

2002 STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

PLATFORM COMMITTEE

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PREAMBLE

The delegates of the 2002 Republican Party of Texas believe that our Party Platform expresses the fundamental beliefs and truths that were recognized by our country's founders. The compassionate conservative principles of our Party are tested and proven. We believe that the officeholders of our representative republic do not truly represent their electorate until this platform is applied as the standard for their decision-making. We call on Texas Republicans to work diligently to elect representative Republicans and to personally implement the following ten core principles of the 2002 Texas Republican Platform:

1. We respect and cherish the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and our Founders' intent to restrict the power of the federal government over the states and the people. We believe internal self-government is the best government, balanced by limited civil government, which provides for the people those things which cannot be achieved individually.
2. We believe that human life is sacred because each person is created in the image of God, that life begins at the moment of conception and ends at the point of natural death, and that all innocent human life must be protected.
3. We believe that good government is based on the individual and that each person's ability, dignity, freedom, and responsibility must be honored and recognized. We believe that, while equal opportunity is a right and a privilege, equal outcome is not. We insist that no one's rights are negotiable and that individual freedom demands personal responsibility.
4. We believe that government spending is out of control and needs to be reduced. We support fundamental, immediate tax reform that is simple, fair, and fully disclosed.
5. We believe that traditional marriage is a legal and moral commitment between a man and a woman. We recognize that the family is the foundational unit of a healthy society and consists of those related by blood, marriage, or adoption. The family is responsible for its own welfare, education, moral training, conduct, and property.
6. We believe that a well-educated population is fundamental to the continued success of our Republic; and that parents have the right, as well as the duty, to direct their children's education and to have the choice among public, private, and religious schools. Competition improves education, with no child being left behind.

7. We believe that the future of our country depends upon a strong and vibrant private sector unencumbered by excessive government regulation.
8. We believe that a strong America ensures a free America. While we recognize that our nation is a major participant in the global community, we must also vigilantly protect the sovereignty of the United States. Freedom is never free, and we honor all those who have served our nation to protect our liberty.
9. We believe all Americans have the right to be safe in their homes, on their streets, and in their communities. We support enforcement of the laws through the Courts imposing swift and sure justice with stiff penalties, truth in sentencing, and respecting the rights of law-abiding citizens.
10. We believe that personal and public integrity is the cornerstone of a stable and lasting society and it is the key to preserving the freedoms for which our founders pledged their “lives, fortunes, and sacred honor.”

“God Bless Texas!”

Preserving American Freedom

Limiting the Expanse of Government Power

State Sovereignty/States Rights – The Party supports state sovereignty under the Tenth Amendment which reserves to the states or the people all powers not specifically delegated in the Constitution to the federal government and opposes the institution of mandates that are beyond the scope of federal authority.

Limited Federal Powers – The Party urges the re-affirmation of states’ rights guaranteed by the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. We further support the abolition of federal agencies involved in activities not originally intended to be delegated to the federal government under a strict interpretation of the Constitution.

Constitutional Citations on Legislation – The Party urges that all bills presented in Congress include citations to the constitutional provision that authorizes Congress to act on the matter under consideration, the cost to implement, and the impact on the family.

Equality Under the Law – The Party believes all federal laws shall apply equally to members of Congress as well as all other residents of the United States. Exemptions of members of Congress from current laws shall be repealed.

Conduct of Public Officials – The Party believes the President of the United States and all members of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of the federal and state governments shall be held to the same standards of conduct as other law-abiding citizens.

Federal Judiciary Reform – The Party calls on the House of Representatives and the Senate to exercise their authority to impeach and remove federal judges who abuse their constitutional authority.

Judicial Restraint – The Party supports the principle of judicial restraint, which requires judges to interpret and apply rather than make the law. We encourage the support of judges who strictly interpret the law based on the law’s original intent. The Party stands strongly against activist judges.

Law Enforcement – According to Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, federal law-enforcement powers have criminal jurisdiction limited to the high seas, federal installations, and counterfeiting operations. The Party believes that most crime is local and that the states, according to the Tenth Amendment, reserve law enforcement authority. Implementing this policy would effectively eliminate the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which we would applaud. Many citizens have become concerned about the expansion of federal law-enforcement authority and the use of military personnel and equipment against its citizens. The rights of American citizens must be respected.

Preserving National Security – The party believes terrorism is the greatest threat to international peace and to the safety of our own citizens. We also believe the current greatest threat to our individual liberties is overreaching government controls established under the guise of preventing terrorism. We urge our national leadership, within the limits of protecting the Constitutional rights of American citizens, to wage war on terrorists who threaten the United States and its citizens swiftly, deliberately, and decisively wherever such terrorists are found. We urge Congress to immediately cut all foreign aid to any nation threatening our citizens and providing aid and comfort to terrorist organizations or providing arms to other nations hostile to the United States. We urge

the Administration to set known standards of consequences and reprisals for terrorist activities and to publicly support other nations in their efforts to fight terrorists. We support reasonable use of profiling whenever it is deemed appropriate by law enforcement and security personnel to protect American lives and property. In the wake of September 11, 2001, and the continuing war on terrorism, we urge our legislators to fully investigate and prosecute, where appropriate, any breaches in national security.

Property Forfeiture – The Party supports legislation which will strengthen the present restrictions on the use of civil forfeiture laws. We also support the enactment of laws which provide for the assessment of penalties and fines for the reimbursement of injured parties for attorney fees and costs accrued if the property is returned.

District of Columbia – The Party strongly opposes all efforts to make the District of Columbia the fifty-first state in the United States of America.

Census – The Party opposes any attempt by the United States Census Bureau to obtain any information beyond the number of people residing in the dwelling at the time of the census and in accordance with Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution. We strongly support counting each citizen and urge elected officials to resist taking a census by any other method.

Elimination of Executive Orders – The Party demands the elimination of presidential authority to issue executive orders, presidential decision directives, and other administrative mandates that do not have congressional approval. Further, we demand a repeal of all previous executive orders and administrative mandates.

Preservation of Republican Form of Government – The Party reaffirms our support for the provisions for a republican (representative) form of government, as set forth in the Texas Constitution and Texas Bill of Rights [Art. I, Sec. 2; Art. I, Sec 29; Art II, Sec. 1; and Art. XVII, Sec. 2(g)], and we oppose any attempt to introduce direct democracy (Initiative & Referendum) into our state constitution, thereby bypassing the legislative process and the checks and balances between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. We hereby reaffirm the principles espoused in the United States Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution.

Constitutional Convention – The Party opposes a Constitutional Convention or “Conference of the States” to rewrite the United States Constitution. Furthermore, we urge the Texas Legislature to immediately rescind the State’s 1977 vote sent to the United States Congress calling for a Constitutional Convention. We also call upon other states to rescind their votes for a Constitutional Convention.

Personal Confidentiality – The Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution guarantees the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures and that this right shall not be violated. The Party directs that legislation be introduced in both the United States Congress and the State of Texas to repeal existing statutory requirements to end the ever increasing, incessant, recurring, and calculated gathering, accumulation, and dissemination of finger prints, Social Security numbers, financial and personal information of law-abiding citizens by business and governments, the use of which are contrary to and destructive of our individual and collective freedom. Such legislation shall provide remedy and redress to any individual denied service for refusing to provide the above-mentioned information.

Preserving Personal Privacy – The Party opposes any and all unauthorized access, accumulation, and distribution of an individual’s private records by a government agency or any agent working on behalf of a government agency. We oppose the creation of a federal identification card for United States citizens or the use of state driver licenses as a national identification card.

Repeal of Federal War Powers Act – A perpetual state of national emergency allows unrestricted growth of government. The Party charges the President to cancel the state of national emergency and charges Congress to repeal the War Powers Act and declare an end to the previously declared states of emergency.

Annexation – The Party supports legislation that will guarantee residents of the proposed areas to be annexed, as well as residents of the municipalities proposing annexation, the right to a binding referendum to approve or disapprove annexation.

Property Rights – The Party opposes continued federal land acquisition and control. We reaffirm belief in the fundamental constitutional concept of a person’s right to own property without federal interference. We oppose any increase in federal land use control. We oppose any international treaty or land control measure that abridges or overrides the sovereignty of the United States. The Endangered Species Act must be re-written to make it land-owner and wildlife friendly by eliminating penalties and by emphasizing incentives and cooperative efforts that begin at the local and state levels. We also demand that the federal government adhere to the Fourth Amendment by immediately halting the seizure of private property without due process.

Homestead Protection - The Republican Party of Texas supports the continuance of Texas' constitutional homestead protection.

Environment, Property Ownership, and Natural Resources – Preamble – The Party affirms ownership of property is the cornerstone of individual freedom and it understands government ownership of land to be the cornerstone of socialism. We reaffirm the belief in the fundamental constitutional concept of an individual's right to own and use property without governmental interference. Further:

- We believe that the right to own and use property is the source of the nation's wealth, jobs, and individual economic security. We affirm that property rights and the free enterprise system form the foundation of our nation's collective wealth. In turn, it is our collective wealth that supports a strong environmental ethic. Economic security is the foundation for secure, healthy families and the future of our children.
- We believe in maintaining American sovereignty over our natural resources.
- We believe in building our tax base through local conservation of our natural resources.
- We believe in local stewardship of our natural resources for our children's future freedom and use.
- We believe that the taking of property should follow with immediate compensation to the property owner.
- We believe that the taking of property includes the loss of proportionate value of property, loss of use, loss of access, and loss of marketability. We believe in sound science and not politically correct science.
- We believe that groundwater is an absolute, vested ownership right of the landowner. As the capture of and the competition for groundwater increases, we support voter-approved county ground water districts to address inequitable issues.
- We believe that the state should neither make nor enforce any law that may abridge the privileges or immunities of the citizens of Texas with respect to minerals, water, or property rights without due process of law.
- We support state control of state resources and oppose nationalization and control of lands and watersheds of the United States.
- We support regulations based on proven science and support congressional oversight over administrative edicts.
- We oppose passage of any international treaty which overrides United States sovereignty, including the Kyoto Agreement and the Biodiversity Treaty.
- We oppose the vast acquisition of Texas land by government agencies.
- We oppose EPA management of Texas air quality issues such as regulation of speed limits on Texas highways.
- We urge Congress to modify any environmental acts to allow the EPA to permit states to consider costs when comparing various emission control techniques.

Reforming the Judicial System

Direct Election of State Judges – The Party supports our right to select our judges by a direct vote of the people.

Visiting Judges – The Party supports 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.

Judicial Conduct – The Party affirms that judges should not express bias or prejudice in the discharge of their duties. However, judges must retain their constitutional right to speak out about issues. We oppose the enforcement of and call for the repeal of Section 5(1) of the Judicial Code of Conduct that has been interpreted as calling for judges to refrain from exercising their freedom of speech, freedom of association, or freedom of religion.

Jury Reform – The Party supports legislation protecting the right to privacy and security of prospective jurors during the jury selection process. The courts must show the relevance of questions asked of jurors and perform a balancing test between the prospective juror's right to privacy and the relevance of the lawyer's need to know. We support legislation enabling either party in a criminal trial to inform the jurors of their right to determine the facts and to render a verdict according to conscience.

Administrative Justice – The Party supports the right of citizens to full and open participation in the state's administrative law processes. We oppose any amendments to the Administrative Procedures and Texas Register Act or any other laws, regulations, and rules that unreasonably limit ordinary citizen input.

Qualified Juror Service – The Party urges the limitation of jury service to those who are registered voters.

Appellate Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court – Congress should be urged to exercise its authority under Article III, Sections 1 and 2 of the United States Constitution, and should withhold appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in such cases involving abortion, religious freedom, and all rights guaranteed under the Bill of Rights.

Justice of the Peace Court Jurisdiction – To increase access and affordability of the judicial system to all Texans, the party supports legislation to raise the jurisdictional limit of Justice of the Peace courts to \$10,000.

Restoring Integrity to Our Elections

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

Voter Registration – The Party supports needed legislation to restore integrity to the voter registration rolls and to reduce voter fraud. Furthermore, we support the repeal of all Motor Voter laws and urge re-registering voters every four years and requiring first time registrants to produce photo identification, proof of residency and citizenship, along with voter registration application. We support the retention of the 30-day registration deadline.

Protecting Active Military Personnel's Right to Vote – We urge the Texas Secretary of State and Attorney General John Ashcroft to take necessary steps to ensure that the voting rights of our U.S. Armed Forces will never be denied or obstructed.

Judicial Financing Reform – The Party supports the establishment of consistent guidelines for contributions to campaigns of state judges in order to limit ability to unfairly influence the judicial process.

Filing Date for Primary Election – The Party urges Texas legislators to change the Election Code date of the filing for the March primary from January 2 to the second Monday in January.

Fair Election Procedures – The Party supports ongoing modifications and strengthening of election laws to assure ballot integrity and fair and impartial elections at all levels of government. Specifically, we support:

- 1) increased scrutiny and security in balloting by mail; and,
- 2) prohibition of internet voting and any touch screen voting or other electronic voting which lacks a paper trail; and,
- 3) prohibition of mobile voting; and,
- 4) vigorous criminal prosecution by district attorneys or county attorneys for election fraud, and use of jail sentences as a deterrent to violators.

Water Districts – We call on 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 – The Party opposes any so-called "campaign finance reform" that restricts free speech, the right to publicize the voting records or positions of public officials, and the amount of individual or Political Action Committee campaign contributions. We support full disclosure of the amounts and sources of these funds.

Free Speech Preservation – Move that our elected representatives rescind the Shays-Meehan legislation bill and the IRS code that restrict pastors from speaking out on the moral issues relevant to where candidates stand.

Support of Platform – Any person filing as a Republican candidate for a public or Party office shall be provided a current copy of the Party platform at the time of filing. The candidate shall be asked to read and initial each page of the platform and sign a statement affirming he/she has read the entire platform. The individual accepting the signed statement shall review the initialed platform and maintain a list of those who have complied with this request. This will become effective in the 2002 election. We strongly encourage Republican candidates, officeholders, and Party officials to support the Republican Party Platform and fellow Republican candidates and officeholders. We direct the Executive Campaign Committee to strongly consider candidates' support of the Party platform when granting financial or other support.

Conflicts of Interest – The Party promotes the passing and/or strengthening of local, state, and federal legislation prohibiting the influencing or voting of any publicly elected official or appointee in any matter for which

a conflict of interest exists respecting a personal benefit or benefit to a member of that official's or appointee's family by blood or marriage. No elected state official should be allowed to represent paid clients before a state agency. We call on the Legislature to pass laws to prohibit this action.

Congressional Pay Raises – The Party supports the elimination of the independent pay raise committee and recommends that all pay raises must be passed like all other bills, that the Party supports the separation of congressional pay raises from the pay raises of all other government officials in order that they be voted on as separate bills with a recorded roll call vote.

Lobbying Limitation – The Party supports legislation to prohibit former legislators, government employees, and officials from acting as lobbyists for a foreign government and/or any business for a period of five years immediately after leaving public service. We support legislation to prevent lobbying by any organization receiving federal grants except that relating to its tax status.

Honoring the Symbols of Our American Heritage

American English – The Party supports the immediate adoption of American English as the official language of Texas and of the United States of America, while encouraging fluency in additional languages by all citizens.

Flag Desecration – The Party views any form of desecration of the American flag as an outward act of disregard for our nation and its people and advocates penalties for such acts.

Symbols of American Heritage – We call upon governmental entities to protect monuments, cemeteries, and all other symbols of our American heritage from being altered or removed.

Promoting Individual Freedom and Personal Safety

Preserving Our Constitutional Rights

Right to Keep and Bear Arms – The Party calls upon the Texas Legislature and the United States Congress to repeal any and all laws that infringe upon the right of individual citizens to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment to the United States Constitution; and to reject the establishment of any mechanism to process, license, record, register or monitor the ownership of guns. We urge the Legislature to clearly declare that it has the exclusive authority to determine where firearms may or may not be legally carried in the State of Texas, and that no other state governmental entity and no local governmental entity may regulate or prohibit the possession of firearms. We believe it is the responsibility of all gun owners to safely store and operate their firearms.

Freedom of Access Act – The Party urges repeal of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances law. We reaffirm our belief in our constitutional right to peaceful protest, and we insist that assaults on peaceful protesters be prosecuted vigorously.

Christian Nation – The Republican Party of Texas reaffirms the United States of America is a Christian nation, which was founded on fundamental Judeo-Christian principles based on the Holy Bible. We also affirm the right of each individual to worship in the religion of his or her choice.

Religion – The Party acknowledges that the church is a God-ordained institution with a sphere of authority separate from that of civil government; thus, churches, synagogues and other places of worship, including home Bible study groups, should not be regulated, controlled, or taxed by any level of civil government, including the Social Security Administration and the Internal Revenue Service. We reclaim freedom of religious expression in public on government property, and freedom from governmental interference.

Texas Capitol Chapel – We urge the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to collaborate to release space to restore a chapel to the original Texas Capitol building.

Free Exercise of Religion – The Party believes all Americans have the right to practice their religious faith free of persecution, intimidation, and violence. We call on Congress to sanction any country that is guilty of persecuting its citizens because of their religious beliefs. Our Party pledges to do everything within its power to restore the original intent of the First Amendment of the United States and dispel the myth of the separation of

Church and State. We support the right of individuals and state and local governments to display the Ten Commandments on public property subject to their control.

Faith Based Opportunities – The Party encourages the Texas Legislature to identify and develop ways to increase the ability of faith-based institutions and community and business organizations to assist individuals and families in need.

Electronic Privacy – The Party believes that all citizens have the right to be free from government surveillance of their electronic communications, including a government mandate for trap door encryption standards. The Party also opposes any government effort to create or implement a national ID utilizing a universal identifier or the federalization of state drivers licenses.

Equality of All Citizens – Believing all men are created equal, the Party reasserts itself as the party of Lincoln and deplores all forms of preferences and discrimination based upon religion, race, color, national origin, gender, age, or physically disabling condition. We also deplore forced sensitivity training and urge the repeal of laws and mandates requiring such training. We believe that the Hate Crimes Law is unnecessary, and that it unconstitutionally creates a lower class of victims. We urge that it be repealed immediately.

Protecting Citizens from Crime

Security Against Terrorism - Security Against Terrorism – We support the presence of armed guards and armed pilots as an essential last line of defense against terrorists on all commercial aircraft flying in the United States and the immediate authorization of the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard to board and search all vessels entering U.S. waters from foreign ports.

Prison Reform – The Party believes that the priority of our prison systems should be the protection of society and the punishment of offenders, ever mindful of their rights as human beings. The state should assist those offenders who evidence a desire for reform and prisoners should be required to perform meaningful work. We oppose Texas prisoners having access to private or confidential information of any citizen of the State of Texas. We support alternative methods of prison administration. We also support legislation prohibiting prisoners from initiating frivolous lawsuits. No extraordinary medical care, including organ transplants or body part replacement, shall be performed on prisoners at taxpayers' expense; nor shall convicted criminals be given preference over other people in medical care.

Sentencing Reform – The Party calls upon the parole system to administer punishment according to the intentions of the judges and juries who determine the sentences. We also call for disclosure to juries of their rights and powers as jurors as well as prior convictions of the defendant. We believe that punishment should be assessed in proportion to the crime, and not only be punitive but serve as a deterrent. We support requiring life imprisonment, without parole, for habitual felony offenders. We also support the principle that judges and juries should be able to set the minimum amount of time to be served in a sentence and that such minimum time should not be altered by parole procedures. We support the principle that those who commit crimes should pay restitution to their victims.

Capital Punishment – The Party believes that capital punishment, when properly applied, is a legitimate form of punishment and an effective deterrent for the most severe and heinous crimes. When applied, capital punishment should be swift and unencumbered.

Juvenile Justice – The Party encourages the continuation of juvenile justice reforms, including private sector programs, “boot” camps, trying juveniles as adults when appropriate, the consideration of a person’s juvenile conviction record in any prosecution of that individual as an adult, and the expansion of the determinate sentencing statute to include all aggravated offenses.

Child Abuse – The Party recognizes that the family is a sovereign sphere of authority over which the state has no right to intervene unless a parent or legal guardian has committed criminal abuse. Child abusers should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law; however, we oppose actions of social agencies to classify traditional methods of discipline as child abuse. We support requiring private agencies receiving public funds to comply with state laws requiring the reporting of instances of suspected statutory rape as a condition of receiving those funds.

Unborn Victims of Violence - The Party believes that a person who injures or kills an unborn child should be subject to criminal charges or civil litigation for injury to the child, whether the child dies in the womb or is born alive. The Party opposes any legislation that recognizes only the mother as the victim of a criminal act when her unborn child was killed or injured during the commission of the same act.

Sexual Assault – The Party believes that forcible rape is a heinous crime for which the punishment options should include the death penalty. We insist that adults convicted of sexual molestation of a minor receive mandatory prison sentences without probation or parole.

Dangerous Drugs – The Party recognizes that illegal drug use is dangerous and crosses all sectors of society. We encourage the state and federal governments to prosecute illegal drug dealers and manufacturers to the fullest extent of the law and we call on Congress to use all means possible to discourage the foreign manufacture and export of such drugs into our country. Because of their higher proven rate of success, faith-based drug rehabilitation programs should be utilized in place of incarceration whenever possible. We oppose the movement toward the legalization of illicit drugs. We support a strong abstinence-based drug educational program for children. We oppose the availability of entitlement benefits based on illegal drug or alcohol use. We oppose any “needle exchange” or “bleach kit” programs.

Property Seizure Without Due Process – The Party opposes the confiscation or seizure of private property without the benefit of due process. Furthermore, in order to discourage institutional greed and a false sense of fiscal independence from the citizenry, neither law enforcement agencies nor their parent organizations should be allowed to reap any financial benefit from such seizures.

DUI – The Party calls upon all law enforcement officials to vigorously enforce our DUI laws whether the intoxication is by alcohol or other drugs, and call for mandatory jail sentences for repeat offenders.

Speed Limits - The Party opposes any regulation of highway speed limits based on environmental standards of any kind. The Party supports highway speed limits based on safety standards only.

Strengthening Families and Promoting a Freer Society

Celebrating Traditional Marriage

Family – The Party supports the traditional definition of marriage as a God-ordained, legal and moral commitment only between a man and a woman, which is the foundational unit of a healthy society. We urge the repeal of laws that place an unfair tax burden on families. We call upon congress to 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.

Marriage and Divorce – The Party believes in the sanctity of marriage and that the integrity of this institution should be defended, protected, strengthened, and nurtured at all levels of government. No fault divorce laws have caused untold hardships on American families, by reducing their standard of living, and by harming the emotional and physical well-being of children. It has contributed to an increase in government assistance of all kinds. We call upon the Texas Legislature to rescind no-fault divorce laws. We also oppose the recognition of and granting of benefits to people who represent themselves as domestic partners without being legally married. We urge the immediate passage by the Texas Legislature of the “Defense of Marriage Act”, which would deny recognition by Texas of homosexual “unions” legitimized by other states or nations.

Homosexuality – The Party believes that the practice of sodomy 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, recognition, or privileges including, but not limited to, marriage between persons of the same sex, 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 – The Party opposes the decriminalization of sodomy.

Pornography – The Party believes, as do the vast majority of Texans, that pornography is repulsive, addictive and contributes to deviant criminal behavior. It exploits men, women, and children and degrades society as a whole. We call upon our governmental bodies to enforce existing laws regarding all forms of pornography in our music, film, telephone, computer, video, cable, Internet, and print industries. We must have more stringent legislation to prohibit access to and generation of pornography including virtual pornography and operation of sexually-oriented businesses. We urge Congress to revisit and rehabilitate the sections of Child Pornography Prevention Act of 1996 that were declared overly broad by our courts and return a bill that would protect the children from the onslaught of virtual pornography that is sure to come. We support the efforts of Attorney General John Ashcroft in working with Congress on creating appropriate legislation and applaud his efforts at protecting our children and society.

Protecting Innocent Human Life

Party Candidates and Partial Birth Abortion – We urge the Republican Party of Texas to support, financially or with in-kind contributions, only those candidates or nominees of this party who support measures to end and criminalize “partial birth abortions.” We urge the members of the State Republican Executive Committee to make such changes to the by-laws of that committee to make this action binding on the Republican Party of Texas.

Criminalization of Partial Birth Abortion – The Party encourages passage of a federal ban on partial birth abortion. We urge our federal legislators to make the passage of this bill a top legislative priority in every session.

Right To Life – All innocent human life must be respected and safeguarded from conception to natural death; therefore, the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. The Party affirms its support for a human life amendment to the Constitution and we endorse making clear that the Fourteenth Amendment’s protection applies to unborn children. 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 urge 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 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 urge the Texas Legislature to enact laws that restrict and regulate abortion including:

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

Parental Notification – The Party calls for the electoral defeat of all judges who through raw judicial activism seek to nullify the Parental Notification Law by wantonly granting bypasses to minor girls seeking abortions, and thereby thwart the will of the Texas Legislature and people.

Protection of Women’s Health – Because of the personal and social pain caused by abortions, the Party calls for the protection of both women and their unborn children from pressure for unwanted abortions. We call for laws requiring abortion providers, prior to an abortion, to provide women full knowledge of the health, surgical and psychological risks to abortion, development of the unborn child, and abortion alternatives. We urge state and federal legislation to be enacted defining failure to obtain informed consent prior to abortion as medical malpractice with all attendant civil liability.

Alternatives to Abortion – The Party commends those who provide alternatives to abortion by meeting the needs of pregnant women and providing adoption services. The Party urges the Texas Department of Health to print and distribute brochures that inform women of alternatives to abortion.

Fetal Tissue Harvesting – The Party supports 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 commend the President for banning any further human embryo stem cell harvesting and call upon the US Congress to pass legislation supporting the President. The Party opposes any furtherance

of this directive, by legislation or otherwise that would result in the destruction of human embryos for medical research. The Republican Party encourages stem cell research using cells from umbilical cords, from adults, and from any other means which does not destroy human embryos and or adults. The party opposes any state funds used to destroy human embryos for research.

Unborn Child Pain Protection - The party supports legislation that requires doctors to provide information to a woman who is twenty or more weeks pregnant about the nervous system development of her unborn child, information about the unborn child's ability to feel pain, and to provide pain relief for her unborn child in the tragic circumstance that she wishes to continue with the abortion.

Unborn Victims of Violence Legislation - We support legislation that would amend the Texas Criminal Code to recognize unborn children as victims of crimes and establish additional criminal penalties for any person causing injury or death to an unborn child and oppose recognizing only the mother as the victim.

Abortion Clinics - We call for legislation that holds abortion clinics to the same health and safety standards, regulations, and inspections as other medical facilities and that subjects the clinics to the same risks of malpractice.

Abortion Requirements for Hospitals - The federal government is hinting that private hospitals which accept patients receiving benefits from government assistance programs may be required to perform abortions; therefore, we, The Republican Party, ask that the Texas Legislature pass legislation giving hospitals in Texas authority to refuse to perform abortions and that all levels of government refrain from requiring any hospital to perform an abortion.

Human Cloning - Each human life is designed by God and has purpose. The Party opposes any and all work or experiments involved in human cloning. Furthermore, criminal penalties should be created and experimenters prosecuted who perform such work, and no government funding should be provided for any human cloning.

Protecting Our Children

Parental Rights and Responsibilities - The Party believes 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 such rights in the rearing of children, in parental authority to discipline, in the education (public and private) of children, in the parental right to observe their children's public school classes, access to their children's medical records, and in any medical or surgical treatment including, but not limited to, contraception and abortion without parental notification or consent.. We unequivocally oppose 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 - The Party supports parental authority and the teaching of moral values in the home. We oppose school-based clinics, whether or not they dispense condoms and contraceptives and that refer, aid, or advise minors to have abortions.

Child Care - The Party opposes any government regulations that will adversely affect the availability, affordability, or the right of parents to choose childcare.

Child Support and Visitation - The Party supports improvement and equity between responsible parents in child support, custody, and visitation, 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 limited to supervised periods.

Adoption - The Party supports reducing the time, bureaucratic interference with and cost of adoption in Texas. We support private adoption agencies recruiting and training prospective adoptive parents and placing for adoption all children in the foster care system of Texas who are legally free for adoption. We support adult adoptees' access to their original Texas birth certificates and court records, and that birth parents be provided a mechanism, after their child's majority, to communicate current medical information, as well as any desire not to be contacted. We oppose adoption of children by homosexuals.

Assisting Families to Self Sufficiency

Welfare Reform - The Party believes that the State of Texas should continue to take steps to reduce the number of people on welfare and state welfare spending by enacting tough welfare reforms. We believe the current welfare system encourages dependency on government and robs individuals of their motivation and

self-esteem. We support welfare reforms designed to break the cycle of dependency by requiring welfare recipients to work, learn, or train in exchange for their benefits. We believe that welfare benefits to the able-bodied should be limited to a period not to exceed two years. We call for welfare rolls to be checked against all prison population rolls nationwide, and any prisoners should be removed from the welfare rolls while they are incarcerated. We urge the office of the Attorney General to continue its stepped up efforts to collect child support owed for children on welfare, and to consider privatization of child support collection in Texas.

TDPRS Accountability – The Party supports the appointment of local elected officials to review charges of abuse of discretion by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory 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. 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. 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 – The Party supports an 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. The Party supports Americans being allowed to purchase directly, and hold directly as part of their tax-deferred retirement and educational savings plans, United States Treasury obligations. Those individuals who qualify for Social Security benefits, including school teachers, should receive all of the benefits for which they are eligible without penalty. 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.

Government-Sponsored Gambling – The Party continues to oppose government-sponsored 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, slot machine, video keno, eight-liners, and other games of chance. The Party supports the repeal of the state lottery.

Educating our Children

Texas Family Bill of Rights – The right of parents to raise their children and to implement their child-rearing philosophies and techniques is a precious right. To preserve this right, only law enforcement officers may remove a child from his home or school when there is an immediate danger to the child's physical health or safety of the child. All other removals of a child shall be pursuant to a court order. No child may be interviewed by the State without prior notice to the parents, video or audio recording of the interview and the parents' representative present to observe the interview. A family shall have the right to confront its accuser (no anonymous reporting). Only findings determined in open court and by jury trial may be retained by the State. The parents have the absolute right to appoint an adult to have possession of their child if the State removes the child from the family.

Local Control – The Party supports the concept of choice in education and believes that quality education is best achieved by encouragement of parental involvement and maximizing local control of public schools. We call for the abolition of the regulatory authority of the Texas Education Agency and to transfer its responsibilities to the elected State Board of Education (SBOE). We believe district superintendents and their employees should be made solely accountable to their locally elected boards and we support amending the Education Code to permit recall of a school board member by a majority vote at an election required to be held when 10 percent of the registered voters of a school district have petitioned for such an election.

State Board of Education – The Party believes that the SBOE should remain as an elected board. The areas of decision-making authority that were removed from the elected SBOE, but have remained at the state level, should be restored by the Texas Legislature to the elected SBOE. These powers include the authority of the SBOE to hire and terminate the Commissioner of Education, to oversee the Texas Education Agency, and to appoint state textbook review panels. The SBOE must retain constitutional authority for the governance and oversight of the Permanent School Fund.

We call on the legislature to abolish the State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) and its authority returned to the State Board Of Education

Textbooks and Curricula – The Party recognizes that some Texas public school textbooks and curricula may contain not only factual and grammatical errors, but may also present content that is blatantly offensive or does not accurately portray our state and national heritage. We urge the State Board of Education to reject any textbook that offers unsubstantiated opinions or seeks to undermine our children's belief in America or our Constitutional Republic. We call upon the State Board of Education to continue public hearings as a component of the textbook review process.

We further call upon the Texas State Legislature to address the method of textbook adoption in the 2003 legislative session, placing the burden of proof on the publishers, so that publishers are required to guarantee that textbooks purchased with Texas tax dollars contain only factual academic material, not propaganda and opinion.

School Choice – The Party encourages the Governor and the Texas Legislature to enact legislation which establishes child-centered school funding options to bring about the maximum freedom of choice in public, private or parochial education if and only if a state constitutional amendment that prohibits state regulations imposed on private and parochial schools is first passed.

Funding of Education – The Party urges the Texas Legislature to propose a constitutional amendment to protect local control of school districts by requiring all school tax revenues collected within a school district to be used within that school district. We oppose legislative educational mandates without available state funding.

U.S. Department of Education – We call for the abolition of the U. S. Department of Education and the prohibition of the transfer of any of its functions to any other federal agency.

Private Education – The Party believes that parents have the fundamental right and primary responsibility for educating their children, and the state should not have the power to force any parent or guardian to send their children to public school. We believe that parents or guardians may choose to educate their children either in a private school or at home without government interference of any type, be it through definition, regulation, accreditation, licensing or testing. Home education has been recognized as a legitimate educational alternative since the founding of Texas. The courts of Texas have upheld the fundamental right of parents to teach their children at home (*Leeper v. Arlington*) without regulation, and the Party calls on Texas legislators to oppose any restriction or regulation of this parental right. We call on the Texas Legislature to adopt legislation that will require enforcement of existing truancy laws without daytime curfews. We also call on the Texas Legislature to adopt legislation requiring University Interscholastic League (UIL) to open participation to private schools and move back to the original mission of the UIL to pursue those activities for the betterment of all the students of Texas.

Sex Education – The Party recognizes parental responsibility and authority regarding sex education. We support the requirement that schools teaching sex education must teach directive abstinence until heterosexual marriage with an uninfected person as the only safe and healthy means of preventing sexually transmitted diseases, the spread of AIDS, and pregnancies in unwed students, and is also a way to build strong and lasting relationships. Sex education classes, if conducted, should be separated by sex and must teach that the use of condoms does not make sex safe. We support policies that mandate parents must be notified before any sex education course or program is implemented and they must be given an opportunity to review the material and give their consent.

Early Childhood Development – The Party opposes programs designed to bring about a comprehensive, taxpayer-funded, federally-controlled and regulated system of educational, psychological, and physical development for all children (such as Early Childhood Development and Parents as Teachers). We also oppose a centralized record keeping system of student information on a national level.

Children with Special Needs - The Party supports legislation opposing the "minimal educational benefit" standard, as applied to children with special needs as defined by the federal statute promising a free appropriate public education to all children with special needs. The Party advocates equal educational opportunity for all students and the requirement that children with special needs be educated commensurate with their abilities.

Classroom Discipline – The Party recognizes that peace and order are prerequisites for an environment conducive to education for both the student and the teacher. We therefore recommend that local school boards and classroom teachers be given more authority to deal with disciplinary problems. Corporal punishment should be used when appropriate and we encourage the legislature to strengthen existing immunity laws respecting corporal punishment. We urge the Texas 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.

Support for Classroom Teachers – The Party continues to support quality education by:

- 1) recognizing the need to maintain and attract competent professional teachers in the classrooms of Texas public schools so that every student receives the best possible education;
- 2) recognizing the need for teacher involvement in educational planning and program development for the betterment of education at the local level;
- 3) recognizing the need to minimize administrative reports and excessive paperwork;
- 4) supporting spending the majority of school education funds for teacher salaries and those needs which directly relate to education;
- 5) supporting teacher incentives through monetary and recognition rewards established at the local level;
- 6) empowering teachers and administrators to remove disruptive students from a classroom or campus for a first-time offense;
- 7) funding teacher salary increases by reductions in administrative personnel.

Traditional Values in Education – The Party opposes faculty in public institutions abusing their positions to manipulate students to reject traditional American religious, moral, political and economic values. We support a character education curriculum and a program based upon biblical principles upon which our nation and state law system were founded.

Multiculturalism – The Party supports the voluntary comparative study of all cultures that have created the heritage of the American culture. We oppose ideologically enforced political correctness in the institutions of American society that eliminate the free expression of ideas. We oppose the ideology of multiculturalism that emphasizes differences between racial, ethnic and gender groups leading to a conflict of loyalties and a weakening of a common American identity.

Basic Standards – The Party believes the educational system should return to the basic standards which include a curriculum of reading (with an emphasis on phonics), spelling, writing, penmanship, literature (including at least one-year historical surveys in high school of American literature and of British literature), mathematics, geography, history (including a high school United States history course that includes all of United States history, science, English, citizenship and federal, state, and local government including personal responsibility and financial freedom. The Party urges that the requirement for High School graduation is to include instructing students of the sacrifice of our founding fathers and an in depth study of the Declaration of Independence, US constitution and Washington's Farewell Address all in their unedited form. . Further we call upon the Governor and Texas Legislature to oppose the implementation of curriculums, which center on subjective feelings and attitudes that neglect students' academic skills. We deplore the inordinate amount of time being forced upon teachers for state-mandated standardized test preparation to the detriment of basic academic instruction.

Social Promotion – The Party supports the effort to end social promotion in Texas' public schools. We believe the school children of Texas should master basic, minimum skills before advancing to the next grade level.

Knowledge Based Education – The Party finds that while education is necessary to freedom, the School-to-Work program gives up on education in favor of training a docile workforce. While we are for a strong workforce and progressive business, and support vocational training where appropriate, we strongly oppose a system of education such as School-to-Work which:

- 1) forces children to select a lifelong career pathway from the Workforce Development Board's limited list as a condition of credit for graduation;
- 2) replaces the traditional academics-based diploma with a vocation-based Certificate of Initial Mastery which will be required from all public, private and home schooled children for employment; and
- 3) replaces the role of state and local governance in education with federal authority and unelected entities.

We call upon our legislators to replace School-to-Work and related outcome or performance-based educational programs with knowledge-based educational programs and end-of-course testing that emphasize mastery of subject-matter content.

School Surveys and Testing – The Party believes that public schools should be required to obtain written parental consent for student participation in any test or questionnaire that surveys beliefs or opinions in the areas of sexual activity, religion, political persuasion or other areas of morality. Public schools should be required to allow prior parental viewing of any test or materials to which their children are exposed.

Bilingual Education – The Party supports the termination of bilingual education programs in Texas.

Religious Freedom in Public Schools – Our Founding Fathers based the premise of this nation on God-given rights endowed by our Creator. – The Party affirms President Lincoln's quote: "It is the duty of nations, as well

as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.” The Party urges 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 Texas Legislature to pass legislation similar to the American Heritage Education Acts passed in Kentucky, Indiana, and other states, which end censorship of the discussion of the role of religion in our founding documents, and encourage reading and discussing those documents in our public schools. We support the return of Bibles and other religious books to the shelves of all public schools and libraries.

Religion and Secular Humanism

Since Secular Humanism is recognized by the United States Supreme Court as a religion, and our government-funded schools are prohibited from teaching any religion, the Party believes that Secular Humanism and New Age Religion in any form should be subjected to the same state and federal laws as any other recognized religion.

Scientific Theories – The Party believes that scientific topics, such as the question of universe and life origins and environmental theories, should not be constrained to one opinion or viewpoint. We support the teaching equally of scientific strengths and weaknesses of all scientific theories – as Texas now requires (but has yet to enforce) in public school science course standards. We urge revising all environmental education standards to require this also. We support individual teachers’ right to teach creation science in Texas public schools.

Pledge of Allegiance in Public Schools – The Party believes that students should be taught flag etiquette and should be led in the Pledge of Allegiance, the Texas pledge, the national anthem and patriotic songs on a daily basis so as to ensure that the loyal and patriotic spirit of Texas’ and of America’s past is preserved and passed on to our children.

Higher Education – The Party reaffirms its support of local and regional institutions of higher learning (public, private and parochial). We recognize their commitment to the education of our students and their research leading to breakthroughs that benefit Texas directly and indirectly. We encourage the Texas Legislature to comply with the Texas Eminent Scholarship Fund, requiring the state to match the investment income earned on monies contributed. We advocate a single standard for college admission for all students based on merit, and ability without regard to the school from which they graduated or class standing. We call upon all state colleges and universities to adopt strong core curricula that include rigorous, broad-based courses on American history, and America’s continuing struggle to extend and defend the principles on which it was founded.

Adult Literacy – The Party believes that the best defense of a free society is an educated public and encourages all efforts in adult education and literacy.

Empowering Families to Direct their Health Care

Health Care Choice – The Party believes that health care is not primarily a concern of the federal government. We desire adequate health care for all Texans. We believe that no Texan should be denied health care solely because of age, race, physical or mental disability. We affirm that health care choice is primarily a matter of personal liberty, and we oppose any government regulation that restricts a patient’s choice of health care provider or prevents a health care provider from serving both private and public sectors. We urge the expansion of Medical Savings Accounts. We favor eliminating frivolous lawsuits that increase healthcare costs and granting greater freedoms for healthcare professionals and reducing the powers of HMO’s. We also favor the elimination of denying coverage due to pre-existing conditions. We urge passage of legislation that provides for the selection of independent living over institutional care where costs are comparable. We oppose any state or federal medical record computer database or registry that stores personal identifiable records on citizens without their voluntary written consent. The Party holds that abortion, unless it is to save the life of the mother, is not considered healthcare.

Health Care and Nutritional Supplements – The Party supports market-based, private sector initiatives to improve the portability, quality and affordability of health care. We support consumer choice of providers. 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 Texas adults to have the unfettered choice to use nutritional and dietary supplement products. We strongly favor legislation recognizing legitimate alternative health care choices.

AIDS / HIV – The Party recognizes that the preventable diseases of AIDS and HIV infection represents 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. We should, however, love them enough to tell them the truth: 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.

Americans with Disabilities Act – The Party supports 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.

School Health Care – The Party calls upon Texas legislators to prohibit reproductive health care services or counseling in or through the public schools. We oppose the use of any tax dollars for any program (i.e., Texas Commission on Children and Youth, Education for Self Responsibility, Education 2000, etc.) which teaches or legitimizes pre-marital sexual activity and birth control, abortion, and homosexuality, and which elevates the rights of students to make sexual and health care decisions to a level equal to their parents. We support the parents’ right to choose, without penalty, which medications including psychotropics and Ritalin, are administered to their minor children. We oppose the establishment of medical clinics within our public schools and the providing of healthcare for students without parental notification or consent.

Immunizations – The Party believes citizens should have the legal right to conscientiously choose which vaccines are administered to themselves or their children without penalty or discrimination for refusing a vaccine.

Strengthening The Economy Of Texas And America

Tax Burden

Federal Tax Reform – The Internal Revenue Service is unacceptable to U. S. taxpayers! The Party urges that the IRS be abolished and the Sixteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution be repealed. We further urge that the personal income tax, inheritance (death) tax, gift tax, capital gains, corporate income tax, and payroll tax be eliminated. We recommend the implementation of a national retail sales tax, with the provision that a two-thirds majority of the U.S. House and U.S. Senate is required to raise the rate. Such reforms will encourage investment and economic growth. Lastly, such a sales tax plan must ensure that no one in America pays taxes of any kind on the necessities of life, ensuring opportunity and quality of life for low- and fixed-income Americans.

State Tax Reform – The Party believes that Texans are overtaxed and strongly urges the legislature to resist the temptation to create any new tax or to increase any current taxes or fees. Specifically, the Party opposes the creation of a state income tax or a state property tax.

State Sales Tax Rate Reduction – The State Legislature has consistently spent surplus revenues on new programs and services rather than returning excess tax revenues back to the taxpayers. The Party supports a reduction of the state sales tax rate in order to avoid the temptation to spend the excess funds.

Franchise Tax – The Party urges the repeal of the Texas Franchise Tax, which is nothing more than a state income tax.

Hidden Telecom Taxes (the “Gore Tax”) – The Republican Party of Texas directs the Texas Congressional delegation to demand full accountability on the use of Universal Service and portability fees. We further call for a repeal of these taxes.

Hidden Taxes and Tax Visibility – The Party believes every tax at every level should be a separate and clearly visible billing to the taxpayer regardless of the tax type or calculation method.

Property Taxes – The Republican Party of Texas is in favor of abolishing property taxes. Until ad valorem taxes are abolished, we recommend that property valuations be fixed for a period of not less than three years following each revaluation.

Internet Taxation – The Party opposes any taxation of the internet or internet services.

Tort/Civil Justice Reform – The Party strongly supports continuation of common sense tort reform that puts justice back into our civil justice system. We support abolishing joint and several liabilities that forces people to pay for damages they did not cause. We support a loser pay rule, thereby discouraging frivolous lawsuits. We oppose the abusive use of class action lawsuits.

Right-to-Work – An individual should have the freedom to work in the job he/she desires without being forced to join or pay dues to any organization. The Texas Right-to-Work Law, while providing this freedom, also has provided a good climate for industrial expansion, higher employment, and a stable management-labor relationship. To this end, the Party applauds the Texas Right-to-Work Law and encourages our legislators to call for a referendum to make this law a constitutional amendment. We encourage the adoption of a National Right-to-Work Act providing the same kind of protection from labor unions as is enjoyed by Texans under the State Right-to-Work laws.

Small Business – The Party urges Texas legislators to find ways to mitigate the impact of governmental regulations on small businesses and to insure that small businesses are adequately represented in the regulatory process.

Workers' Compensation – The Party calls on our Texas legislators to resist any efforts to make Workers' Compensation mandatory for all Texas employers.

Minimum Wage – The Party believes the Minimum Wage Law should be repealed and that wages should be determined by the free market conditions prevalent in each individual market.

Rural and Volunteer Fire Departments – The Party calls upon the Texas Commission on Fire Protection to recognize the need for, and contributions of, rural fire departments, and to refrain from limiting their effectiveness by imposing unreasonable and unfunded mandates upon them. We also call upon Congress to overturn the rules of the U. S. Department of Labor restricting volunteerism by paid firefighters and emergency medical technician personnel.

Government Spending

Fiscal Responsibility – The Party urges our state and federal legislators to exercise fiscal responsibility by reducing spending and cutting taxes. We endorse the appointment of a commission comprised of Texas citizens and business owners to identify cost savings and reductions in state government. The Party also supports a "cap" on government spending at all levels (local, state, and federal), adjustable based only on average family income and population growth or decreases.

Government Services – The Party supports privatization of most government services. Public funds should not be used to fund or implement any private projects such as high-speed rail or sports stadiums.

Faith-Based Charities – The Party opposes any restrictions by the IRS or any other government rules on taxpayer contributions to faith-based charities. The Party supports new incentives to encourage more faith-based charitable contributions from all U.S. taxpayers, corporate and individual.

Balanced Budget – The Party supports full disclosure of all "on" and "off" budget spending. We demand that our federal legislators vote only for balanced budgets, and that the Social Security Fund never be used to balance the budget. In case of a budget surplus, it should never be used to increase spending. We also support zero-based budgeting.

Waste and Fraud in Government Contracts – The Party is opposed to waste and fraud in government contracts and recommends the Attorney General of the United States investigate fraud and misuse of government funds in government contracts prosecuting those found to be responsible. We also believe that all government contracts should be awarded only on the merits of the bidders' ability to produce the quality of the product or service performed at a reasonable cost. We also support the repeal of the Davis Bacon Act. We encourage the government to follow fair business practices.

Aid to Foreign Nations – The party opposes aid to any foreign nation that denies its citizens' religious freedoms.

Corporate Welfare/Business Subsidies – The Party does not support governmental subsidies, tariffs, bailouts, or other forms of corporate welfare that are used to protect and preserve businesses or industries that have failed to remain relevant, competitive, and efficient over time. The cost of such corporate welfare becomes the

burden of the tax-paying public. The Party encourages our government to allow a free market economy to prevail both domestically and internationally.

Downsizing the Federal Government – The Party supports the downsizing of the federal government in order to re-establish states' rights guaranteed by the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. We further support the abolition of federal agencies involved in activities not delegated to the federal government under the original intent of the Constitution including, but not limited to, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; the position of Surgeon General; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Departments of Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Education, Commerce, and Labor. These authorities should be eliminated or, where needed, transferred to the state or local governments. We also call for the de-funding and abolition of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Sunset Laws – The Party supports a mandatory sunset law for the State of Texas that would automatically terminate all agencies or programs if they are not re-enacted by the Legislature every ten years. We also support the establishment of a sunset policy for federal agencies patterned after the Texas Sunset Law.

Unfunded Mandates – The Party opposes all unfunded mandates by the federal and state governments. The effect of mandating services without funding is a tax increase for local government.

Teacher Insurance Funding – The Party opposes the state's taking over the responsibility of providing insurance for public school employees. These employees are not employees of the state, but of the local school districts. The benefits and the costs of providing those benefits should be determined and paid for by the employer of those employees, the local school district, which ultimately is responsible to the local community for its actions.

Domestic Energy

Support of the Domestic Energy Industry – Recognizing the importance of energy to the national security of the United States of America, the foundation of our National Energy Strategy must be a competitive domestic oil and gas industry. Federal tax and regulatory policies are destroying the independent sector of this industry. Regulation and rulemaking must be done on a cooperative, rather than an adversarial basis, preserving jobs and the economy while promoting environmental preservation. The Party encourages the Congress to:

- (1) aggressively support a greatly expanded use of domestic natural gas as a method to reduce United States' dependence on foreign crude oil;
- (2) repeal all provisions of the alternative minimum tax that treat intangible drilling costs as a tax preference item;
- (3) repeal the crude oil and gas severance and production taxes to help stimulate the Texas economy and enhance Texas production;
- (4) stop the promulgation of unnecessary environmental legislation or regulation that causes domestic production to be economically not feasible;
- (5) support technological development of environmentally safe uses of coal for our national energy needs; and
- (6) promote all forms of domestic energy production including ANWAR, offshore California, and the East Coast, while minimizing environmental impact.

Alternative Energy Sources – The Party recognizes the value of alternative energy sources and supports continued private research and development of such sources, including space-based solar power.

Restoring American Sovereignty and Leadership

Domestic

Border Protection – The Party believes that Congress should adequately staff and fund the United States Border Patrol to protect our borders and our Border Patrol personnel. The Party urges Congress to deploy our military forces to secure our international borders and that the United States Border Patrol be deployed within the U.S. to locate and secure all illegal aliens who have previously entered our country and expedite their return to their source country.

Civil Defense – In World War I, America had a strong grassroots civil defense system comprised of and administered by volunteers from each county's citizenry. This successful grassroots system was subsequently supplanted by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which substituted the volunteer system with federally controlled management coordinators. The priority has changed from "defending" the citizens in an emergency to "managing" the citizens. The Party supports the restoration of our civil defense system. A non-partisan effort should be made to organize communication and emergency response training for citizens to assist in times of emergency, and the local county government should appoint a civilian defense coordinator. Elected county officials should be in charge of decisions affecting the local community. The Party urges Congress to remove any and all gun laws that infringe upon the U.S. constitutional rights of the citizens of the United States.

Federalization of Police – The Party applauds the efforts of peace officers who maintain public order with minimal use of force. We oppose the federalization and militarization of local police forces.

Foreign Military Bases on American Soil – The Party opposes any foreign military base on American soil. We oppose relinquishing United States supremacy to any foreign power on United States soil. We encourage Congress to prohibit all foreign military bases from the United States.

Foreign Purchase of Public Property – The Party opposes any sale or transfer of public properties to foreign entities.

Homeland Security - The Party urges the newly created Homeland Security department to:

- 1) provide and enhance the coordination of information and intelligence between various local, state, and federal agencies;
- 2) pass the information on to the local or state agency(s) to prepare to deter and defend against a risk once the risk is identified;
- 3) not violate the constitutional rights of the citizens of the United States;
- 4) develop a method to provide for high-rise structure rescue of humans;
- 5) enhance the security in use at our airports and other transportation terminals (trucks) to prevent the use of the transportation vehicles as a weapon against the United States; and,
- 6) use terrorist profiling as a criteria for determining persons to be searched at U.S. airports.

National Defense – The Party continues to encourage and support:

- 1) funding for a strong national defense, which guarantees maintaining a military which stands ready to defend our nation and increases combat readiness;
- 2) the immediate funding and development of the Strategic Defense Initiative;
- 3) the disengagement from countries in which we have no clear national defense interest;
- 4) the abandonment of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty;
- 5) "America First" priority in protecting the citizens and borders of the United States;
- 6) not entering into any new arms control agreements with any nation that is not currently complying with previous agreements;
- 7) the open admission to the military of citizens with a General Equivalency Diploma (GED);
- 8) service in the military as a privilege, not a constitutional right; therefore, we support federal legislation upholding disqualification of homosexuals from military service and the withdrawal of jurisdiction on this matter from the federal judiciary as permitted in Article III of The Constitution;
- 9) the military never be deployed except to defend against an invasion or in protection of the United States' direct, vital interests; and,

10) maintaining our military strength sufficient to defend our nation's borders and its strategic interests.

Immigration – The Party believes that one responsibility of the government is to secure our nation's borders. The Party opposes any further “amnesties” for illegal aliens. We support:

- 1) returning immigration quotas to traditional levels in practice prior to 1965 of 300,000 per year or less, including those granted asylum and refugees;
- 2) expeditious hearing on deporting non-violent illegal aliens held in prisons or jails;
- 3) reclaiming control of international borders;
- 4) screening immigrants for communicable diseases, including HIV;
- 5) Congressional oversight of federal agencies to follow up over-stayed visas;
- 6) the assimilation of immigrants into the American culture;
- 7) Congress providing for an end to the practice of “chain migration”; and,
- 8) the immediate deportation of aliens if they do not carry the required ID.

The Party demands that Congress pass legislation to revoke all existing and to deny all future foreign student visas to students from countries that are not our ally or support terrorism. Any foreign person within the United States that is a risk to the U.S. should be immediately deported from the U.S.

The Party urges Congress to:

- 1) pass legislation which prevents China, Chinese citizens, and any other foreign country and/or its citizens from using the judicial system and courts of the United States to file and try lawsuits that grant entrance of the foreign people to the U.S. or become missing persons;
- 2) implement a temporary moratorium on immigration from terrorist nations, or those nations designated as enemies of the United States, reform our VISA system, and secure our borders by expanding and funding the Border Patrol; and,
- 3) pass legislation prohibiting the issuance of driver licenses to illegal aliens.

NASA – The party supports appropriate funding for the National Aeronautics and Space (NASA) and the Texas Aerospace Commission. The party strongly urges the utilization of private research and design for the purpose of replacing or supplementing the current “shuttle system” with a “completely reusable vehicle”, which would be more cost effective in getting to and from space; for the purpose of maintaining and establishing space stations, communications and surveillance satellites, solar-generating system; and enhancing national defense.

Support of Our Armed Forces – The Party salutes those who serve in all branches of our armed forces and encourages all Americans to support these men and women. Our armed forces should be paid a sufficient wage to prevent them from ever being eligible for, or in need of, food stamp assistance. In support of our armed forces, we encourage:

- 1) that all United States forces remain under the command and control of only the Commander-in-Chief and American officers and commanders;
- 2) the disqualification of homosexuals from military service;
- 3) the immediate discharge of HIV positive individuals from service;
- 4) the exclusion of women from combat roles;
- 5) members of our armed forces retain their freedom to refuse vaccines not certified as safe by the FDA and the Surgeon General;
- 7) restoration of full military honors for the burial of deceased veterans;
- 8) restoration of all veteran benefits including retirement pay and disability pay, without receipt of one precluding receipt of the other, as well as, appropriate medical and dental care;
- 9) separation of men and women in basic training, as is the practice of the Marine Corps; and,
- 10) not requiring members of United States forces to wear any item of uniform, other than that of the United States, or being required to serve in any capacity under an officer of the United Nations or other foreign state.

International Relations

Agricultural Import Restrictions – The Party urges Congress to establish policies, systems, and measures to regulate imported agricultural products and their by-products to conform to the same standards imposed on the United States agricultural industry by the United States Department of Agricultural, Environmental Protection Agency and any other government agency.

American Patent Rights – The Party supports protecting our inventors, maintaining and enforcing our current patent laws, and strengthening penalties for violations of patent laws by foreign entities.

China – The Party strongly recommends the removal of Communist China’s “Most Favored Nation” status, now called “permanent normal trade relations,” until such time when:

- 1) there is a formal peace treaty between North and South Korea;
- 2) there is significant improvement in their government policies on human rights;
- 3) there is freedom of religion;
- 4) China ceases its aggressive behavior toward its neighbors;
- 5) China ceases transferring nuclear, biological, and chemical technology to Iran, Pakistan, and North Korea, etc.; and,
- 6) China ceases to occupy a position along the Panama Canal in any fashion.

We further urge the imposition of trade sanctions against communist China for interfering in United States political campaigns.

Cuba – The Party supports strengthening the Cuban embargo. We urge Congress to continue to defend human rights for Cubans and to not prop up Dictator Fidel Castro.

Foreign Policy – The Party supports the spread of a representative form of government and a free market enterprise. We also support and encourage private humanitarian aid to developing countries. The Party supports the continued favorable treatment of proven allies such as Taiwan and Israel, and the censure of adversaries like the “Axis of Evil” countries and groups that seek the destruction of other countries or harbor terrorists. However, we oppose the unlimited export of our public monies.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) – The Party urges Congress to stop funding the IMF and any other international financing agencies, because such agencies prop up foreign tyrants and give American taxpayers’ money to international bankers. Until these funding agencies are eliminated, we demand full disclosure concerning members of their respective tribunals and bureaucracies, including their allegiances, backgrounds, goals, and the companies/organizations they represent.

International Trade – The Party favors fair and reciprocal trade and competition in the international market place for our agricultural products, oil and gas, any other raw materials and manufactured goods. We urge the use of import quotas of foreign products like those used by former President Ronald Reagan to protect the Harley–Davidson motorcycle, steel and machine tools and computer chip industries from “dumping” (products manufactured with financial support from foreign governments) by foreign powers. Likewise, we urge sanctions against the European Union and other nations that:

- 1) disrupt free trade by subsidizing agricultural exports or other goods to the United States,
- 2) bar or excessively tax American products or services, or
- 3) enslave their own citizens.

We support business opportunity and oppose the previous Democrat administration’s advocacy of intrusive government–industry partnerships based on foreign models. We urge the repeal of NAFTA, GATT, and any other international trade agreements that do not promote free trade, and withdrawal from membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO). We believe that we should call for the immediate withdrawal of the United States from any agreements that compromise national sovereignty, independence, self-sufficiency, and national security. We urge Congress to authorize fund expenditures and audit measures on research and development of alternative fuels to reduce the United States dependency on OPEC and ensure no financial support of terrorist sponsoring nations.

MIA’s and POW’s – The Party urges the President and Congress to continue all measures necessary to seek and act upon all information concerning our service personnel and citizens Missing in Action and Prisoners of War. We oppose the extension of normal trade relations with Vietnam, or any nation, before they support a full and complete accounting for all missing American service personnel. We oppose the granting or extension of Most Favored Nation (MFN) trade status or normalizing relations with any nation before they support a full and complete accounting of all missing American service personnel.

Middle East – The Party believes that the United States and Israel share a special long–standing relationship based on shared values, a mutual commitment to our republican form of government, and a strategic alliance that benefits both nations. Our foreign policy in the Middle East should reflect the special nature of this relationship through continued military and economic assistance to Israel and recognition that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and should remain an undivided city accessible to people of all faiths. We commend the Republican Congress’ resolution to move the United States embassy from Tel Aviv to Israel’s capital, Jerusalem. We commend Israel’s privatization of state–owned companies and budget cuts in order to achieve its goal of economic independence. We encourage the Republican Congress’ continuing support for peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians. We oppose pressuring Israel to make concessions it believes would jeopardize its security. We support continued sanctions against all “Axis of Evil” countries, as long as they continue in their terrorist activities and are on the State Department’s terrorist list. The Party believes Israel

should not have to trade land for recognition of its right to exist. We call on the U.S. to cease recognition of terrorist Yassar Arafat as a Palestinian authority in our Middle East dealings.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) – The Party believes that the United States must no longer delay membership in NATO to the democratized governments of Central Europe, including Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Poland.

One World Government Organizations – A one world government is in direct opposition to the basic principles of the United States of America eroding our sovereignty and our goals for leadership in world affairs.

Panama Canal – The Party urges Congress to support HJR 77, “The Panama and America Security Act, or similar legislation, which declares the Carter-Torrijos Treaty null and void. We support re-establishing United States control over the Canal in order to retain our military bases in Panama, to preserve our right to transit through the Canal, and to prevent the establishment of Chinese missile bases in Panama.

Puerto Rico - We urge the U.S. Congress to call for a clear vote of the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico to decide between statehood or independence, for the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico.

United Nations – The Party believes 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 ambiguous treaties that compromise the United States Constitution;
- 3) support immediately recall our military forces from UN initiated engagements, direct or indirect UN control, 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,
- 6) demand credit for peace keeping forces provided on behalf of the UN.

We oppose:

- 1) federally-imposed requirements on the state regarding the care of illegal aliens including the extension to illegal aliens the benefits of public education, non-emergency medical care, and welfare including Social Security and SSI payments;
- 2) a national tracking system for control of immigration (or any other purpose);
- 3) participation in any election by illegal aliens;
- 4) UN control of any United States land or natural resources;
- 5) the use of Presidential Executive Orders to implement UN treaties thereby circumventing our elected Congress;
- 6) any attempt by the federal government, or the UN, to directly or indirectly tax United States citizens for UN support;
- 7) any UN control of any United States land or natural resources;
- 8) a UN resolution that would force the United States to adopt gun control measures by treaty;
- 9) the placement of the UN flag and emblem on public property or in government facilities; and,
- 10) payment of any debt allegedly owed to the UN.

The Party urges Congress to evict the United Nations from the United States and eliminate any further participation.

Taiwan – The Party recognizes Taiwan as a long-time ally of the United States and as an independent and sovereign nation. In order to support its self-defense, we call upon Congress to support the “Taiwan Security Enhancement Act.”

War on Terrorism – The Party commends President George W. Bush for his efforts to unite the United States in a spirit of pride and patriotism after the national disaster of September 11, 2001. We urge the U.S. Congress to cease any type of foreign aid, directly or indirectly, to any country suspected of harboring terrorism, funding terrorism, training terrorists, targeting / threatening the U.S. with weapons, or arming enemy countries with weapons technology. The Party is strongly opposed to any agency of the government taking action against U.S. citizens that violates the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. **“LET’S ROLL!”**

Worldwide Representative Government – The Party supports the worldwide movement away from communism and toward representative government based on the premise that human rights come from God and governments are established to protect these rights. We support emerging republics in developing governments deriving their just powers from their citizens and support efforts to assist in leading the way in furthering the growth of the republican form of government throughout the world. We support any means of private humanitarian aid to such developing governments. We oppose the export of federal aid to countries committing human rights abuses.