

Clallam County Republican Platform Adopted March 8, 2008

PREAMBLE

The Republican Party of Clallam County, on this 8th day of March 2008, assembled in biennial convention at Sequim, Washington, adopts this platform as a guide to the candidates it sponsors and a pledge to the public it seeks to serve.

MISSION

Recognizing that constitutionally limited government and moral integrity are essential to the preservation of individual liberty and social responsibility, OUR MISSION is to influence our national, state, and local governments to adhere to the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the limits established for government by the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Washington, and the Clallam County Home Rule Charter.

OUR PRINCIPLES:

- I. We believe the proper function of government is to do for the people only those things that must be done, and cannot be done as well by individuals. The most effective government is government closest to the people. Therefore we strongly support:
 - a) Full adherence to the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which delineates state and federal jurisdictions and prohibits expansion of federal government powers at the expense of the rights of local citizens and governments.
 - b) Local control of land use policy and planning as the most effective and appropriate venue for addressing the major challenges related to population growth. Thus, we call for repeal of the Washington State Growth Management Act, abolishing the Growth Management Hearings Boards, and returning to local planning as authorized by the Planning Enabling Act.
 - c) Adequate funding for facilities and care for those who are truly unable to care for themselves or function in society, due to mental or physical disability.
- II. We believe it is necessary and honorable for the United States to defend itself and its citizens against attacks by terrorists and other enemies and to preserve national security and unity. Therefore we support:
 - a) The war on Islamic terrorism and those regimes supporting it, and appropriate funding and other measures to assure success.
 - b) A comprehensive energy policy for the United States to become independent of petroleum imports by 2016.
 - c) A comprehensive missile defense program.
 - d) Securing our borders against illegal immigrants and those who pose a threat to this nation.
 - e) A responsible immigration policy welcoming persons who would be contributing members of American society.
 - f) Repeal of the Real ID act.
 - g) Adoption of English as the official national and state language.
 - h) Maintaining full control of our national sovereignty, Constitutional rights and command of our armed forces, never subordinating or relinquishing them to the control of the United Nations or any global government or organization.
 - i) Adequate compensation for our military personnel and surviving dependents of those who have given their lives for our country.

- j) Fully funding the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide pensions, medical care, and other benefits promised to our veterans.
- III. We believe in the right of individuals to own property and practice responsible stewardship thereof. Therefore:
- a) Government regulation of private property must be designed to allow and encourage wise stewardship and to minimize government intrusion on the rights of the property owners.
 - b) National, state and county policies and regulations must provide reasonable and effective protection of natural resources and the environment, based on valid science, while encouraging the economic vitality necessary to protect and sustain our environment.
 - c) We oppose further government acquisition of privately owned properties, because private ownership and responsible stewardship are the most effective means for environmental protection.
 - d) We favor strong federal and state legislation to clarify and reinforce the Fifth Amendment limitation that private property may be taken only for public use, with just compensation paid when property is taken or devalued by regulation.
- IV. We believe excessive tax burdens violate the basic rights of a free people, encourage growth of repressive government, and discourage individual responsibility. Therefore we support:
- a) Balanced budgets at all levels of government, except in time of a declared war.
 - b) Making the Bush tax cuts permanent.
 - c) Significant simplification of the federal tax structure.
 - d) Abolition of death taxes, both state and federal.
 - e) Authorizing a presidential line item veto.
 - f) Retaining the state constitution's prohibition on a state income tax.
 - g) Amending the state constitution to limit property valuation assessment increases to 1 percent annually except after sale of the property.
 - h) Requiring a 2/3 majority vote in both chambers of the state Legislature to amend initiatives placing limits on taxing and/or spending.
 - i) Prohibiting legislative use of emergency clauses to circumvent the people's power of initiative and referendum.
- V. We believe free enterprise, and the encouragement of individual initiative and responsibility have given this nation an economic system second to none. Therefore:
- a) We support tort reform, particularly relating to medical malpractice liability.
 - b) We believe in free-market solutions to curtail skyrocketing health care costs. These include health savings accounts, substantial relaxation of state mandated minimum health insurance coverage requirements, and deductible private-pay medical insurance and health care services. We also believe in personal responsibility to pursue a healthy lifestyle.
- VI. We believe all United States citizens are guaranteed and entitled to equal rights and privileges. Granting of special rights or privileges to any ethnic or social group works to the detriment of that group and all citizens.
- VII. We support the United States Constitution as written and intended by the founders of our nation and as legally amended by the process set forth in Article V. Therefore:
- a) We oppose amendment by judicial interpretation.

- b) Regarding the U.S. Senate’s responsibility to provide advice and consent for presidential appointments, we support limiting Senate committees’ authority to: conducting hearings, making recommendations, and forwarding every nomination for a vote of the full Senate, in a timely manner.
- c) The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of—not freedom from—religion. We call on all school authorities and government officials to respect the rights of individuals and groups of individuals to engage in voluntary prayer and other religious speech and celebration of traditional religious holidays.
- d) We oppose allocating Washington’s Electoral College votes based on the national popular vote.

VIII. We recognize the traditional family as the foundation unit of our society, support government policies that enhance and encourage family responsibility and rights, and recognize that a well-educated population is essential to maintaining a free society. The primary responsibility for achieving educational goals rests, not with the federal government, but with local school boards and parents. The state’s primary charge is to provide appropriate financial support for local education. Therefore:

- a) We support continuing to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman.
- b) We support parents’ responsibility and authority for the education of their children, including parents’ right to choose home-schooling, private schools, or public schools. We support tax credits and vouchers for those who choose alternatives to public schools.
- c) We support recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and intensive teaching of American history, economics, Washington State history, civics and U.S. Government, free of revisionist influence.
- d) Assuring proficiency in English must be a primary goal and responsibility of the education system. Every student has a right, an obligation and a need to become proficient in the English language, both verbally and in written form, in order to promote national unity and live a full and successful life. In addition, we support emphasizing rigorous academic skills in mathematics and sciences.
- e) When, as required by state law, students are instructed regarding the consequences and responsibilities of health-related choices, we support emphasizing informed abstinence regarding sexual behavior, and obedience to laws regarding drugs, tobacco, and alcohol.

IX. We believe all human beings have a right to life, regardless of age, health or conditions of dependency. Therefore:

- a) We commend individuals, religious groups and private organizations who provide positive alternatives to abortion by meeting physical, emotional and financial needs of pregnant women, including adoption services, where desired. We condemn any violence directed toward persons or entities that support or oppose abortion.
- b) We support parental notification prior to abortion services being provided to minors, and pre-abortion informed consent for all expectant mothers.

- c) Recognizing that life begins at conception, and all life is sacred, including unborn, elderly, and handicapped, we oppose abortion in all its forms and use of embryos in stem cell research.
 - d) We support a constitutional amendment to ban partial-birth abortion as a procedure, and to ban all abortions not required to save the life of the mother.
- X. We believe all citizens, together with local government, share the responsibility for assuring that we have safe streets and communities. This is a primary responsibility of government, but we do not cede to government the total responsibility for our individual safety. Therefore:
- a) We strongly support the constitutional guarantee: “the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”
 - b) We oppose mandatory gun registration, licensing of gun owners, and restrictions on law-abiding citizens’ right to purchase, own and carry firearms, ammunition or their components.
 - c) We support strict enforcement of laws proscribing criminal use of weapons.
 - d) We oppose local, state, federal or global laws that unjustly make criminals of otherwise law-abiding citizens who own or carry firearms.
 - e) We support the death penalty and timely finalization of all appeals.
 - f) We support charging convicted felons 50% of any income earned during their prison term to offset the costs of their own incarceration, medical expenses, and to contribute to their victims’ compensation.
- XI. Finally, we believe the Republican Party is the best political vehicle for translating these ideals into positive and successful principles of government.

OUR PLEDGE:

To accomplish our mission of restoring the foundational principles of our federal and state constitutions, we pledge to:

- A. Encourage citizens of good character who share the goals and principles stated in this platform, to seek elected office.
 - B. Actively support their candidacies.
 - C. Continue to support and encourage them once they take office.
 - D. Actively participate in the public input process to influence government policies.
- OUR GOAL: To reduce the burden of government on individual citizens, families, and the economy by spending and regulatory reforms which reduce government’s size and cost.
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