

# 2010 STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

## PREAMBLE

The embodiment of the conservative dream in America is Texas. Throughout the world people dare to dream of freedom and opportunity. The Republican Party of Texas unequivocally defends that dream. We strive to preserve the freedom given to us by God, implemented by our Founding Fathers, and embodied in the Constitution. We recognize that the nuclear family is the strength of our nation. It is our solemn duty to protect life and develop responsible citizens. We understand that our economic success depends upon free market principles. If we fail to maintain our sovereignty, we risk losing the freedom to live these ideals.

## PRINCIPLES

We Believe in:

1. Strict adherence to the Declaration of Independence and U.S. and Texas Constitutions.
2. Preserving American Freedom and Texas Sovereignty.
3. Limiting the expanse of Government Power.
4. The sanctity of human life, created in the image of God, which should be protected from fertilization to natural death.
5. Personal Accountability and Responsibility.
6. Self-sufficient families, founded on the traditional marriage of a natural man and a natural woman.
7. Having an educated population, with parents having the freedom of choice for the education of their children.
8. Americans having the right to be safe in their homes, on their streets, and in their communities, and the unalienable right to defend themselves.
9. A free enterprise society unencumbered by government interference or subsidies.
10. Restoring American sovereignty and leadership, and we honor all of those that serve and protect our freedom with peace through strength.

## PRESERVING AMERICAN FREEDOM

### LIMITING THE EXPANSE OF GOVERNMENT POWER

Limited Federal Powers – We support state sovereignty reserved under the Tenth Amendment and oppose mandates beyond the scope of federal authority. We support the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. We oppose and refuse any federal mandates which infringe upon the right to self-government and rights of citizens, businesses and public entities of the State of Texas; we also support asking the Governor to direct the Texas Attorney General to pursue all other appropriate legal action that preserves Texas' sovereignty. We further support abolition of federal agencies involved in activities not originally delegated to the federal government under a strict interpretation of the Constitution. We reject the EPA defining repairs as upgrades.

Constitutional Citations on Legislation – We urge that all bills presented in Congress include citations to the authorizing constitutional provision, cost to implement, and impact on the family.

If It's Good Enough For Us, It's Good Enough for Them – The Government shall not, by rule or law, exempt any of its members from the provisions of such rule or law.

Law Enforcement –

- We support limitation of criminal jurisdiction of federal law-enforcement agencies in accordance with Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
- We understand most crime is local, and the states, reserve law enforcement authority under the Tenth Amendment.
- We oppose expansion of federal law-enforcement authority and use of military against citizens.

Preserving National Security – We believe terrorism is the greatest threat to international peace and to our safety. We urge our national leadership to protect our Constitutional rights and swiftly wage successful war on terrorists; to eliminate aid to any nation threatening us or aiding terrorists or hostile nations; to spell out consequences for terrorist activities and to publicly support other nations fighting terrorists; to reasonably use profiling to protect us; to prosecute national security breaches; and to revise laws or executive orders that erode our essential liberties.

Patriot Act – We urge review and revision of those portions of the USA Patriot Act, and related executive and military orders and directives that erode constitutional rights and essential liberties of citizens.

Continuity of Government – We oppose appointing members of Congress to fill large vacancies, depriving our right to elect our own representatives.

Emergency War Powers – We charge the President to cancel the state of national emergency and charge Congress to repeal the War Powers Act and end our declared state of emergency.

Elimination of Executive Orders – We demand elimination of presidential authority to issue executive orders and other mandates lacking congressional approval, as well as repeal of all previous executive orders and mandates.

Inter-jurisdictional Agreements – We oppose inter-jurisdictional agreements with any state that prevent the Governor from controlling the military, police, other emergency management personnel, and State of Texas resources. We call for repeal of all such measures.

Washington D.C. – We strongly oppose making the District of Columbia a state and adding unconstitutional voting Congressional members.

Census – We oppose the Census Bureau’s obtaining data beyond the number of people residing in a dwelling, and we oppose statistical sampling adjustments in the “mid-decade” census. We urge that U.S. citizens who, because of religion or conscience, are compelled to withhold their full response to any census question, be held guiltless. We support the actual counting of people and oppose any type of estimation or manipulation of data.

Preservation of Republican Form of Government – We support our republican form of government in Texas as set forth in the Texas Bill of Rights (Art. I, § 2, §29; Art II §1; and Art. XVII §2g) and oppose Initiative and Referendum. We also urge the Texas Legislature and the United States Congress to enact legislation prohibiting any jurisdiction from allowing any substitute or parallel system of Law, specifically, but not limited to, Sharia Law, to be recognized which is not in accordance with the Constitutions of Texas or of the United States of America.

Germane Contents Requirement – All language in any bill must be germane to the title of the act.

Vote Revelation Requirement – All bills passed in the U. S. House of Representatives or the U. S. Senate should require a recorded vote, and that the bill voted on not be changed after the vote. All U.S. House and U. S. Senate rules allow the passage of bills without a revelation of the recorded vote be eliminated, including but not limited to the various forms of reconciliation.

Constitutional Convention – We oppose any constitutional convention to rewrite the United States Constitution. We demand the Legislature rescind its 1977 call for such a convention. We call upon other states to rescind their votes for such a convention.

Affirmative Action – Inasmuch as the Civil Rights Movement argued against using race as a factor in American life, affirmative action reintroduces race as a powerful force in American life. The Republican Party of Texas believes in equal opportunity for all American citizens without regard to race or gender. To that end, we oppose affirmative action because:

1. We believe it is simply racism disguised as a social value.
2. We believe that policies that lower standards on the basis of race or gender create a disincentive to excellence and thereby encourage mediocrity.

3. We believe that rights belong to people – not groups; therefore, we reject the notion of group-rights and policies that grant preferences based on race or gender. Policies of this type apply a blanket remedy before specific acts of discrimination are proven; thus, such policies compound one injustice with another.
4. Affirmative action falsely casts those who advocate merit as racist.
5. Affirmative action casts doubt on minority achievement making such achievement as seemingly unearned. We believe that true minority advancement will come from a demand for personal responsibility, accountability and competitive excellence.

Reparations – We oppose any form of reparation based on discriminatory criteria.

Annexation – All parties in annexation proceedings should be guaranteed these referenda: Residents of an area to be annexed may vote on annexation, and voters of the jurisdiction proposing annexation must authorize the proposal.

Property Forfeiture – We support strengthening present restrictions on use of civil forfeiture laws and assessing penalties to reimburse injured parties for costs accrued if property is returned to its original owner.

Eminent Domain – We support limiting the definition of eminent domain to exclude seizing private property for public or private economic development or for increased tax revenues. Additionally, we support market value compensation to the property owners for all damages from all sources as a direct result of any taking. All private property owners involved in eminent domain matters should be notified of their rights under law with regard to condemnation and the condemner should be required to show the public need and necessity by petitioning a court of jurisdiction. Taking of property should result in immediate compensation of fair market value to the owner.

Homestead Protection – We support continuance of Texas' homestead protection.

Environment, Property Ownership, and Natural Resources – We reaffirm our belief in the constitutional concept of the right to own property without governmental interference. We believe that property ownership is the source of the nation's wealth; free enterprise forms the foundation of our collective wealth; local stewardship of our natural resources is best; sound science trumps politically correct science; groundwater is a vested ownership right; the state should not abridge or deny our inalienable property and mineral rights; in state control of state resources; in opposing nationalization of lands and watersheds; in opposing conservation easements on our natural resources administered by organizations unaccountable to voters; in opposing vast acquisition of Texas land by government agencies to protect endangered species; in allowing states to consider costs when comparing emission control techniques; in election of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality chairman; and in eliminating the Endangered Species Act.

Conservation Easements – When conservation easements are placed on our natural resources, they should be administered by organizations accountable to voters.

Livestock and Pet Locations – We oppose a mandatory national animal identification system requiring registration of all animals, of animal owners and their properties, including GPS coordinates and the use of RFID technology.

Banning the Use of Red Light Cameras – We oppose the manner in which alleged vehicle violations are documented and fines levied against individuals without proof of their having been the driver of the offending vehicle and we call for a ban on Red Light Cameras in the State of Texas.

Driver Licenses – We propose that every Texas driver license shall indicate whether the driver is a U.S. citizen. No such documentation shall be issued to anyone not legally in the country.

Free Speech for the Clergy – We urge change of the Internal Revenue Code to allow a religious organization to address issues without fear of losing its tax-exempt status. We call for repeal of requirements that religious organizations send government any personal information about their contributors.

Government Regulation of Religious Institutions – The state should have no power over licensing or training of clergy. The State should withdraw all imposed regulations.

Restore Constitutional Integrity in the Legislative Process – We call upon the U.S. congress to pass legislation to restore Constitutional integrity in the legislative process demanding Single Issue Legislation that prohibits the current practice of inserting into otherwise unrelated legitimate legislation funding for or federal regulations for special interest issues into virtually every piece of legislation.

The Rights of a Sovereign People – The Republican Party of Texas supports the historic concept, established by our nations’ founders, of limited civil government jurisdiction under the natural laws of God, and repudiates the humanistic doctrine that the state is sovereign over the affairs of men, the family and the church.

Fairness Doctrine – We oppose any attempt by Congress or any federal agency to implement any policy comparable to the “fairness doctrine” as terminated in 1987.

Empowering Local Government Concerning Religious Meetings – the Republican Party of Texas urges local government bodies to determine their own policies regarding religious clubs and meetings on all properties owned by the same without interference.

Real ID Act – As the Real ID Act effectively creates an unconstitutional and privacy-inhibiting national ID card, we hereby call for its immediate repeal.

Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) – We oppose this act through which the federal government would coerce religious business owners and employees to violate their own beliefs and principles by affirming what they consider to be sinful and sexually immoral behavior.

## REFORMING THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Direct Election of State Judges – We support our right to select our judges by direct vote.

Visiting Judges – We support legislation prohibiting judges defeated by the electorate from serving as visiting judges, or acting as judges in any capacity, until such time they are reinstated by the electorate through a subsequent election.

Jury Reform – We support the right to privacy and security of prospective jurors during jury selection. Courts must show relevance of questions asked of jurors and perform a balancing test between the prospective juror’s right to privacy and lawyers’ need to know. Either party in a criminal trial should have a right to inform jurors of their right to determine facts and render a verdict.

Qualified Juror Service – Jury service should be limited to registered voters.

Administrative Justice – Citizens have a right to full participation in administrative law processes.

Judicial Restraint – We urge Congress to adopt the Constitutional Restoration Act and support the principle of judicial restraint, which requires judges to interpret and apply rather than make the law. We support judges who strictly interpret the law based on its original intent. We oppose judges who assume for themselves legislative powers.

Remedies to Activist Judiciary – We call Congress and the President to use their constitutional powers to restrain activist judges. We urge Congress to adopt the Judicial Conduct Act of 2005 and remove judges who abuse their authority. Further, we urge Congress to withhold Supreme Court jurisdiction in cases involving abortion, religious freedom, and the Bill of Rights.

Judicial Nominees – We urge Republican Senate leadership to ensure that a record vote is taken on every judicial nominee.

State Bar Requirements – Attorneys who obtain their law degree through learning by electronic means or U.S. mail, from an accredited school of law, should be allowed to take the Texas Bar Exam.

Information Disclosure on Judicial Candidates – The Texas State Republican Party should foster a judicial archive site on the internet with personal history, qualifications, and past rulings made by all judicial candidates.

Statutory Authority for Regulation – Defendants charged with violating a governmental regulation should have the right to see the enabling law.

## RESTORING INTEGRITY TO OUR ELECTIONS

Protecting Union Member's Dues – We support legislation requiring labor unions to obtain consent of the union member before that member's dues can be used for political purposes.

Campaign Contributions – We support full disclosure of the amounts and sources of any campaign contributions to political candidates, whether contributed by individuals, political action committees, or other entities.

Candidate Eligibility – A candidate running for office should be required to reside within the geographical boundaries of the office sought. A candidate must submit proof of qualifications for the office being sought, including proof of citizenship and in the case of a presidential candidate, an original or certified copy of a birth certificate, bearing names and signatures of parents, attendant(s), as well as date, time and location of birth for the purpose of satisfying the requirement of being a "natural born citizen".

Voter Registration – We support restoring integrity to the voter registration rolls and to reducing voter fraud. We support repeal of all Motor Voter laws; re-registering voters every four years; requiring photo ID of all registrants; proof of residency and citizenship, along with voter registration application; retention of the 30-day registration deadline; and requiring that a list of certified deaths be provided to the county clerk in order that the names of deceased voters be removed from the list of registered voters.

Electoral College – We support the Electoral College.

Voting Rights – We support equal suffrage for all citizens of voting age who are not felons. We oppose any identification of citizens by race, origin, or creed and oppose use of any such identification for purposes of creating voting districts.

Felon Voting – We affirm the Constitutional authority of state legislatures to regulate voting, including disenfranchisement of convicted felons.

Protecting Active Military Personnel's Right to Vote – We urge the Texas Secretary of State and the U.S. Attorney General to ensure that voting rights of our Armed Forces will neither be denied nor obstructed.

Filing Date for Primary Election – We urge changing the Election Code date of filing for the March primary from January 2 to the second Monday in January.

Fair Election Procedures – We support modifications and strengthening of election laws to assure ballot integrity and fair elections. Specifically, we support a federal or state government-issued photo ID at in-person voting; increased scrutiny and security in balloting by mail; prohibition of internet voting and any electronic voting lacking a verifiable paper trail; prohibition of mobile voting; prosecution for election fraud with jail sentences; repeal of the unconstitutional "Help America Vote Act"; and assurance that each polling place has a distinctly marked and if possible separate location for Republican and Democratic primary voting.

Residency Requirements – We support legislation that determines residence in accordance with common-law rules, as recognized by the courts, except as otherwise provided by the Texas Election Code.

Water Districts – We urge the Legislature to allow voters the ability to recall elected officials of an irrigation district, fresh water supply district, municipal utility district, or any other special purpose district.

Campaign Finance Reform – We urge immediate repeal of the McCain-Feingold Act.

Enforcing the Platform – The Republican State Chairman and county chairs are responsible for implementing this platform by requiring party candidates to indicate their positions on platform planks before their acceptance on the ticket and to make such information available on the Party website. The SREC should seriously consider candidates' positions on the Party platform before granting support.

Contributions to Conservative Candidates – We support the withholding of campaign contributions to organizations or campaigns including the Republican National Committee, the National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, the National Republican Congressional Committee and all other organizations or campaigns which would support candidates who do not support the principles of the 2010 Texas State Republican Party Platform.

Platform/Legislation – We urge the Legislature to permit a political party to require each of its candidates to indicate their position on each platform plank before their acceptance on the primary ballot. Publication and distribution of candidate responses should be permitted.

Conflicts of Interest – We support all legislation prohibiting influencing or voting of any elected official or appointee where a conflict of interest exists. No such official should represent paying clients before a state agency.

Lobbying Limitation – We support legislation to prohibit former officials and government employees from lobbying for a foreign government and/or any business for five years after leaving public service. We support legislation to prevent lobbying by any organization receiving federal grants except that relating to its tax status.

Legislative Accountability – We support rules requiring that all votes on bills cast in the Texas House and Senate be record votes freely available to the electorate.

AWOL Legislators – We urge the Texas House and Senate to compel attendance of absent members and penalize those who attempt to bust the quorum by leaving the state or hiding within it.

Governor's Veto – We urge a Constitutional amendment permitting the Legislature to return for a three-day session in response to the governor's veto.

Public Integrity Unit – We urge the Legislature to secure the impartiality and probity of the Travis County Public Integrity Unit, by transferring its powers and funding to an impartial statewide elected judicial entity.

Filibuster – We support return to the traditional Filibuster in the U.S. Senate.

Rosebush-Blocker Rule – We oppose the Rosebush-Blocker rule in the Texas Senate.

November Election – All public elections, except for primary elections, should be held in November.

## HONORING THE SYMBOLS OF OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE

Ten Commandments – We oppose any governmental action to restrict, prohibit, or remove public display of the Decalogue or other religious symbols.

Constitution in Public Schools – We believe that all state-funded schools should read and teach the constitutions of the United States of America and the State of Texas.

Pledge of Allegiance – We support adoption of the Pledge Protection Act. We also demand that the National Motto “In God We Trust” and National Anthem be protected from legislative and judicial attack.

American English – We support adoption of American English as the official language of Texas and of the United States.

Flag Desecration – Any form of desecration of the American Flag is an act of disregard for our nation and its people and penalties should be established for such.

Symbols of American Heritage – We call upon governmental entities to protect all symbols of our American heritage from being altered in any way.

Confederate Widows Plaque – We call for restoration of plaques honoring the Confederate Widow's Pension Fund contribution that were removed from the Texas Supreme Court building.

## **STRENGTHENING FAMILIES, PROTECTING LIFE AND PROMOTING HEALTH**

### CELEBRATING TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE

Family and Defense of Marriage – We support the definition of marriage as a God-ordained, legal and moral commitment only between a natural man and a natural woman, which is the foundational unit of a healthy society, and we oppose the assault on marriage by judicial activists. We call on the President and Congress to take immediate action to defend the sanctity of marriage. We are resolute that Congress exercise authority under the United States Constitution, and pass legislation withholding jurisdiction from the Federal Courts in cases involving family law, especially any changes in the definition of marriage. We further call on Congress to pass and the state legislatures to ratify a marriage amendment

declaring that marriage in the United States shall consist of and be recognized only as the union of a natural man and a natural woman. Neither the United States nor any state shall recognize or grant to any unmarried person the legal rights or status of a spouse. We oppose the recognition of and granting of benefits to people who represent themselves as domestic partners without being legally married. We advocate the repeal of laws that place an unfair tax burden on families. We call upon Congress to completely remove the marriage penalty in the tax code, whereby a married couple receives a smaller standard deduction than their unmarried counterparts living together. The primary family unit consists of those related by blood, heterosexual marriage, or adoption. The family is responsible for its own welfare, education, moral training, conduct, and property.

Family Values – We affirm that this section is a response to the attacks on traditional family values. These include well-funded, vigorous political and judicial attempts by powerful organizations and branches of the government to force acceptance, affirmation and normalization of homosexual behavior upon school children, parents, educational institutions, businesses, employees, government bodies and religious institutions and charities. These aggressive, intolerant efforts marginalize as bigots anyone who dissents.

Marriage and Divorce – We believe in the sanctity of marriage and that the integrity of this institution should be protected at all levels of government. We urge the Legislature to rescind no-fault divorce laws. We support Covenant Marriage.

Marriage Licenses – We support legislation that would make it a felony to issue a marriage license to a same-sex couple and for any civil official to perform a marriage ceremony for such.

Homosexuality – We believe that the practice of homosexuality tears at the fabric of society, contributes to the breakdown of the family unit, and leads to the spread of dangerous, communicable diseases. Homosexual behavior is contrary to the fundamental, unchanging truths that have been ordained by God, recognized by our country's founders, and shared by the majority of Texans. Homosexuality must not be presented as an acceptable "alternative" lifestyle in our public education and policy, nor should "family" be redefined to include homosexual "couples." We are opposed to any granting of special legal entitlements, refuse to recognize, or grant special privileges including, but not limited to: marriage between persons of the same sex (regardless of state of origin), custody of children by homosexuals, homosexual partner insurance or retirement benefits. We oppose any criminal or civil penalties against those who oppose homosexuality out of faith, conviction, or belief in traditional values.

Texas Sodomy Statutes – We oppose the legalization of sodomy. We demand that Congress exercise its authority granted by the U.S. Constitution to withhold jurisdiction from the federal courts from cases involving sodomy.

Pornography – We urge our governmental bodies to enforce laws regarding all forms of pornography. We urge more stringent legislation to prohibit all pornography including virtual pornography and operation of sexually-oriented businesses. We oppose the sale of "Not Rated" (NR) movies and video games to minors.

Ethics in Broadcasting – We call upon the Federal Communications Commission to revoke broadcast licenses of stations that air programs and advertisements in violation of existing laws and FCC guidelines. We further oppose reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine and any similar concept, which would limit outlets for free speech.

## PROTECTING INNOCENT HUMAN LIFE

Party Candidates and the Platform on Protecting Innocent Human Life – We implore our Party to support, financially or with in-kind contributions, only those candidates who support protecting innocent human life. Further, we strongly encourage the State Republican Executive Committee to hear and recognize the longstanding and overwhelmingly consistent voice of the grass roots and revise its by-laws to make this action binding on our Party.

Partial Birth Abortion – We oppose partial birth abortion. We recommend that Congress eliminate from all federal court jurisdictions all cases involving challenges to banning Partial Birth Abortion.

Right To Life – All innocent human life must be respected and safeguarded from fertilization to natural death; therefore, the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We affirm our support for a Human Life Amendment to the Constitution and to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protection applies to unborn children. We support the Life at Conception Act. We oppose the use of public revenues and/or facilities for abortion or abortion-related services. We support the elimination of public funding for organizations that advocate or support abortion. We are resolute regarding the reversal of Roe v. Wade. We affirm our support for the appointment and election of judges at all levels of the judiciary who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life. We

insist that the U.S. Department of Justice needs to prosecute hospitals or abortion clinics for committing induced labor (live birth) abortion. We are opposed to genocide, euthanasia, and assisted suicide. We oppose legislation allowing the withholding of nutrition and hydration to the terminally ill or handicapped. Until our final goal of total Constitutional rights for the unborn child is achieved, we beseech the Texas Legislature in consideration of our state's rights, to enact laws that restrict and regulate abortion including:

1. parental and informed consent;
2. prohibition of abortion for gender selection;
3. prohibition of abortion due to the results of genetic diagnosis
4. licensing, liability, and malpractice insurance for abortionists and abortion facilities;
5. prohibition of financial kickbacks for abortion referrals;
6. prohibition of partial birth and late term abortions; and
7. enactment of any other laws which will advance the right to life for unborn children.

Sonograms – We urge the Texas legislature in its next biennial session to enact legislation requiring a sonogram be performed and offered as part of the consent process to each mother seeking an elective abortion.

Harassing Pregnancy Centers – We urge legislation to protect pregnancy centers from harassing ordinances to require pregnancy centers to post signs in violation of their Constitutional rights. We further oppose any regulation of pregnancy centers in Texas which interfere with their private, charitable business.

Choose Life - We ask the Legislature to provide Texans opportunity to purchase "Choose Life" license plates.

Parental Consent – We call on the Legislature to require parental consent for any form of medical care to minors. We urge electoral defeat of judges who through judicial activism seek to nullify the Parental Consent Law by granting bypasses to minor girls seeking abortions. We support the addition of a legislative requirement for the reporting of judicial bypasses to parental consent on an annual basis to the Department of State Health Services and such reports shall be made available to the public. Further, we encourage the Congress to remove confidentiality mandates for minors from family planning service programs operating under Title X of the Public Health Services Act and Medicaid.

Protection of Women's Health – Because of the personal and social pain caused by abortions, we call for the protection of both women and their unborn children from pressure for unwanted abortions. We commend the Texas Legislature for the passage of the Woman's Right to Know Act, a law requiring abortion providers, prior to an abortion, to provide women full knowledge of the physical and psychological risks of abortion, the characteristics of the unborn child, and abortion alternatives. We urge the state government and the Department of State Health Services to ensure that all abortion providers are in compliance with this informed consent law and to ensure that all pregnancy centers and other entities assisting women in crisis pregnancies have equal access to the informational brochures created by the Department of State Health Services.

Alternatives to Abortion – We urge the Department of State Health Services to provide adequate quantities of The Woman's Right to Know Resource Directory to anyone that works with pregnant women.

RU 486 – We urge the FDA to rescind approval of the physically dangerous RU-486 and oppose limiting the manufacturers' and distributors' liability.

Morning After Pill – We oppose sale and use of the dangerous "Morning After Pill."

Gestational Contracts – We believe rental of a woman's womb makes child bearing a mere commodity to the highest bidder and petition the Legislature to rescind House Bill 724 of the 78th Legislature. We support the adoption of human embryos and the banning of human embryo trafficking.

Unborn Child Pain Protection – We support legislation that requires doctors, at first opportunity, to provide to a woman who is pregnant, information about the nervous system development of her unborn child and to provide pain relief for her unborn if she orders an abortion.

Unborn Victims of Violence Legislation – We urge the State to ensure that the Prenatal Protection Law is interpreted accurately and consider the unborn child as an equal victim in any crime, including domestic violence.

Abortion Clinics – We propose legislation that holds abortion clinics to the same health regulations as other medical facilities and that subjects clinics to the same malpractice liabilities. We oppose any public funding for Planned Parenthood or other organizations/facilities that provide, advocate or promote abortions.

Abortion Requirements for Hospitals – We propose legislation that entitles hospitals to refuse to perform abortions because government has no moral authority to require such an abortion.

Conscience Clause – We believe that doctors, nurses, pharmacists, any employees of hospitals and insurance companies, health care organizations, medical and scientific research students, and any employee should be protected by Texas law if they conscientiously object to participate in practices that conflict with their moral or religious beliefs, including but not limited to abortion, the prescription for and dispensing of drugs with abortifacient potential, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, eugenic screenings, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and the withdrawal of nutrition and hydration. We call on the Texas Legislature to pass legislation to strengthen and clarify the current conscience clause in the Occupational Code to include the above-mentioned persons and practices. We further encourage legislation that requires hospitals and clinics to inform all health care personnel of their right to refuse to become involved in abortion or euthanasia, and their protection from prosecution and retaliation under Texas law.

Fetal Tissue Harvesting – We support legislation prohibiting experimentation with human fetal tissue and prohibiting the use of human fetal tissue or organs for experimentation or commercial sale. Until such time that fetal tissue harvesting is illegal, any product containing fetal tissue shall be so labeled.

Stem Cell Research – We oppose any legislation that would allow for the creation and/or killing of human embryos for medical research. We encourage stem cell research using cells from umbilical cords, from adults, and from any other means which does not kill human embryos. We oppose any state funding of research that destroys/kills human embryos. We encourage the adoption of existing embryos. We call for legislation to withhold state and/or federal funding from institutions that engage in scientific research involving the killing of human embryos or human cloning.

Human Cloning – Each human life, whether created naturally or through an artificial process, deserves protection. We confirm that somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) is the process by which a human being is cloned, and that SCNT creates a unique human being with the same properties of a human embryo created through the union of sperm and egg. We seek a ban on human cloning for reproductive purposes (where a cloned human embryo, created through SCNT, is implanted in a womb and the human clone is birthed). We also seek a ban on research cloning (where a cloned human embryo, created through SCNT, is created, grown in the laboratory, and then destroyed when its stem cells are extracted for research purposes). Furthermore, criminal penalties should be created and experimenters prosecuted who participate in the cloning of human beings. No government or state funding should be provided for any human cloning.

Patient Protection – We support patients' rights by calling on the state legislature to amend the Advance Directive Act to establish due process of law and ensure that a physician's decision to deny life saving treatment against the patient's will or advance directive is not due to economic or racial discrimination or discrimination based on disability. We also support the passage of legislation to amend the Advance Directive Act by requiring hospitals intending or threatening to withdraw life-sustaining treatment against the patient's wishes or their advance directive to continue all treatment and care for such patients pending transfer to another facility.

Gene Manufacturing – We support a ban on research that alters human DNA in living human beings at any stage of life, including the altering of artificial, manufactured, and natural genes and chromosomes.

## PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

Parental Rights and Responsibilities – We believe that parental rights and responsibilities are inherent and protected by the United States Constitution. Local, state, or federal laws, regulations, or policies shall not be enacted that limit parental rights in the rearing of both biological and adopted children. The Party supports the Texas Parental Rights Restoration Act to amend this statute and restore the fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. We unequivocally oppose the United States Senate ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which would transfer jurisdiction over parental rights and responsibilities to international bureaucracies. Support of Parental Authority - We support parental authority and the teaching of moral values in the home. We oppose school-based clinics and/or youth impact centers located at, sponsored by, or funded by any state agency or public school district, whether or not they dispense condoms and contraceptives or refer, aid, or advise minors to have abortions.

Age of Consent – We support raising the age of consent for consensual sex to 18 years.

Child Care – We oppose any government regulations that will adversely affect the availability, affordability, or the right of parents to choose childcare.

Child Support and Visitation – We support equity between responsible parents in child support, custody, and visitation rights and costs, as well as the strengthening of laws designed to protect children from abuse. No parent/grandparent should be denied court ordered visitation, because of jurisdictional disputes between states. We also believe that no homosexual or any individual convicted of child abuse or molestation should have the right to custody or adoption of a minor child, and that visitation with minor children by such persons should be prohibited but if ordered by the court limited to supervised periods.

Adoption – We support reducing the time, bureaucratic interference and cost of adoption. The law should assure mothers of a choice in selecting a traditional home for their children at the time of terminating their rights for adoption. We oppose mandatory open adoption and adoption by homosexuals.

Foster Care – We support eliminating bureaucratic prohibitions on corporal discipline and home schooling in foster homes to help alleviate the shortage of foster parents.

## ASSISTING FAMILIES TO SELF SUFFICIENCY

Welfare Reform – Texas should continue to reduce the number of welfare recipients by enacting tough welfare reforms; denying benefits to illegal aliens, and encouraging partnerships with faith based institutions, community and business organizations to assist individuals in need. The current system encourages dependency on government and robs individuals and generations of healthy motivation and self respect. Welfare reforms should require recipients to work, learn, train, and remain substance abuse free in exchange for benefits not exceeding two years. Welfare cards should be confined to food and vital essentials, not cigarettes, lottery purchases, or alcohol or drugs of any kind. Prisoners should be removed from welfare rolls.

DFPS Accountability - We support the appointment of local elected officials to review charges of abuse of discretion by the Department of Family and Protective Services with respect to intervention into the family unit. It is imperative that this local board have the authority to recommend appropriate corrective and disciplinary action as needed. DFPS and the Courts should be mandated to cooperate with CASA as specified in the law with consequences when they ignore their duty to the detriment of the children in custody. We believe that only law enforcement officers may remove a child from his or her home or school when there is an immediate danger to the child's physical health or safety. All other removals of a child shall be pursuant to a court order. No child may be interviewed by the state without video or audio recording of the interview, and the recording shall become evidence. DFPS/CPS will require the tipster to identify himself by name and contact information to the agency. This information will be kept confidential, and the tipster will be notified by the agency that false information will be prosecuted and that false tips will be subject to a fine. A family shall have the right to learn of their accuser with a judicial order. Only findings determined in open court and by trial may be retained by the State.

Social Security - We support an immediate and orderly transition to a system of private pensions based on the concept of individual retirement accounts, and gradually phasing out the Social Security tax. We insist that Social Security benefits be non-taxable. To protect the Social Security System, its funds should not be co-mingled or spent with general revenues or invested in private or public corporate stock. We support Americans being allowed to purchase directly, and hold directly as part of their tax-deferred retirement and educational savings plans, United States Treasury obligations, personally managed investment accounts, and tax-free equities. Individuals, who qualify for Social Security benefits, including school teachers, should receive all of the benefits for which they are entitled without penalty, for any reason including earned, passive or portfolio income. To protect freedom and privacy, government and private institutions should not require Social Security numbers as ID. Application for Social Security numbers should not be required before the age of consent.

Gambling - We continue to oppose gambling as a means of financing state government. Government-sponsored gambling has had a devastating impact on many Texas families. Moreover, we oppose any further legalization, government facilitation, or financial guarantees relating to any type of gambling including casino, riverboat, video lottery terminals (VLTs), slot machine, video keno, eight-liners, multi-state lotteries, and other games of chance including on Indian reservations. We support the repeal of the state lottery, and enforcement of existing laws and regulations related to gambling. We oppose dedicating any government revenue from gambling to create or expand any governmental program.

Caring for Our Mentally Disabled Citizens - We urge the Legislature to continue funding and operating all state-supported living centers for the mentally disabled, increase training standards of state supported living centers employees, and ensure efficient funding and quality of service.

Companion Animal Welfare – We support legislation to license and regulate large-scale commercial dog and cat breeding facilities to ensure the humane handling and care of dogs and cats in those facilities.

## EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO DIRECT THEIR HEALTH CARE

Health Care Choice - We urge passage of health care reform which results in more affordable healthcare through a market-based, competitive, open and transparent health care system, including tort reform, interstate competition and genuine accountability and oversight, where American's families chose their own doctor and health care plans. We support private sector initiatives to improve the portability, quality and affordability of healthcare. We support reducing the number of mandated benefits that insurers are required to cover in order to empower consumers to choose which benefits they need. We encourage immediate expansion of medical savings accounts. We recommend that the State of Texas make available to all citizens through the Internet, the exact price paid for specific health care items covered by Medicaid and paid for by the Texas taxpayer. Any new health care reform must protect taxpayers from compulsory funding of abortion. Those who are unlawfully present in the United States should not receive expanded health care benefits. We oppose any legislation that adds to the national debt, promotes political favoritism, imposes any government control over our health care, increases government mandates or price controls, or creates new government programs. To eliminate much of the bureaucracy in today's burdensome Medicaid system, we support reallocating the majority of Medicaid spending into simple vouchers for lower income individuals to purchase their own insurance.

ObamaCare – We urge the Congress to defund, repeal, and reject the national healthcare takeover, also known as “ObamaCare” or any similar legislation.

Medical Records Informed Consent – We oppose any state or federal medical record computer database or registry (with exception to disease that is a public health threat, i.e., HIV and/or Tuberculosis), which stores personal identifiable records on citizens without their written consent.

Competition in Healthcare – Free market principles and competition shall be encouraged in health care, especially allowing each trained health care professional to practice to the extent of their education regardless of their location within the state.

Health Care and Nutritional Supplements – We deplore any efforts to mandate that vitamins and other natural supplements be on a prescription–only basis, and we oppose any efforts to remove vitamins and other nutritional supplements from public sale. We support the rights of all adults to their choice of nutritional products. We strongly favor legislation recognizing legitimate alternative health care choices.

Unprocessed foods – We support the availability of natural, unprocessed foods, which should be encouraged, and that the right to access raw milk directly from the farmer be protected.

AIDS / HIV – We recognize that the preventable diseases of AIDS and HIV infection represent a threat to human health. We view with compassion all people infected with HIV. We call for appropriate levels of research to find a cure for the disease and ask that the government give full disclosure of the causes. However, because AIDS represents such a severe threat to both the health and economic well–being of our citizens, we insist that the epidemic be de–politicized and that as a society, we take all appropriate steps to protect our citizens from this epidemic. All people, no matter what disease they may contract, are worthy of deep respect as humans; however, behavior has personal and social consequences. We call upon the United States Public Health Service and all states to declare HIV a “dangerous, yet preventable, infectious, communicable disease.” It should be legally reported in the same manner as any communicable disease. We oppose the needle exchange and bleach kit programs. We urge the return to the requirement of blood testing in order to obtain a marriage license with the previous reporting responsibilities to prevent the spread of dangerous, infectious, and communicable diseases.

Americans with Disabilities Act – We support amendment of the Americans with Disabilities Act to exclude from its definition those persons with infectious diseases, substance addiction, learning disabilities, behavior disorders, homosexual practices and mental stress, thereby reducing abuse of the Act.

Immunizations - All adult citizens should have the legal right to conscientiously choose which vaccines are administered to themselves or their minor children without penalty for refusing a vaccine. We oppose any effort by any authority to mandate such vaccines or any medical database that would contain personal records of citizens without their consent.

## **EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN – Encouraging Local Control**

Basic Standards – We favor improvements on the quality of education and a return to the traditional basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic with sufficient discipline to ensure learning. We support standardized testing to ensure minimal standards are met.

Bilingual Education – English is the language of commerce, therefore a successful tiered language instruction program with the following provisions is recommended:

- Year 1: 70% English / 30% Native language (Year 1 indicates first year of U.S. based education)
- Year 2: 80% English / 20% Native language
- Year 3: 90% English / 10% Native language
- Year 4 and thereafter: 100% English (No bilingual education after year 3)

All students must pass recognized standard tests that verify each student's English ability for their grade level before advancing. No research based evidence exists that a dual language program promotes the language of commerce.

Children with Special Needs – We advocate equal educational opportunity for all students and the requirement that children with special needs be educated commensurate with their abilities.

Classroom Discipline – We recommend that local school boards and classroom teachers be given more authority to deal with disciplinary problems. We urge the Legislature, Governor, Commissioner of Education and State Board of Education to remind administrators and school boards that corporal punishment is effective and legal in Texas.

Classroom Expenditures for Staff – We support having 80% of school district payroll expenses of professional staff of a school district be full-time classroom teachers.

College Textbooks – We support Texas' colleges and universities use of the same or substitutable textbooks for ten or more years in order to bring costs to students down and maintain some residual value for used books. We oppose restrictions on use of textbooks for multiple years, such as requiring annual access codes.

College Tuition – We recommend three levels of college tuition: In state requiring proof of Texas legal citizenship, Out of State requiring proof of US citizenship, and, nonresident legal alien. Non-US citizens should not be eligible for state or federal grants, or loans.

Controversial Theories – Realizing that conflict and debate is a proven learning tool in classrooms, we support objective teaching and equal treatment of all sides of scientific theories, including *evolution*, *Intelligent Design*, *global warming*, political philosophies, and others. We believe theories of life origins and environmental theories should be taught as challengeable scientific theory subject to change as new data is produced, not scientific law. Teachers and students should be able to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of these theories openly and without fear of retribution or discrimination of any kind.

Early Childhood Development – We believe that parents are best suited to train their children in their early development and oppose mandatory pre-school and Kindergarten. We urge Congress to repeal government-sponsored programs that deal with early childhood development.

Educational Entitlement – Given that education is reserved to the states under the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, we encourage legislation that prohibits enrollment in free public schools of non-citizens unlawfully present in the United States. We encourage the Texas Attorney General to challenge the Federal provision of residency verification.

Fairness in School Testing – We believe that a dual standard should be established to judge each school and respective class according to present standards, but also measure each respective student's relative level of improvement. The accountability of a school and classroom is based on the improvement of each student as well as the performance of the teacher.

Funding of Education – Educating Texans is a priority to Texas taxpayers. In order to prioritize education spending, it is necessary to maximize the percentage of school funds that are directed toward instructional purposes. We urge the Legislature to direct expenditures to academics first (books, desks, and teachers), then to non-academic activities; to provide funding for state mandates on local districts; and to not increase state taxes.

Funding via Bond Elections – We support active participation by registered voters and abhor taxing authorities' attempts to obtain approval for bonds by selective scheduling of elections' polling locations to minimize voter turnout. Hence, we support a requirement that at least 25% of registered voters must turn out and vote in order for a financial obligation to be placed on the entire citizenry.

Gambling and Education – We strongly oppose gambling or any other vice that tears at the fabric of society to fund public education.

Government Regulation of Religious Institutions – The state should have no power over the licensing of clergy or religious institutions for training clergy. The curriculum, faculty, and boards of religious institutions should be determined only by the institution. We call on the State to withdraw all imposed regulations.

Higher Education – We reaffirm support of public and private institutions of higher learning. We advocate an equal standard for public college admission based on merit and ability. We urge the legislature to ensure equal access to grants, loans and scholarships to all Texas high school graduates, including privately educated students. All Texas students should be given acceptance priority over out-of-state or foreign students. We oppose automatic admissions rules (such as the top 10%) which are based solely on class ranking. Military dependents by definition will be Texas residents.

Knowledge-Based Education – The primary purpose of public schools is to teach critical thinking skills, reading, writing, arithmetic, phonics, history, science, and character as well as knowledge-based education, not job training. We support knowledge-based curriculum standards and tests. We support successful career and technology programs, but oppose mandatory career training. We oppose Outcome-Based Education (OBE) and similar programs. Further, because of an aging U.S. population and global competition, and because much of today's education teaches children to be employees or perhaps at best managers for employers, we encourage the teaching of entrepreneurial skills and investment skills.

Local Control – We support school choice and believe that quality education is best achieved by encouraging parental involvement, protecting parental rights, and maximizing local independent school district control. District superintendents and their employees should be made solely accountable to their locally elected boards. We support sensible consolidation of local school districts. We encourage local ISDs to consider carefully the advantages and disadvantages of accepting federal education money.

Multiculturalism – We support teaching the principles articulated by Republican Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., that we be judged not by the color of our skin but by the content of our character and we celebrate positive contributions to our society by members of all cultural groups without emphasizing their differences. We favor strengthening our common American identity and loyalty instead of multiculturalism that emphasizes differences among racial and ethnic groups.

No Taxpayer Paid Lobbyists – We support the prohibition of any paid public school employee or contractor to lobby the legislature or the SBOE, unless on an unpaid basis and in an unofficial capacity.

Parental Rights in Education – Parents have the inherent right to raise and educate their children, even when they are on school property. We urge the Legislature to enact penalties for violation of parental rights.

Parental School Choice – We encourage the Governor and the Texas Legislature to enact child-centered school funding options – which fund the student, not schools or districts – to allow maximum freedom of choice in public, private or parochial education for all children. As a prerequisite, we urge passage of a constitutional amendment prohibiting imposition of state regulations on private and parochial schools.

Pledge of Allegiance in Public Schools – Students should be led daily in the Pledge of Allegiance, the Texas Pledge, the National Anthem, and be taught flag etiquette and patriotic songs to ensure that the loyal and patriotic spirit of Texan and American heritage is preserved.

Private Education – Parents and legal guardians may choose to educate their children in private schools to include but not limited to, home school, parochial schools, without government interference, be it through definition,

regulation, accreditation, licensing, or testing. We encourage competition and cooperation between public and private schools in academic and athletic extracurricular activities.

Private Education - Juvenile Daytime Curfew - We strongly oppose Juvenile Daytime Curfews.

Political Community Organizing in Texas Schools: Neither Texas public schools nor their students should be used by groups (such as ACORN community organizers), as instruments to promote political agendas, but rather to focus on history, reading, writing, mathematics, and science.

Public Higher Education Accountability - We support a system of accountability in Texas Public universities. We support binding audits by the State Comptroller of all public universities and a complete review of the tuition deregulation law for the purpose of validating whether it is accomplishing its stated goal.

Religious Freedom in Public Schools – We urge school administrators and officials to inform Texas school students specifically of their First Amendment rights to pray and engage in religious speech, individually or in groups, on school property without government interference. We support and strongly urge Congress to pass a Religious Freedom Amendment, which provides: “Neither the United States nor any State shall prohibit student–sponsored prayer in public schools, nor compose any official student prayer or compel joining therein.” We urge the Legislature to end censorship of discussion of religion in our founding documents, and encourage discussing those documents.

School Surveys and Testing in Areas of Morality and Politics – Public schools should be required to obtain written parental consent for student participation in any test or questionnaire that surveys beliefs, feelings, or opinions in the areas of sexual activity, drug and alcohol use, religion, political persuasion, or other areas of morality. Parental rights, including viewing course materials prior to giving consent, should not be infringed.

School Testing-Release of Standardized Test Questions – The Party calls for Texas Education Agency (TEA) to release to the public questions used on standardized testing no later than the start of the following school year. The current practice of multiple years elapsing before public release is unacceptable.

Sex Education – We recognize parental responsibility and authority regarding sex education. We support policies that mandate parental notification and consent before any sex education program is presented to their child. Parents must be given an opportunity to review the material prior to giving their consent. We oppose any sex education other than abstinence until heterosexual marriage.

Social Promotion – Students should master basic, minimum skills before advancing.

State Board of Education (SBOE) – The (SBOE) should be elected and have authority over the Texas Education Agency, including determination of the Commissioner of Education, curriculum (including textbook content) and textbook adoption. The SBOE maintains constitutional authority over the Permanent School Fund. The TEA offers subject-area teacher certification without additional educational requirements for individuals who hold a baccalaureate in their field or professionals who have equivalent life experience in a field. Texas Education Code 28.008 and 28.009 should be amended to replace the appointed and unaccountable Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) responsibilities and authorities with the ELECTED SBOE. We support competitive pricing as part of the textbook selection process by independent school districts and oppose standard maximum pricing schemes. The SBOE must have sole authority over all curricula content and state adoption of educational materials and ancillaries, (regardless of methods of delivery, including but not limited to textbooks, laptops and electronic delivery systems). This process must include public hearings. We urge the Legislature to expand State Board of Education’s authority to establish textbook adoption standards. In a rare exception to general conservative principles of smaller costs of government, the SBOE should be minimally staffed and funded by the Legislature out of general revenue. We strongly support recent SBOE actions in areas of science and social studies, the latter of which recognized the contributions of minority patriots in Texas and United States history.

Support for Classroom Teachers – We recognize the need to attract competent teachers; to get teachers involved in educational planning and program development; to minimize reports and paperwork; to support teacher incentives through monetary and recognition rewards; and to empower teachers to remove disruptive students.

Supporting Military Families in Education – Existing truancy laws conflict with troop deployments. Truancy laws should be amended to allow 5 day absence prior to deployments and during R&R (proof must be provided of deployment and R&R) and the students’ absence will be coded in the same manner as homebound so long as school assignments are completed and turned in. Military dependents by definition will be Texas residents for education purposes.

Traditional Principles in Education – We support school subjects with emphasis on Judeo-Christian principles (including the Ten Commandments) upon which America was founded and which form the basis of America’s legal, political and economic systems. We support curricula that are heavily weighted on original founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, and Founders’ writings.

Transparency – We support legislation requiring all school districts to post their check registers online or made readily available to the public.

School Health Care – We urge legislators to prohibit reproductive health care services, including counseling, referrals, and distribution of condoms and contraception through public schools. We support the parents’ right to choose, without penalty, which medications are administered to their minor children. We oppose medical clinics on school property except higher education and health care for students without parental consent.

School Nutrition – To help instill lifelong healthy eating habits, we support making only foods of nutritional value available in schools during school hours and served in appropriate serving sizes.

Teacher Retirement Funds – We urge the Texas legislature to require school districts to treat teacher retirement benefits and Social Security in a uniform fashion, and ensure vested benefits under the Social Security system are not forfeited if a second career as a teacher is undertaken.

U.S. Department of Education – Education falls under the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment to our United States Constitution. Given this, the Department of Education (DOE) and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) have no jurisdiction and must be repealed.

Career and Technology Education (Vocational Education) – We support reinstatement of voluntary career and technology education, including adjusting the 4x4 requirements as needed, without detracting from non-vocational program requirements.

Tenure – We support the removal of the system of tenure in Texas state colleges and universities.

## **PROMOTING INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AND PERSONAL SAFETY**

Right to Keep and Bear Arms – We urge the Legislature and Congress to repeal all laws that infringe on the right to bear arms, and to reject any monitoring of gun ownership, and all specific taxation or regulation of guns and ammunition. We support a ten-year mandatory minimum sentence, without parole, for felonies committed with firearms. Stiff penalties should be enacted for frivolous lawsuits against legitimate firearm manufacturers. All gun owners are responsible for safely storing and operating firearms. We believe the Legislature should enact legislation preventing employers from prohibiting Concealed Handgun License (CHL) holders from storing their concealed handgun in their vehicle while on a company parking area, and removing civil liability from property owners who do not prevent CHL holders from carrying on their premises. We believe that Federal Firearms License (FFL) holders should be free from harassment, and license revocations and denials against firearm dealers based on violations consisting of largely inconsequential record-keeping errors and encourages the ATF to consider lesser gradation of sanctions for such errors. Firearms and ammunition manufactured and sold in the state of Texas are not covered under the Commerce Clause and therefore are not subject to Federal regulation. We support “open carry” in the State of Texas and we oppose “Gun Free Zones.”

State Militia – We support the establishment and maintenance of a volunteer Constitutional State Militia, with assistance from County Sheriffs.

Freedom of Access Act – We urge repeal of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Law. Those who assault peaceful protesters acting under the Constitution should be vigorously prosecuted. Picketing and literature distribution do not fall under the RICO Act.

Judeo-Christian Nation – As America is a nation under God founded on Judeo-Christian principles, we affirm the constitutional right of all individuals to worship in the religion of their choice.

Safeguarding Our Religious Liberties – We affirm that the public acknowledgement of God is undeniable in our history and is vital to our freedom, prosperity and strength. We pledge our influence toward a return to the original intent of the First Amendment and toward dispelling the myth of separation of church and state. We urge the Legislature to increase the

ability of faith-based institutions and other organizations to assist the needy and to reduce regulation of such organizations.

Religious Liberties Abroad – We urge Congress to sanction any foreign government that persecutes its citizens for their religion.

Electronic Privacy – We believe all law-abiding citizens should be free from government surveillance of their electronic communications except in cases directly involving national security. Except for non-citizens, we further oppose any national ID program, including the Real ID Act and the use of Radio Frequency Identification Chips (RFID) on humans.

Personal Confidentiality – Necessary dissemination of personal information among government entities must be safeguarded with the threat of criminal penalties. Legislation should provide redress to anyone denied service for refusing to provide such information.

Equality of All Citizens – We deplore all discrimination. We also deplore forced sensitivity training and urge repeal of any mandate requiring it. We urge immediate repeal of the Hate Crimes Law. Until the Hate Crimes Law is totally repealed, we urge the Legislature to immediately remove the education curriculum mandate and the sexual orientation category in said Law.

Boy Scouts of America – We support the Boy Scouts of America and reject any attempt to undermine or fundamentally change the ideals of the organization.

Free Airwaves – We oppose the implementation of the “Fairness Doctrine”.

Contractual Freedom – We support the individual right to enter into real estate contracts without Government interference or regulations.

## PROTECTING CITIZENS FROM CRIME

Prison Reform – We believe our prison systems should emphasize protection of society and punishment of offenders, ever mindful of their human rights. The state should assist offenders who desire reform. Prisoners should be required to perform meaningful work. Prisoners should not have access to private information of any citizen. We support alternative methods of prison administration. We support prohibiting prisoners from initiating frivolous lawsuits. No extraordinary medical care, including organ transplants or body part replacement, should be performed on prisoners at taxpayer expense.

Sentencing Reform – We urge parole boards to administer punishment according to the intent of the sentencing courts. We also call for disclosure to juries of their rights and powers; of prior convictions of the defendant; and of the actual time likely to be served before parole. We believe punishment should be assessed in proportion to the crime and should be a deterrent. We support imprisonment for life without parole for habitual felons. Convicted criminals should make restitution to their victims. A minimum education level should be established by law for all parolees. No inmate with a history of drug abuse should be eligible for parole before completing treatment.

Crime Shouldn't Pay – No convicted criminal should be allowed to profit from sale of rights to their story for books, movies, etc., while incarcerated, on parole, or on probation.

Capital Punishment – Properly applied capital punishment is legitimate, is an effective deterrent, and should be swift and unencumbered.

Juvenile Justice – Juvenile justice reforms should continue, including private programs, “boot camps,” and trying juveniles as adults when appropriate. We condemn incarcerating juveniles and adults in the same facility.

Child Abuse – We recognize the family as a sovereign authority over which the state has no right to intervene, unless a parent or legal guardian has committed criminal abuse. Child abusers should be severely prosecuted. However, we oppose actions of social agencies to classify traditional methods of discipline as child abuse. We support enactment of a homicide-by-abuse statute that provides punishment for abusing a child to death without intent of killing. We support requiring compliance by publicly funded private agencies with laws requiring reporting of instances of any kind of abuse as a condition of receiving such funding.

Unborn Victims of Violence – We believe a person who injures or kills an unborn child should be subject to criminal and civil litigation, whether the child dies in the womb or is born alive.

Sexual Assault – Punishment options for rape should include death. Adults convicted of sexual molestation of a minor should receive mandatory prison sentences without probation or parole. We support increasing the penalty for failure to report child sexual assault cases, and we urge vigorous prosecution of such failure. We urge the Legislature to eliminate from the child sexual assault law the “affirmative defense” when there is less than 36 months of age difference.

Human Trafficking – We oppose human trafficking in any form.

Addictive Behaviors – We encourage state and federal governments to severely prosecute illegal dealers and manufacturers of addictive substances and pornography. We urge Congress to discourage export of such substances into our country. Faith based rehabilitation programs should be emphasized. We oppose legalization of illegal drugs. We support an effective abstinence-based educational program for children. We oppose any “needle exchange” program. We urge vigorous enforcement of our DUI laws.

Property Search and Seizure Without Due Process – We oppose search and seizure of private property without due process. Neither law enforcement agencies nor their parent organizations should be allowed to benefit from such seizures.

Speed Limits – We support highway speed limits based only on safety standards.

## **STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY**

### **GOVERNMENT SPENDING**

Fiscal Responsibility – We urge state and federal legislators to reduce spending. We also support a “cap” on government spending at all levels, with adjustments based only on inflation and population change.

Governmental Accountability – We favor periodic audits of all governmental agencies.

Unfunded Mandates – We oppose all unfunded mandates by the federal and state governments. State mandates without full funding should be included in the government body’s annual increased spending limits.

Downsizing the Federal Government – We support abolishing all federal agencies whose activities are not granted in the Constitution, including the Departments of Education and Energy. We support a sunset provision law at the federal level.

Budget and Appropriations – We urge Congress to adopt balanced budgets by cutting spending and not increasing tax rates. We oppose the use of employee and employer Social Security contributions to fund any other government functions. We oppose spending that is used to buy votes. We oppose adding earmarks or using other techniques that bypass approval of spending. We encourage the use of the line-item veto.

Waste and Fraud in Government Contracts – All government contracts should be awarded by competitive bids. We call upon all levels of government to allow the awarding of contracts, requiring performance and payment bonds, be awarded to the lowest bidder.

Congressional Pay and Benefits – Congressional pay raises should not exceed the rate of inflation. Congress shall pass no law affecting average Americans that does not equally apply to themselves and all other Federal employees. We recommend that the Congressional retirement system be abolished.

Faith-Based Charities – We oppose any restrictions by any government agency on taxpayer contributions to churches and faith-based charities.

Repeal of Fee Award Act – We support repeal of the Civil Rights Attorneys’ Fee Awards Act, which allows for payment of attorneys’ fees to sue the government and to suppress freedom of religion.

Bailouts and Subsidies – We oppose all bailouts of businesses, states, and all other government entities. We encourage government to divest its ownership of all business that should be run in the private sector and allow the free market to prevail.

Government Services – We support privatization of government services when beneficial to the taxpayer.

Sunset Laws – We support the Texas Sunset Law.

Government Lobbying – We oppose paying lobbyists with tax dollars.

Funding Special Interest Organizations – We oppose any government support of special interest organizations, such as ACORN and the ACLU.

## TAX BURDEN

Federal Tax Reform – We recommend a national sales tax (which does not include a Value Added Tax) to replace all other Federal taxes once the I.R.S. is abolished and the Sixteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is repealed. However, until such time that the income tax is abolished, we support deductions for private and home schooling, home mortgages, and sales taxes.

Permanent Tax Cuts – We urge the income tax, capital gains tax, estate tax, and all other tax reductions be made permanent.

State Tax Reform – We urge the Legislature to abolish property taxes for the purpose of funding schools and to shift the tax burden to a consumption-based tax while maintaining or reducing the overall tax burden. We strongly oppose creation of a state income tax or state property tax. We support a constitutional amendment providing a two-thirds super majority of both houses to increase any taxes or fees. Every tax at every level should have separate and clearly visible billing to the taxpayer. The party is opposed to all professional licensing fees and real estate and similar transaction fees or taxes.

Revised Franchise Tax – The Party calls upon the Texas Legislature to repeal the revised franchise tax.

Property Appraisal – Until ad valorem taxes are abolished, we recommend that property valuations be fixed for not less than three years following each revaluation. Appraisal District Boards should be elected. We support capping the annual increase in real property appraisals at 3% and strongly support a reduction in the margin of error in the property value study to 90% in place of the current 95%. We call upon the Texas Legislature to eliminate the property value study.

Exemption of Inventories from Property Taxes – We urge outright repeal of property taxes on inventory

Internet Taxation – We oppose any taxation on use of the Internet.

Transportation Fuel Taxes – We call for all transportation and fuel taxes collected to be used for road construction, improvement and maintenance only. We resolve that tax revenue derived from gasoline taxes should only be used for highway construction, and not be diverted to any other use, including mass transit and bicycle paths.

Tolls on Existing Roads – We support the legitimate construction of toll roads in Texas, but we oppose converting existing state and federal roads to toll roads including right-of-ways without voter approval.

## ENERGY STRATEGY

Energy Strategy – We encourage a comprehensive energy policy that allows more development of domestic energy sources and reduces our need for foreign energy. Energy policy should be cooperative, economically viable, and environmentally safe, but not restricted by overzealous environmental activism. We encourage use of wind, coal-fired plants, solar, and nuclear power. We oppose government restrictions such as windfall profits and severance taxes, and regulations that restrict construction of refineries, power grids and location of gas and oil drilling, or mandating alternative fuel use for vehicles. We oppose any legislation that supports any type of “Cap and Trade” policy, or ceding any energy policy authority to any world agreement. We support the abolition of the Department of Energy. We support an immediate end to the deep water drilling moratorium in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

## BUSINESS AND THE ECONOMY

Frivolous Lawsuits – We support further reform to discourage frivolous lawsuits. We oppose the abusive use of class action lawsuits.

Right-to-Work – We oppose the Employee Free Choice Act (Card Check) and any action that eliminates the secret ballot. Every worker should have freedom to work in their preferred job without being forced to join or pay dues to any organization. Our Right-to-Work Law has provided this freedom and a good climate for industrial expansion, higher employment, and a stable management-labor relationship. We encourage adoption of a National Right-to-Work Act.

Small Business – We urge the federal and state legislatures to mitigate the impact of regulations on small businesses and to ensure that such businesses are adequately represented in the regulatory process. We support the removal of any unreasonable legal or economic barriers to home-based work.

Workers' Compensation – We urge the Legislature to resist making Workers' Compensation mandatory for all Texas employers.

Minimum Wage – We believe the Minimum Wage Law should be repealed.

Prevailing Wage Law – We urge the federal legislature to repeal the Prevailing Wage Law and the Davis Bacon Act.

Incentives for Retention of Domestic Operations – We support a favorable business climate of low taxes and deregulation to encourage capital investment to ensure retention and creation of jobs in America.

Free Market for Utilities and Insurance – We encourage free market solutions for providing utilities whenever possible. We support that all property insurance rates should be set through free-market forces alone. We support efforts to shrink the Texas Insurance Association to reduce the liabilities it imposes on state taxpayers.

Federal Reserve System – As long as it exists, We, The Republican Party, call upon the United States Congress to act immediately to pass a bill to require a full and complete audit of the Federal Reserve System and, that upon completion of the audit, the results be immediately provided to the United States Congress and to the People of the United States. We believe Congress should repeal the Federal Reserve Act of 1913.

Rural and Volunteer Fire Departments – We urge Congress to overturn the rules of the U. S. Department of Labor restricting volunteerism by paid firefighters and emergency medical technician personnel.

## **U.S. SOVEREIGNTY, LEADERSHIP AND FOREIGN POLICY**

### **DOMESTIC**

Texas Sovereignty – Our individual freedom and the independent sovereign authority of our State government have been obliterated by Federal statutes enacted by Congress and enforced by the Chief Executive and the Courts. What Congress has destroyed by statute can be restored by statute. Now is the ideal moment to push for new federal laws designed to restore freedom and State sovereignty. We strongly resolve that the Texas Legislature honor Texas' State Sovereignty, as reserved under the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment, with the understanding that Texas will retain its sovereignty, freedom and independence and every power, jurisdiction and right which is not expressly delegated to the federal government by the U. S. Constitution, and oppose mandates beyond the scope of the Federal authority.

National Sovereignty – We strongly believe that the United States of America must protect and defend its national sovereignty as given in the Constitution to the people and remain free of external control or influence and be governed independently of any foreign power, especially with regard to the formation of the North American Union/Community as proposed by the Council of Foreign Relations (CFR). We call upon the President, Senators and Representatives to defend our national sovereignty in accordance with their oaths of office.

S.A.V.E. U.S.A. – We support seven key steps to secure America.

S – Secure America's border; Northern, Southern, and ports.

A – Abolish Adjustment of Status in the United States.

V – Vigorously enforce immigration laws using federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

E – Eliminate government benefits to illegal aliens.

U – Unimpeded deportation process.

S – Stop employment of illegal aliens.

A – Amend legal immigration rates to more sustainable levels.

Border Security – “Order on the borders” is basic to solving complex issues of illegal immigration. All means must be deployed immediately to prevent illegal aliens, organized crime and potential terrorists from crossing the border. Secure American borders by any means necessary.

Civil Defense – We support a national and local civil defense system. We strongly believe that Congress should rescind all gun laws infringing upon our constitutional rights.

Federalization or Militarization of Police – We support having only local control over our police forces. We oppose the federalization or militarization of local police forces.

Foreign Military Bases on American Soil – We oppose relinquishing United States supremacy to any foreign powers on our soil. We support prohibition of all foreign or international military bases within the United States.

Foreign Control of US Interests – We oppose sale, transfer, management or ownership of U.S. interests by foreign or international interests. Foreign owned properties and income shall be subject to all U.S. laws.

Homeland Security – We support the strengthening of our national intelligence gathering; enhancing inter-agency coordination of intelligence; providing critical information to local and state agencies; protecting constitutional rights of all citizens; providing adequate protection of high profile targets for terrorists; enhancing airport and port-of-entry security; using random selection and terrorist profiling in searching individuals; provide for armed guards and pilots on commercial aircraft; authorizing the Coast Guard to board and search vessels entering U.S. waters from foreign ports, and providing expert training of airline pilots for protection against terrorist attack.

National Defense – We support funding for a strong national defense; development and funding of ballistic missile and space based weapons systems maintaining our military’s effective combat strength sufficient to defend our nation’s borders and its strategic interests; avoiding new arms control agreements with any nation not complying with previous agreements; never deploying the military except against invasion or threat to our vital interests, which may include pre-emptive action; and expiration of special emergency war powers unless renewed by Congress in six-month intervals.

Legal Immigration – One nation, one flag, one language, one loyalty;

America is a country of immigrants, we should insist that any immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself/herself to the United States. He/she shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else. This is predicated upon the fact that the person is in every facet an American, and nothing but an American. There can be no divided allegiance. Anyone who says he is an American, but something else also, isn’t American at all. We have room but for one flag, the American Flag. We have room for but one language here and that is the English language. We have room for but one sole loyalty and that is loyalty to the American people. (Teddy Roosevelt, 1907)

Illegal Immigration – Secure the Borders Now.

With growing impatience the American people in overwhelming numbers have asked our Government to secure our borders. They now demand it and we as a party agree with the American people. Illegal aliens have by definition violated U.S. law.

We oppose illegal immigration, amnesty in any form leading to citizenship, or legal status for illegal immigrants. We support an end to the “catch and release” policy; criminal penalties and aggressive enforcement for those who knowingly employ illegal workers; expeditious hearings on deporting non-violent illegal immigrants; amending the U.S. constitution to suspend automatic U.S. citizenship to children born to illegal immigrants; elimination of federal and state funding to cities with “sanctuary” laws; empowering state and local law enforcement agencies with authority and resources to detain illegal immigrants; rejection of non-verifiable foreign-issued cards as valid identification; strict prosecution of any entity involved in phony identification documents; elimination of day labor work centers; elimination of laws requiring hospitals to give non-emergency care to illegal’s; elimination of social security benefits or federal and state funding to illegal’s for education, housing or business loans; preventing any foreign entity from using our judicial system to enter the United States; document verification prior to issuance of a Texas drivers license; withholding federal highway funds from any state issuing drivers licenses to illegal aliens; and aggressive prosecution of persons smuggling humans across our borders. We support requiring all employers to utilize E-verify system to confirm the legal status of all new hires.

Enforcement of Immigration Law – We support strict and immediate enforcement of all immigration laws.

Birthright Citizenship – We call on the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of these United States to clarify Section 1 of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment to limit citizenship by birth to those born to a citizen of the United States: with no exceptions.

NASA – We support full funding for the Constellation program that will take the U.S. out of low earth orbit and back to the moon. We also support funding for the Aerospace Commission and private sector research and development of space technology.

Support of Our Armed Forces – We encourage all Americans to support the brave and patriotic men and women of our armed forces. They should be paid a wage sufficient to prevent them from ever needing food stamps and that encourages retention. We strongly recommend that all our armed forces remain commanded only by the Commander-in-Chief and his subordinate commanders;

upgrading, modernizing and maintaining the equipment, weapons, and vehicles for the safety, efficiency and effectiveness of our armed forces; the continuation of an all volunteer armed forces, the recruitment and advancement of military personnel based on the needs of the military and the qualifications of the person; disqualification of homosexuals from military service; immediate discharge of HIV positive individuals; separation of men and women in basic training; exclusion of women from ground and submarine combat roles; provision of full military honors for burial of veterans; restoration of all veteran benefits without an offset for disability pay; health and disability benefits equal to active military for national guard and reserves; passage of a "new" G.I Bill that fully funds expanded educational scholarship opportunities for honorably separated Veterans; restoration of full lifetime health benefits to retired military and their families; and assurance that military and civilian voters displaced by their service be afforded full opportunity for their votes to be counted; and the expeditious construction of a Veterans Museum in Texas. We oppose the repeal of the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) and the North American Union – We strongly oppose and call on Federal and State officials to place high priority on the withdrawal of the United States from the Security and Prosperity Partnership and the formation of the North American Union.

Transportation Corridors – We oppose the construction of transportation projects which surrender control or ownership to foreign interests. We oppose the use of eminent domain for construction of a "trans Texas corridor" or similar project which would create a federal corridor through Texas.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Foreign Policy – We support the spread of a representative form of government and free market enterprise. We also support and encourage private humanitarian aid to developing countries. We support continued favorable treatment of proven allies, and censure of adversarial entities that seek destruction of other countries or harbor terrorists. We oppose any treaty which shall permit a foreign entity to control our citizenry. We oppose U.S. aid to any foreign entity that consistently votes against our interests or is openly hostile to our nation.

MIA's and POW's – We support our government in continuing to seek and act upon all information concerning our military personnel and other citizens carried as Missing in Action or Prisoners of War.

China – We support the removal of Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for Communist China until it ceases its support of Communist North Korea; significantly improves its policies on human rights (including abolition of their forced "one child" policy); ceases persecution of Christians; ceases aggressive behavior toward all neighbors; ceases transferring nuclear, biological, and chemical technology to Iran, Pakistan and North Korea and restores Tibetan sovereignty.

The Korean Peninsula – We support continued military, economic and political alliance with South Korea until a permanent peace is established on the Korean Peninsula. We support a strong American response to North Korean military aggression against South Korea, Japan or any other nation. We support continued sanctions against North Korea and all efforts to secure a democratic system of government in North Korea.

Cuba – We support the continuation of the embargo against Cuba until democracy is restored. We call for the release of all political prisoners currently being held by the Castro regime. We support political asylum for all refugees fleeing political oppression in Cuba.

Taiwan – We support full diplomatic recognition of Taiwan, who has been a long-time ally of the United States, as well as, an independent and sovereign nation. We call upon the President to support the people of Taiwan.

War on Terror – We support a strong policy on confronting radical Islamist terrorists in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries around the world. We believe our military forces deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, in particular, should not be prematurely withdrawn from the conflicts until victory has been secured and both countries are able to sustain peace with limited assistance from the United States. There should be no "time-table" applied to the withdrawal of our forces. We also support keeping Guantanamo Detention Center for terrorist detainees. We oppose any plan to close Guantanamo and to bring detainees into the U.S. for Court trials. We urge our elected officials in the Congress of the United States to vigorously pursue any and all actions necessary to halt and deny the bestowal of Constitutional Rights to any enemy combatants.

Israel – We believe that the United States and Israel share a special long-standing relationship based on shared values, a mutual commitment to a republican form of government, and a strategic alliance that benefits both nations. Our foreign policy with Israel should reflect the special nature of this relationship through continued military and economic assistance and recognition that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and should remain an undivided city accessible to people of all faiths. We believe that the US Embassy should be located in Jerusalem. In our diplomatic dealings with Israel, we encourage the continuation of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, but oppose pressuring Israel to make concessions it believes would jeopardize its security, including the trading of land for the recognition of its right to exist. We call on the U.S. to cease strong arming Israel through prior agreements with the understanding of delivering equipment to them to defend themselves in exchange for future diplomatic concessions, such as giving up land to the Palestinians on the West Bank. We support the continuation of non-recognition of terrorist nations and organizations. Our policy is based on God's biblical promise to bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel and we further invite other nations and organizations to enjoy the benefits of that promise.

Hamas  – We should not reward terrorism by allowing a Palestinian state carved out of historical Israel. Palestinians shall not receive American aid as long as Hamas is their elected government. We should withdraw all financial support to Hamas and other elected terrorists.

Iraq  – There should be no timetable for pulling out of Iraq or Afghanistan. We support the democratically elected government in Iraq in order to avoid tyranny and provide stabilization of the Middle East. We support continued economic and security assistance to Iraq. (We flipped the sentences around)

Iran  – We demand the President do all that is necessary to prevent Iran from developing and proliferating nuclear weapons. We support strong sanctions against Iran, because it continues to be a state sponsor of terrorism, continues to violate the fundamental human rights of its own people and continues to aid the Taliban in Afghanistan. We support the Iranian people in their struggle to bring a democratic form of government to Iran. (We flipped the sentences around)

Afghanistan  – We support our continued military operations to prevent the resurgence of Taliban forces. We admonish Afghanistan to uphold fundamental human rights of its own people, including freedom of religion. We support the elimination of the Afghan Poppy trade.

Pakistan  – We support the stabilization of the Pakistani government as a strategic ally in the war on terror.

Kashmir  – We acknowledge that India and Pakistan seek a strong friendship with the United States and encourage both nations to resolve the Kashmir dispute for the Kashmiri people.

Mexico  – We support policies, which strengthen Mexican democratic institutions, including continued legal reform to address the issue of corruption. We support an aggressive U.S.-Mexican military and law enforcement cooperation to address the war against the drug cartels, as was successful in Colombia.

South America  – We support the adoption of the Colombian Free Trade Agreement and closer political relations with Colombia who has emerged from decades of war with the drug cartels and FARC with an open democratic government and free market economy. We support efforts to strengthen democratic institutions in the region and resist the authoritarian socialist regimes of Venezuela and Bolivia.

Sudan  – We urge censure of the Sudanese government for supporting atrocities against ethnic minorities in Darfur.

One World Government Organizations  – We oppose a one-world government in direct opposition to our basic principles and eroding our sovereignty. We oppose the implementation of one world currency.

International Monetary Fund  – We demand Congress stop funding the IMF and any other international financing agencies.

International Trade  – We favor fair international trade. We oppose taxation and regulation of American industry that makes American products uncompetitive. We oppose free trade expansion at the expense of national security and sovereignty. We call for withdrawal from agreements that compromise our sovereignty and security. We urge sanctions against nations that disrupt free trade, bar or excessively tax American products, violate human rights, or engage in technological espionage. We urge repeal of international trade agreements that do not promote free trade, withdrawal from the World Trade Organization, and cessation of negotiations of the Free Trade Area of the Americas. All foreign trucks and drivers operating on American roads must meet American safety standards. We urge Congress to require all imported products and by-products to conform to all U.S. standards. We support protecting our inventors, enforcing our intellectual property laws, and strengthening penalties for patent law violations by foreign entities. (Moved Import Restrictions and American Patent Rights into International Trade).

United Nations  – We believe it is in the best interest of the citizens of the United States that we immediately rescind our membership in, as well as all financial and military contributions to, the United Nations.

We will:

1. support legislation similar to “The American Sovereignty Preservation Act”, which would remove the United States entirely from the control of the UN;
2. demand that Congress ratify no more, and rescind any existing treaties that compromise the United States Constitution;
3. support immediate recall of our military forces from UN initiated engagements, and restore them to their traditional mission of defending the liberty and freedom of the people of the United States of America;
4. support an amendment to the United States Constitution stating, “a treaty that conflicts with any provisions of the Constitution shall not be of any force or effect”;
5. urge our Texas Senators to unalterably oppose any agreement or treaty that seeks to establish an International Criminal Court (ICC), make the United States a participatory party to such a court; recognize the jurisdiction of such a court within the United States or upon any native-born or naturalized citizen of the United States; and

We oppose:

1. UN control of any United States land or natural resources;
2. the use of Presidential Executive Orders to implement UN treaties, thereby circumventing our elected Congress;
3. any attempt by the federal government, or the UN, to directly or indirectly tax United States citizens for UN support;

4. a UN resolution that would force the United States to adopt gun control measures by treaty;
5. the placement of the UN flag and emblem on public property or in government facilities;
6. payment of any debt allegedly owed to the UN;
7. Any attempt to grant veto power over the sovereignty of the United States to set national defense priorities, wage effective war, and negotiate peace in terms favorable to our vital interests; and
8. Ratification of the Law of the Sea Treaty (LOST).

We urge Congress to evict the United Nations from the United States and eliminate any further participation.

## **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

The SREC, Chairmen of Republican Party and Chair of most recent Platform Committee shall report the voting record of each state and federal elected official relative to these Legislative Priorities. The chair of the most recent Platform Committee shall present a draft of the report to the SREC no later than 180 days prior to each primary election. The SREC shall publish such report no less than 120 days prior to each primary election.

- We urge the Texas legislature in its next biennial session to enact legislation requiring a sonogram be performed and offered as part of the consent process to each mother seeking an elective abortion.
- Enact legislation to require Voter ID.
- Expand the Public Education Grant (PEG) program. The PEG program should be replaced with a comprehensive, public-school choice program for which all students in Texas are eligible, regardless of the academic performance of their current school.
- Create a school-choice voucher program for all students who have special educational needs and are exempt from the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test under Education Code Sections 39.027(a)(1)&(2) and 39.027(b).
- Clearly define the role of the state and the roles and responsibilities of the state and school districts in the public education system.
- We support having 80% of school district payroll expenses of professional staff of a school district be full-time classroom teachers.
- Exempt high-performing school districts from certain state mandates to reward the state's best-performing schools and serve as an incentive for performance improvement.
- Create flexibility for school districts under the class size limit mandate.
- Uphold the Constitutional and statutory roles of the State Board of Education.
- Protect the authority of the State Board of Education to manage the Permanent School Fund and control textbook content; expand the cap on charter schools and
- Strengthen and adequately fund the State Board of Education.
- Enact legislation to educate our children in accordance with our conservative ideals by removing our schools from federal control and restoring them to local control.
- Construct prisons rather than reduce sentences.
- Require the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to register sex offenders when they leave custody.
- At minimum, maintain current penalties for drug related crimes.
- Reject needle exchanges.
- Repeal the Marijuana Ticket Law. House Bill 2391 (80R) allows police officers to issue citations for certain misdemeanors, including possession of up to four ounces of marijuana.
- Amend the Health and Safety Code to include synthetic marijuana as a controlled substance.
- Truth in Sentencing – fully inform juries as to the actual length of the sentence.
- Judicial Sentencing – empower our judges to assign punishment in felony cases.

- We urge the legislature to expand the protection for private property ownership in Texas to include the exclusive right to buy, sell or use any asset as the owner deems necessary.
- Law enforcement should make Child and Sex Abuse and Methamphetamine Drug Manufacturing their top priority. Stricter sentencing for Methamphetamine traffickers is needed.
- Oppose any effort to expand gambling.
- Amend the Texas Constitution with a tighter, more meaningful spending limitation based on population growth and annual inflation.
- Ensure that exemptions to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) work requirements are appropriate so that the state is able to meet federal welfare-to-work targets.
- Expand retail electric competition to the areas of the state that are currently exempted.
- Create a free market for water to help meet future demand.
- Use the relatively light-handed regulation of the oil and gas industry as a model for the state's water market.
- Evaluate the performance of Texas' public sector employees and expand the role of the private sector in delivering government services.
- Eliminate longevity pay for state employees.
- Limit the state's licensing and regulatory role to one that seeks to protect public health; reduce the extent to which the state unnecessarily regulates the private sector economy when public health is not at risk.
- Support the continued transition to a competitive insurance market by retaining and strengthening reforms enacted since 2003. Property and casualty insurers need only be regulated for solvency, market practice, and fraud.
- Make the \$1 million Gross Margins Tax revenue exemption permanent; constitutionally dedicate revenue from the Gross Margins Tax to the Property Tax Relief Fund.
- Use surplus revenue and other available general revenue to buy-down state debt.
- Reduce the high levels of local debt by implementing a turnout requirement for bond elections and adding local government entities to the constitutional debt ceiling.
- Use dedicated funds for their intended purpose or return them to taxpayers.
- Surplus revenues should be constitutionally dedicated to reducing the Maintenance & Operations (M&O) portion of the school district property tax.
- Reject raising or indexing the gas tax.
- End diversions from the State Highway Fund.
- Secure the integrity of elections by verifying the citizenship of those registering to vote, requiring a photo ID to vote, and removing non-qualified voters from voter registration lists.
- Provide the necessary funding and resources so that law enforcement personnel in border areas can combat illegal immigration and its negative effects on local communities.
- Create a state offense (Class A misdemeanor) for an illegal alien to intentionally or knowingly be within the State of Texas, and require local law enforcement to verify residency status upon arrest for another crime.
- Codify 37 Texas Administrative Code §15.171 so that state law requires driver's licenses to reflect the immigration status of the holder.
- Provide that consular identification documents issued by foreign governments are not acceptable as proof of identification.
- Require proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency from those applying to receive taxpayer funded public benefits.

- Pass legislation that will reduce restrictions on CHL holders.