



## **2024 Dubuque County Republican Proposed Platform**

**Adopted by Convention 2/17/2024**

### **PREAMBLE**

As Republicans, we uphold the principles of individual responsibility and liberty, adherence to traditional moral standards, a strong national defense, a free enterprise system, equal rights for all, respect for the sanctity of human life, and freedom of religion and the free exercise thereof.

We believe in retaining the original intent of our Constitution. We believe high moral character is a necessity for public servants.

The highest standard of character should be embodied in both private and public life. We encourage the proliferation of these principles and their passage to future generations.

### **PLATFORM PRINCIPLES**

The following are the fundamental principles that make up the platform of the Republican Party of Iowa.

#### **I. Our nation is a Constitutional Republic whose Foundation is the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.**

We acknowledge our rights derive from God, our Creator, and are therefore unalienable and include Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness (e.g. private property). Further, the Right to Life shall be understood to include all people from conception to natural death. We are a nation governed by people elected to public office who are sent to represent us, the citizens. Our Constitution provides limits to governmental power, explicitly details our fundamental rights, and ensures that only the enumerated powers contained within the Constitution are executed by the federal government. All other functions of government are left to the state and local governments.

#### **II. We are a Sovereign Nation.**

We are a Sovereign Nation with defined borders, governed by a set of laws determined by our representatives, guided by our Constitution, and protected by a military strong enough to defend our nation and its interests.

#### **III. The Oath of Office of all civil servants, elected and employed, should guide their actions.**

As citizens, we demand that our elected officials take their office and its duties and responsibilities to us, our country, and our Constitution seriously and act under their individual Oaths of Office.

#### **IV. Fiscal Responsibility is a fundamental function of any local, state, or federal entity.**

It is a fundamental expectation that government entities act in a financially responsible manner; it follows that limiting the size and scope of government is a necessary component of achieving this end.

## **V. Personal Responsibility is the primary duty of all citizens.**

We are a nation of individuals held together by a common vision. We are not servants of the government; we are not dependent on the benevolence of society for our survival. Our possibilities are limitless where a free market is allowed to operate without government distortion; they should not be limited by our local, state, and federal government. We are citizens of our country. We as individuals are responsible for our successes and failures.

## **VI. Platform Compliance**

Elected officials and candidates for public office are expected to act, vote, and campaign in substantial alignment with this Platform if they are to receive endorsement and/or financial support from the Republican Party.

### **Life**

1. From conception to natural death, we believe that all human beings have a God-given and constitutionally protected right to life, which cannot be infringed. We believe all such issues belong under the state's constitutional authority, not the federal government.
2. We oppose using public revenues for abortion or funding organizations that advocate it. We encourage funding for those who provide alternatives to abortion; including ultrasound to be shown to expectant mothers, and to offer adoption services.
3. We oppose the non-consensual withholding or withdrawal of care or treatment, including food and water, from people with disabilities, including newborns, as well as the elderly and infirmed, just as we oppose active and passive assisted suicide, euthanasia, and infanticide.
4. We support non-embryonic stem cell research, such as promoting the use of adult stem cells, while opposing human cloning and research using fetal tissue from abortions.
5. We believe the selling, brokering, or marketing of aborted fetal tissue should be illegal.
6. We call for facilities performing medical or chemical abortions to be subject to the same health and safety standards as hospitals.
7. Both mother and child matter. Therefore, we support the Protect Life Amendment to the Iowa Constitution.
9. We support adequate funding for state mental health facilities dedicated to inpatient services and outpatient mental health facilities and services. We support an increase in trained mental health professionals and staff sufficient to meet the needs of our state.
10. We believe that traditional, two-parent (one male and one female) marriage-based families are the foundation of a stable, enduring, and healthy civilization. Therefore, public policy must always be pro-traditional family, as defined herein, encouraging marital and family commitment and supporting parental rights and responsibilities.
11. We encourage the term "civil union" to replace the term "marriage" for same-sex individuals.
12. We reaffirm our support for the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of life.

## Immigration

1. We support legal immigration based on the merit System, ending chain migration, and the lottery visa.
2. We further support the fair and balanced administration of existing immigration law (to include the various Visa categories such as the R1 & R2 Visas, covering temporary religious workers) such that the implementation of the standards and requirements necessary to achieve legal entry status don't become an infringement upon the free exercise of religion.
3. We support immediate passage of H.R. 2 (Titled: Secure the Border Act of 2023) by the US Senate, having been passed by the US House of Representatives and sent to the US Senate for consideration, where it is currently stalled by a refusal of the Democratic Senate Leadership to bring the measure to a floor vote. The legislation contains among its many provisions designed to secure the border-building the wall, deporting illegal immigrants, strict enforcement of our current immigration laws, and providing no government benefits for illegal immigrants (except for emergency medical care).
4. We oppose amnesty for any illegal immigrants.
5. We believe the House of Representatives be apportioned only by the number of Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR's) and US Citizens.

## Liberty

1. We support "Conscience Clause" legislation so that no person, business, or organization can be penalized for exercising religious freedom by not providing services that violate their religious beliefs.
2. We support legislation that would prohibit any organization from entering public school properties to promote promiscuous behavior and abortion products, videos, or printed material.
3. We support that it is legal to close prayer including in public spaces, with the words "in Jesus' name we pray."
4. We oppose fuel, biofuel, biodiesel, or ethanol mandates.
5. We oppose mask and vaccine mandates.
6. The State of Iowa should pay down debt faster to enhance our attraction to outside commerce and protect our citizens from runaway state and federal government waste and out-of-control spending.
7. We are opposed to the exclusive use of federally issued electronic currency.
8. We oppose electronic surveillance of private financial transactions by any government or non-government entity unless a non-FISA warrant is issued.
9. We support the consumers' right to know the country of origin of any new product purchased online.
10. We oppose the "Arms Trade Treaty" regulated by the United Nations.
11. We support making Iowa a sanctuary state for the Second Amendment.
12. We support the regulation of traffic enforcement cameras only to solve previously reported crimes rather than generate revenue.
13. We oppose all estate and/or inheritance tax.
14. We support expanded hunting seasons. We support a reduced cost for in-state and out-of-state licenses and tags. We support allowing farmers and landowners to harvest all game and wildlife on their property at no cost to compensate for damages incurred annually on their crops and property.

## **Economic Accountability and Responsibility**

1. We support a full forensic audit of ALL public education institutions in the state. Parents and taxpayers have a right to know where every dollar is going and who is getting what pay rates as public sector employees.
2. We support the lowering of the corporate state income tax.
3. We support replacing the current complex progressive income tax system with either a consumption tax or a flat tax.
4. We support a balanced Budget Amendment to be pushed locally and nationally.
5. We believe in holding China accountable for unfair trade practices and enabling COVID-19 to spread worldwide.

## **Security**

1. We support laws that prohibit foreign ownership of United States farmland, agricultural and livestock properties, and related food processing facilities.
2. We support efforts to ensure American energy independence by promoting an “all of the above” energy production strategy, utilizing oil, natural gas, coal, renewable, and nuclear energy to minimize our exposure to supply disruptions by foreign producers.
3. We support the development of increased efforts to defend against cyberattacks to both our civilian and military computer-based systems.
4. We support efforts to upgrade our nation’s electrical grid designed to minimize its vulnerability to cyberattack and/or potential EMP (Electromagnetic Pulse) attacks.
5. We support making America independent of foreign countries for the manufacture of essential medical, military, and national security products.

## **Education**

1. We support efforts to completely abolish the Department of Education.
2. We support banning teaching Critical Race Theory and the 1619 project from all state-funded Iowa Education and Learning facilities.
3. We support that the public-school curriculum for each grade level must be posted on the website of every school system in the state. Any revisions or additions to the curriculum must be posted 30 days before implementation.
4. We believe an authentic CIVICS education that accurately tells the story of our founding fathers and the moral and ethical principles of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights is essential to preserve our Republic. Therefore, all certified primary and secondary schools will require a minimum of 1 semester of Civics taught each year for grades 6-12, and the student must pass a Civics test to receive a graduation certificate or GED.
5. To promote improved school safety, appropriate and properly trained school personnel should be allowed to carry concealed weapons on campus.

## **Election Integrity**

1. We support a return to an Election Day Only Voting Program for Iowa to include the following:
  - Voter ID requirement
  - No Early In-Person Voting
  - Limited Absentee Ballots (with signature verification and no mass offerings such as at nursing homes) available only to deployed military, the infirm, and those with a legitimate out-of-town work assignment on election day.
  - No Ballot Harvesting or Drop Boxes
  - Paper Ballots (traceable water-marked paper) – no voting machines or internet-capable tabulators.
2. We recognize that control of elections is entrusted to each state in the Republic by the Constitution of the United States. The electoral process in each state is directed by its own state Constitution.

## **County and State Issues**

1. We propose eliminating public and taxpayer-funded support for the print, online, radio, and television media.
2. We support expanding the number of seats on the county board of supervisors from three to five.
3. We support banning the use of environmental, and social governance (ESG) scores as a condition of doing business.
4. We oppose the use of Eminent Domain to acquire private property for private commercial use. (example CO2 Pipeline)
5. Eliminate ALL odd year elections and move those elections and bond referendum to even numbered election years for Election Day Only.

## **Federal Issues**

1. We support prohibiting stock trading by current members of Congress, Senate, Federal Reserve members, other federal officeholders, and their direct families.
2. We support term limits for all elected offices.