

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND THE USE OF GOVERNMENT POWER TO DIRECT, SUBSIDIZE, OR CONTROL PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Republican Party affirms the foundational principles of limited government, free enterprise, private property rights, and individual liberty; and

WHEREAS, the proper role of government is to protect life, liberty, and property, enforce the rule of law, and provide essential public services—not to act as a market participant, investor, developer, or business partner; and

WHEREAS, so-called public-private partnerships increasingly involve the use of taxpayer funds, public credit, regulatory favoritism, land transfers, tax abatements, grants, improvement districts, bonding authority, or other government powers to subsidize, de-risk, or advantage select private businesses; and

WHEREAS, such arrangements shift financial risk from private investors to taxpayers, distort free markets, pick winners and losers, suppress genuine competition, and undermine accountability and transparency in government; and

WHEREAS, government entities lack the incentives, expertise, and discipline required to operate efficiently in the marketplace, and when government attempts to run business, the result is waste, cronyism, and long-term public liability; and

WHEREAS, the merging of government power with private enterprise is historically and academically recognized as a defining characteristic of fascism, commonly understood as a system in which the state directs or controls economic activity through close cooperation with favored private interests, using public authority to advance political or economic objectives rather than free-market outcomes; and

WHEREAS, such arrangements are incompatible with Republican principles, individual liberty, free enterprise, and constitutional government, regardless of whether they are promoted under the labels of economic development, innovation, job creation, or public benefit; and

WHEREAS, local and state governments in Wyoming, including within Lincoln County, have increasingly relied on public-private partnership structures that place taxpayers at risk while limiting public oversight and insulating private actors from market consequences;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all public-private partnerships at the county and state level that involve taxpayer funding, public credit, tax abatements, land transfers, bonding authority, regulatory favoritism, or other government action to subsidize, manage, or de-risk private enterprise are formally opposed, as such arrangements distort free markets, shift private risk onto taxpayers, undermine transparency and accountability, and represent an improper merging of government power with private enterprise that is

incompatible with constitutional government, individual liberty, and free enterprise; and further, that all Republican elected officials and candidates at the county and state level are urged to reject such schemes and instead pursue policies that protect private property rights, reduce regulatory and tax burdens broadly, ensure fiscal restraint, and maintain a clear separation between government authority and private enterprise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be transmitted to the Wyoming Republican Party, Lincoln County elected officials, and Republican members of the Wyoming Legislature as a statement of principle and guidance for future policy decisions.

Adopted by the Lincoln County Republican Convention, March 7, 2026

Government and Budgets