



Kittitas County Republican Party Platform

March 2, 2024

Platform Committee

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PREAMBLE

*“All political power is inherent in the people, and governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and are established to protect individual rights.”
Article 1 Sect. 1 Washington State Constitution*

We, the Kittitas County Republican Party, affirm and support the founding principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

Those two foundational documents were ratified to ensure freedom from governmental tyranny and oppression and clearly proclaim the conservative principle that the just powers of government are derived from the consent of the people.

The Constitution, as the supreme law of the land, exists to protect the sovereignty of the individual citizen, and should be strictly interpreted and enforced based on original intent.

Government shall serve, not rule, and must be smaller, more efficient, and less intrusive. The guarantee of the individual citizen’s opportunity for success must be paramount and should be based on respect for each person’s liberty, dignity and ability.

The primary purpose of government is to protect the God-given inalienable rights of its citizens. The Declaration of our Independence lists three of these– right to life, right to liberty, and the right to the pursuit of happiness.

THEREFORE we support the following principles based on these inalienable rights:

RIGHT TO LIFE

SANCTITY OF LIFE

We affirm life begins at conception and ends with natural death.

PERSONAL SECURITY

The ultimate guarantee of protecting individual life and maintaining a civil society lies in the individual citizen’s right to keep and bear arms.

This right is enumerated by the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article 1 Section 24 of the Washington State Constitution.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Another component in the protection of life is the duty of the federal government to provide strong national security. This includes hardening our borders, protecting international commerce at sea, and maintaining a strong and consistent geopolitical presence throughout the world. Internationally, a strong, well-equipped and combat ready military is essential to this duty.

National security is best preserved when national sovereignty is never abdicated to any foreign or international organization. A president shall not negotiate and the senate shall

not ratify any treaties, UN resolutions, agendas, or foreign law, religious or otherwise, that are contrary to the US constitution.

To safeguard individual liberty while guaranteeing national security, intelligence gathering must be limited to credible and verified threats to the security of our nation. Government leaders must demand cooperation and accountability among security agencies, intelligence departments, and law enforcement.

Only when our national interests are threatened should we resort to the use of military force. National foreign policy should always strive for successful diplomatic relations, but be prepared to implement military solutions when conflict becomes unavoidable. Congress must provide a Declaration of War prior to implementation of any such military solutions except those that require an immediate and security-linked response.

IMMIGRATION

Immigration to the United States has historically been an important component of building a strong nation. Re-establishing a strict vetting of those who are seeking citizenship and asylum is vital. Land borders and all sea/air ports of entry must be immediately and permanently secured to prevent unlawful entry.

All federal immigration laws must be enforced and government departments must be held responsible and accountable for the protection of our borders from unlawful entries.

Verifiable and enforceable immigration and visitation status must be granted prior to immigrant entry to the United States. We therefore support approval and strict implementation of the E-Verify program at all local, county and state levels.

RIGHT TO LIBERTY

ELECTIONS

The right to liberty is inextricably linked with the right of the individual to consent to being governed and by whom. Elections that are transparent, constitutionally legal, secure and accurate are the foundation of a constitutional representative republic.

Legal voter registration that requires personal identification and verification must be a priority. Military personnel must be afforded every opportunity to vote in a timely manner. Ballots should only be issued to legally registered voters.

In-person same day voting is the best method of conducting elections and we support a return to this tradition.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

There is a fundamental and positive correlation between a free society and the ownership of property. We believe property rights are inviolable and that the right of the people to be secure in their ownership of private property is guaranteed by both the U.S. and Washington State Constitutions.

Secure property rights preserve economic stability and the principles of self determination, autonomy and personal success. As such, the formulation of land use and zoning

regulations must remain under local leadership. Eminent domain shall be used as a last resort solely for clearly articulated public benefit and with all guaranteed due process.

PUBLIC SAFETY

It is the responsibility of the government to establish and enforce laws that protect the life, liberty, and property of its citizens.

Laws should reduce and deter crime through strong and appropriate enforcement and punishment. Police forces should be adequately funded for this purpose in guaranteeing public safety.

The prosecution of individuals who commit crimes must be vigorous while simultaneously protecting constitutional rights and guaranteeing equal justice before the law. Civil asset forfeiture shall not be punitive and shall only be justified in those instances where physical evidence must be presented at prosecution.

RIGHT TO THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

FAMILY

The family is the cornerstone of a free, stable, and moral society. It is the duty and obligation of parents or guardians to guide their children to become responsible citizens.

EDUCATION

Education of our children is a fundamental component in developing the skills and knowledge necessary to become responsible contributing citizens. Education should be a dynamic partnership with parents, students, teachers, and community at a local level. At no time should the education framework be used for ideological advancement or indoctrination contrary to the wishes of parents.

Public educational programs and curricula required by state and federal law should be fully funded. School choice should be available as an option and public funds should follow students.

Public higher education should focus on promoting academic proficiency by emphasizing courses that advance understanding and practical application of each discipline in an atmosphere of free speech and civil discourse.

HEALTH CARE

Citizens must have the freedom and responsibility to choose a health care plan that meets their individual needs. Healthcare regulations should work to facilitate innovative solutions in a competitive market to reduce the cost of healthcare and increase personal choice.

Competition between healthcare providers, alternate systems of saving for future medical expenses and alternative insurance programs should be encouraged. Physicians, healthcare providers and organizations must retain the right to practice in a manner they believe is ethical, serves to exercise freedom of conscience and is free from fear of frivolous tort claims.

The absolute right of individuals and families to make medical determinations for themselves and their loved ones must never be surrendered to any government body or agency.

The Washington Long-Term Coverage Care Act should be repealed.

ECONOMY

A strong economy is a path to success for all Americans. A free, open, and competitive market is the natural and proper order for economic exchange in a civil society of free individuals.

Economic vibrancy is harmed when government attempts to manipulate market outcome by redistribution of wealth or the control and management of voluntary trade. Private sector job creation, entrepreneurship and the growth of new and existing businesses and industries in our county, state, and nation are best achieved by minimizing business and personal taxes and limiting regulatory burden.

FOREIGN TRADE

Foreign trade policy must promote economic growth for the U.S. We support international trade agreements that enhance our state's ability to provide services or goods to its citizens, the nation and to the world. Domestic trade policy must not restrict an individual state's ability to be competitive in a global free market economy.

We support repatriation of American jobs and domestication of industrial productivity as a means of promoting both our national economy and security.

TAXES

The power to tax is a grant from the people given for limited purposes and not an inherent power of the government.

Tax revenues should be used only to fund activities defined by statutory goals. Fines, fees assessments and special levies shall not be sources of general revenue, but shall cover only those costs directly associated with the services provided.

We call for the immediate revision of the onerous federal income tax code and oppose attempts by the Washington State legislature, counties and cities to impose an income or cumulative wealth tax.

NATURAL RESOURCES

A nation's security and prosperity depends upon its ability to reasonably supply the needs of the nation through the productive management of public lands. Energy policy, agricultural production, and the extraction of strategic metals and minerals shall not be unreasonably restricted by unnecessarily burdening any application process or proposed use.

Agriculture as practiced on private and public lands is now and has always been a mainstay of Kittitas County's cultural and economic matrix. This requires that agricultural producers be relieved from excessive regulation such as estate taxes, unfair and ineffective environmental restrictions, arbitrary land use designations, punitive water use restrictions, and any other regulations that unnecessarily interfere with creative and productive use of their property.

BALANCE OF ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

America must balance our need for life sustaining energy with the conservation of our environment

A comprehensive energy policy for the State of Washington must allow access to and use of its abundant energy resources. Creativity, technological development and market-driven application of science and technology will determine the most efficient, cost-effective and clean uses of energy.

Practices such as agriculture, timber harvesting and mining may change environments and landscapes and require practical stewardship. Due consideration shall be given to the economic impact of environmental concerns and water rights on farming, forestry, property rights and other commercial activities.

We therefore:

- Advocate continuing independence from petroleum imports and promote energy exports
- Support investment in safe nuclear energy and the safe and permanent disposal of nuclear waste
- Support Washington State's inclusion of nuclear, hydro-electric, and renewable energy as "clean energy" and insist that electricity created from hydroelectric power plants be officially classified as renewable energy
- Oppose all energy subsidies
- Oppose the removal of hydroelectric power dams

We oppose the Green New Deal and carbon taxes as being misguided and economically detrimental.

TRANSPORTATION

Freedom of movement has been and continues to be a staple of Kittitas County's economic and cultural identity. The duty of the government is to guarantee that freedom by providing for all modes of transportation, public and private, in a cost efficient use-based manner.

THEREFORE WE BELIEVE

Good citizenship begins with protected rights and ends with accompanying responsibilities. We believe the laws should be made by the people through our elected legislatures and not by executive fiat, bureaucratic process, or judicial activism. In order for its citizens to flourish, the Rule Of Law according to the Constitutions of our great nation, must be revered, honored, and protected

The Republican Party is the best vehicle for translating this platform into positive and successful principles of good government.