religious institution into performing marriages that their faith does not recognize. We

believe public policy and education should not be exploited to advocate or teach any social or political agenda.

## FEDERALISM

**We believe that local or state governments should resolve political matters unless the United States Constitution expressly reserves such matters for the federal government.**

The federal government has repeatedly violated the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution by encroaching on rights that are reserved and delegated to the states and to the people. The California Republican Party firmly believes that the best governments are those most accountable to the people. We heed Thomas Jefferson's warning: "When all government, in little as in great things, shall be drawn to Washington as the center of all power, it will render powerless the checks provided of one government on another."

Non-essential federal functions should be returned to the states and localities wherever possible. It is the governments closest to the people that have the capability, knowledge, and sensitivity to local needs to effectively administer and deliver public services. Local jurisdictions' diverse problems require local understanding. We must recognize the unique abilities of local government and the inherent limitations of a distant federal government; accordingly, we support the transfer of rights, responsibilities, and revenues to local jurisdictions.

## GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

**We support an open and transparent government that is accessible to all people that it represents.**

Federal, state and local government bodies should make available all legislative, budget and spending documents in an easily searchable online database. We believe that all government bodies should publicly broadcast their meetings by means of television or internet streaming and provide ample time for public input in their decision-making process. We support a transparent legislative process that would require legislation to be in print and available for public review at least 72 hours prior to any action being taken on the item.

## HEALTHCARE

**The California Republican Party believes that the United States health care system delivers the finest medical care in the world. We support the concept of freedom of choice in health care.**

We oppose government-mandated health care plans that restrict freedom of choice, and we oppose the bureaucratic restrictions of single-payer plans. We support restructuring Medicaid to restrict elective, medically-unnecessary surgeries while increasing the

compensation to doctors and hospitals for necessary surgeries and other treatments. We also oppose any universal healthcare plan for California that involves taxes on doctors or hospitals, coverage for illegal aliens, or tax subsidies. Finally, we support private sector solutions such as small business insurance pools, employment pricing reductions, guaranteed insurability, and medical savings accounts.

## HOUSING

**Owning a home has always been the American dream, but for many Californians, this dream is out of reach. The cost of rent has also risen to a point that private housing in general is not affordable for many California residents.**

In order to make housing more affordable, we must lower the cost and increase the rate of new construction. We can address rising costs by reducing state regulation of new housing construction, lowering the costs and barriers for attracting skilled labor to the construction field, and by providing more flexibility on materials used in housing construction.

We support limiting development fees, or more accurately “new homebuyer taxes,” in order to lower the cost of building new housing. We support reform of the California Environmental Quality Act in order to reduce frivolous litigation that slows the speed and increases the cost of new housing construction. We support statewide restrictions on rent control in order to encourage investment in new rental housing.

The California Republican Party believes that every California family should have access to affordable housing options, near their employment, near quality schools for their children, and with access to medical providers necessary to meeting their healthcare needs.

## IMMIGRATION

**Our history is a story of immigrants. The California Republican Party welcomes and values each and every legal immigrant.**

America continues to symbolize hope and promise to people from around the world. We believe new immigrants help make our great nation greater still. The Republican Party is pro-immigrant. Yet we take issue with political advocacy groups that blur the line between lawful and unlawful immigration in public discourse. The result of this blurring is a poorly enforced immigration policy and an uncontrolled border – millions of people here illegally, undocumented, and living in the shadows. This isn't good for anyone.

The current problem is exacerbated by the failure of elected Democrats to negotiate in good faith to fix our broken immigration system. This failure leaves in place a government bureaucracy that produces wait times to immigrate legally into the United States that can exceed 15 years. The truth is, the United States cannot accommodate the hundreds of millions of people in the world who long to live here permanently. The

United States government has an obligation to all Americans to control our borders. As Ronald Reagan said, “A nation that cannot control its borders is not a nation.”

Our current immigration policy is out of step with the modern world and does not work for California or America. We want to fix it. A sound immigration policy would affirm our country’s absolute right to protect our borders. At the same time, a sound immigration policy would permit legal entry to the workers California and America must have. We support visa and guest worker programs that allow people to legally enter the United States, and leave and return if needed, through a flexible and well- managed system. It is indefensible that the Federal government puts California’s high-tech dominance at risk, and also stifles the ability of our farmers to procure the labor needed to timely harvest the fruits and vegetables that feed our country.

To ensure our immigration laws are adhered to, we support devoting more resources to border control, and increasing penalties for overstaying visas. We will support implementing a nationwide e-verify employment system once the necessary visa and guest worker programs are in place.

We also support the expedited repatriation of all violent criminals who are undocumented and, when repatriation is not possible, a full prosecution under U.S. law. Further, we believe that federal funding should be denied to sanctuary cities that refuse to cooperate with immigration officials. These cities are undermining Federal law and putting our citizens at risk.

We believe that only after the border is secured and the legal immigration system modernized, can we as a nation address the complicated issue of what to do with the millions of people who are currently here illegally. Like all Americans, Republicans hold diverse views on the issue.

There is, however, consensus in the Republican Party that any solution must adhere to the following guiding principle. We will not support a policy that grants amnesty. Amnesty only rewards and encourages more law breaking.

We support the requirement that law enforcement enforce all laws, including immigration laws.

Finally, we believe that once one enters the United States as a legal immigrant and desires to become a citizen, one should endeavor to become an American. Learning English is a vital part of life in the United States. Therefore, fluency in English must be the goal of California’s education programs. No matter a person’s native tongue, all citizens of the United States must be afforded equal opportunity. English both binds the nation and empowers individuals of all backgrounds to fully participate in the American experience. For this reason, we support the recognition of English, and English only, as the nation’s common language – the official language of government.

## THE LITIGATION CRISIS

**Justice is an American virtue. To make justice available to every person, we support legal innovations such as arbitration, mediation, and reasonable limitations on unnecessary discovery and motion practice.**

Individuals and businesses alike are besieged by baseless and overly burdensome litigation. To ensure the availability of quality health care, we support reasonable limitations on general damages awards (e.g., as contained in the bipartisan “Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act”). We favor reasonable and consistent standards for punitive damages awards, which should only be available for intentional, egregious misconduct.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE

**The California Republican Party stands for a strong national defense.**

The first duty of government is to provide for the common defense. The California Republican Party asserts that it is imperative that we retain our military superiority in order to deter any potential adversary. Yet, we affirm that our military forces exist to deter our enemies and not to initiate war.

We should never allow our troops to be put under foreign command nor committed to a foreign conflict unless U.S. national interests are directly at stake and there is a clear military goal and a firm exit strategy.

We recognize the rise in international terrorism against western democracies and understand that no country can successfully combat it alone. We believe in supporting our allies and in defeating international terrorists and those who support them, wherever they hide. We object to a "surrender first" policy or unilateral withdrawal.

We believe that compensation for our troops should be fair, and we support a state income tax exemption while our troops are on active duty.

## OUR HISTORIC AND ONGOING SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITION 13

**We acknowledge that Proposition 13 has saved residential and commercial property owners hundreds of billions of dollars since it was approved.**

It provides a uniform one percent property tax rate that provides stability for homeowners and small business owners alike. Proposition 13 remains popular today because it allows citizens to exercise control over a government that should be limited and responsible with the people's money. Its two-thirds vote for tax increases ensures fiscal responsibility on all levels of governments. All citizens, including homeowners, business owners, renters, as well as local governments, benefit from Proposition 13's tax stability.

## PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

**We stand for the principle that condemnation and government restriction on private property must only occur for public use.**

One of the purest forms of tyranny is government confiscation of its citizens' private property. We reject condemnation or government restrictions on property without full compensation for such condemnations or restrictions. We reject government condemnation of private property for non-public use.

We further support local land use decision making, with as much opportunity for public input and comment as possible, instead of regional planning efforts, such as United Nations' Agenda 21 and Plan Bay Area, that impose state and regional mandates on local government and private property owners.

## RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

**The California Republican Party respects each person's individual conscience and is a strong proponent of religious liberty for all.**

We support the California Constitution's guarantee of the free exercise and enjoyment of religion without discrimination or preference. We strongly support the United States Constitution's safeguard against the establishment of a state sponsored religion, while simultaneously protecting the free exercise of religion.

## THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

**The United States Constitution guarantees the right of its citizenry to keep and bear arms.**

One of the first acts of a totalitarian regime is to disarm its people. California's gun control laws only serve to disarm law-abiding citizens, not criminals. We oppose any further gun control legislation and support the right of all California citizens to own and bear guns and ammunition for any lawful purpose. We call for statewide legislation setting reasonable criteria allowing law-abiding citizens to carry concealed weapons. We support an individual's right to use deadly force to protect lives and property. We also propose amending California's constitution to reflect all of these rights.

Finally, we call for the elimination of waiting periods to purchase firearms and instead support complete implementation of instant background checks.

## THE RIGHT TO LIFE

**The California Republican Party is the party that protects innocent life because we believe life begins at conception and ends at natural death.**

We support laws that protect unborn children from partial birth, sex selection, and

taxpayer funded abortions, and abortions performed as a form of birth control or on minor girls without their parents' notification and consent.

We believe that the question of abortion is a matter that should be left to the people through their elected representatives, not usurped by the United States Supreme Court. Accordingly, we encourage the reversal of the Roe v. Wade decision.

We support adoption as an alternative to abortion and call on lawmakers to reduce the bureaucratic burden placed on adoptive couples.

As a part of respecting the sanctity of life for disabled persons, we oppose efforts to legalize assisted suicide or euthanasia.

We support a comprehensive ban on all human cloning.

The California Republican Party supports ethical stem cell research that focuses on cures and does not destroy innocent human life.

## SENIOR CALIFORNIANS

### **We are committed to protecting the lives and resources of Senior Californians.**

Californians who have retired, or are close to retirement, should be free from worry that the resources they have built through their own work will be siphoned off by inflation or government action. We support laws that would prevent state or local governments from increasing property taxes on personal residences after owners reach 65. We oppose state taxes on Social Security income.

The California Republican Party is committed to promoting the opportunity for aging citizens to enjoy their retirement with the means they have accumulated throughout their working lives.

## TAXES AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING

### **The California Republican Party is the party of balanced budgets, limited government, and fiscal responsibility.**

We believe that taxes in California are too high, and that our state government spends too much. We stand for the wise stewardship and responsible use of the people's money. We support without exception and without apology a two-thirds vote requirement for tax increases, tax increases labeled as fees, bonds, and the state budget. We call for a constitutional ban on any bonded indebtedness to cover general operating deficits, and we oppose unfunded federal and state mandates. We support our Republican legislators' efforts to require California's government to live within its means.

We call upon our government officials to join a pledge to stand together against any new

taxes. Through expanding population and economic strength, there already exists a mechanism to automatically raise all of the revenue needed to properly meet California's needs. California's budget problems stem from a lack of fiscal accountability and control. The California Republican Party believes that the answer will never be to increase the tax burden on Californians. We believe that Democrats have not prioritized infrastructure investment with general operating funds, which leads to a dangerous amount of bonded indebtedness, further imperils our state's financial situation, and needlessly passes financial responsibility for current needs over to our children.

We acknowledge a responsibility to those California citizens who cannot take care of themselves. We support reasonable work requirements for welfare recipients who can work and ending welfare benefits for those who can work but refuse to do so. We do not support giving any welfare or social benefits to people who have no legal right to be in California.

We recognize that unfunded public employee pension liabilities are currently the greatest threat to the financial security of our economy and government. We support the conversion of all public employee pension plans to 401(k)-style plans that provide only the benefits that have been funded by the actual contributions received.

We support the adoption of an optional single-rate system to give taxpayers the convenience of filing their taxes with a one-page form. We also support the abolition of the death tax.

Government is not equipped to participate, and should not compete, in the free market. Wherever the public's money can be saved, and the level of service increased, we call for the privatizing services now delivered by government.

We reject the unjustified use of rhetoric like "shared responsibility" as justification for an increase of state government spending and wrongful expansion of the role of government, at the expense of individual responsibility.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS

### **We are free because of those who have answered the call to serve.**

The California Republican Party salutes all California veterans and we commit to continued support for them through efforts such as, but not limited to, transition assistance, jobs programs, housing assistance, retirement benefits and health care. We support efforts to improve the operations of the Veteran's Administration in order to increase efficiencies and quality of care.

## WATER

**The California Republican Party believes that water is California's lifeline and additional efforts must be made to protect and increase water supply to support a thriving economy.**

While California's population is expected to grow by more than 600,000 each year, reaching between 44 and 48 million by 2025, the state's water infrastructure was built 3 1/2 decades ago to serve roughly 1/3rd as many people.

Amid an extensive drought, dwindling snowpack, shrinking reservoirs, deteriorating water quality, rising water rates, restricted water use, and devastating economic impact, the voters approved Proposition 1(2014), a \$7.12 billion water bond to fund water supply infrastructure projects.

The California Republican Party is committed to supporting the construction of new, above ground water storage facilities and desalinization plants as critical components in the plan to meet California's long-term water needs.

We encourage the comprehensive and efficient management of California's precious water resources in order to accommodate growth in California; to ensure that California's 11 communities have access to an adequate supply of safe drinking water; and to guarantee that our farms and businesses get the water they need even in dry years.

We oppose additional bonded indebtedness.

## CONCLUSION

The California Republican Party recognizes the truth: Government is meant to serve the people. As such, government is solemnly charged with the responsibility to craft long-term solutions rather than short-term fixes. We pledge to hold our government responsible for securing the safety of our families, for expanding our world-class economy, and for promoting fairness and justice for every Californian.