

Klickitat County Republicans 2016 PLATFORM

PREAMBLE

We, the Republicans of Klickitat County, support preservation of a constitutional republic maintaining the values that uphold the rights and freedoms enumerated in the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Washington State Constitution. These rights are fundamental to the preservation of our American way of life. Key to maintaining our rights and freedoms is the acceptance of that responsibility by each individual.

We believe the proper role of government is to provide for the people only those critical functions that cannot be performed by individuals or private organizations, and the most effective, responsible, and responsive government is the government closest to the people.

We believe in state's sovereignty as stated in the Tenth Amendment of the US Constitution.

We believe government officials should behave with honor and integrity and must be held accountable for their decisions and actions.

We believe that government programs should be limited to legal citizens and not foster an entitlement society.

We believe in equal opportunity in our diverse society, in which each individual is empowered to reach his or her full potential independent of race, religion, age or gender.

We believe in liberty with responsibility, respect for law and justice, providing for a strong national defense, and governmental fiscal restraint.

Therefore, we offer the following platform:

DEFEND AND SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION AND BILL OF RIGHTS

The Constitution of the United States is the best document for both organizing and restraining the Federal government. We believe the Constitution should be interpreted according to the original intent of the Framers. We support:

- 1) Emphasizing the importance of the 1st and 2nd Amendments
 - a. The right to bear arms
 - b. The right to freedom of speech
- 2) Preserving and protecting Freedom of religion shall be preserved. People of one religion shall not interfere with another's freedom of religion or other Constitutional rights
- 3) Controlling Federal usurping of state's rights. Ensure the sovereignty of state law enforcement. Ensure what is not spelled out in the US Constitution and Bill of Rights is made the purview of the state.
- 4) Ensuring private property rights shall not be limited without due process or compensation.
- 5) Establishing a convention of states as set forth in Article 5(V) of the Constitution
- 6) Reforming the Social Security System to include:
 - a. Only paying people/couples or their minor dependents, who have contributed to Social Security.
 - b. Requiring that other funding sources shall be used for other social services.

US CITIZEN REQUIREMENTS

We support amending the Constitution of the United States to define what is a natural born citizen.

LIMITED GOVERNMENT

We support

- 1) The Constitutional intent to provide the most personal freedoms and responsibilities possible.
- 2) Reducing the size of government.
- 3) Requiring agencies to operate within the original intent of the scope of their legal responsibilities, therefore eliminating oppressive regulations
- 4) Requiring a budget process that reduces debt and balances the budgets.
- 5) Stopping special interest groups from infringing on personal rights such as transgender groups being allowed to invade in privacy of opposite sex bathrooms
- 6) Restricting the over reach of the Columbia River Gorge Commission into individual property rights.

TAXATION AND ECONOMY

America's national debt is now bigger than America's economy, with interest on that debt the fastest growing part of the federal budget. We must act now to increase our GDP and to cut government spending to insure a balanced budget. Therefore, we support:

- 1) Continuing rejection of state income tax
- 2) Abolishing the state estate and inheritance taxes
- 3) Simplifying the federal tax system and limiting IRS powers.
- 4) Requiring a balanced budget.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

Private property is at the heart of American freedom and independence. All persons have the right to acquire, own, use, possess, enjoy, and dispose of private property as they see fit. Private property rights extend beyond issues of land use and ownership; they apply to the freedom to keep, spend, and/or trade that which we earn, and the freedom to run our homes and operate our businesses according to our personal values and without government interference. We support:

1. Opposition to continued government acquisition of private lands, removing these lands from the local tax base.
2. Proper management and stewardship of current publicly held lands with a focus on the best use and management of the land for the most public good.

BUSINESS CLIMATE

We support:

- 1) Capitalism and entrepreneurship and the right to work.
- 2) Reducing and restricting regulations that limit business growth
- 3) A minimum wage driven by the market and without government intervention.
- 4) Efforts to increase available housing in Klickitat County for the expanding work force.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is a major contributor to the Klickitat County economy and regulations that inhibit or restrict agricultural enterprises should be minimized. We support:

- 1) Regulations of herbicide, pesticide and fertilizer applications and field burning shall be based on proven need and valid scientific evidence.
- 2) Open and fair access to export markets for our agricultural.
- 3) Due consideration shall be given to the economic impact of environmental concerns and water rights on farming, forestry, property rights, and other commercial activities.
- 4) Establishment of an effective guest worker program.

HEALTH CARE We support:

- 1) Repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) and replacement with a health care plan that supports the private sector health care delivery system, private insurance provider
- 2) Availability of insurance across state lines
- 3) Tort reform to reduce health care costs.
- 4) Improved medical services for all using competition as a means to lower costs.

NATIONAL SECURITY

In accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the most important responsibility of the federal government is "to provide for the common defense". The world is safer and more peaceful when America is strong. We support:

1. Taking care of our military,
2. The securement and enforcement of our borders,
3. The War on Terror and elimination of ISIS,
4. Taking care of our veterans.

LAW AND JUSTICE We support:

- 1) Restricting the federal government from having a sovereign national police force that supersedes the Constitutional authority of the states to enforce laws within their borders
- 2) Restricting civil agencies from having armed police powers.

EDUCATION We support:

- 1) Local control of education
- 2) Freedom of choice for schooling
- 3) Local responsibility for curriculum and graduation requirements.
- 4) Requiring that only the state legislature define and fully fund public education.
- 5) Restricting diversion of public education funds.
- 6) Abolishing the Federal Department of Education
- 7) Reform of student loan programs

IMMIGRATION We support:

- 1) Congress meeting their constitutional responsibility to address immigration law,
- 2) Requiring the executive branch enforce existing immigration law, and border protection
- 3) Requiring all law enforcement to enforce current immigration law
- 4) Limiting refugees into the United States
- 5) Making English our national language

PUBLIC BENEFITS/WELFARE We support:

- 1) Requiring that benefits be provided only to US Citizens and aliens that have previously paid for those benefits.
- 2) Requiring welfare programs for able bodied citizens be used only for temporary assistance in conjunction with job training.
- 3) Limiting welfare programs to US Citizens
- 4) Requiring drug testing for welfare recipients
- 5) Redefining eligibility for welfare.

VOTING: We support

- 1) Requiring all voters to demonstrate U.S. citizenship and state residency, prior to registering or voting in Washington State.
- 2) Abolishing the top 2 primary process that pits two members of the same party against each other and creates division within the party

NATURAL RESOURCES/ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

We support more productive management of our natural resources for the benefit of our citizens.

Therefore, we support:

- 1) Releasing Federal natural resource lands to state ownership/control.
- 2) Requiring the Washington legislation to have hydro power considered a renewable resource.
- 3) Nuclear energy production and use

FAMILY VALUES

We believe a strong family is the core for building a strong nation. We support:

- 1) Parental rights to participate in educational, medical and legal decisions for their minor children.
- 2) The traditional definition of marriage as between one man and one woman while recognizing the need for legal partnerships and other civil unions.
- 3) The sanctity of all human life.
- 4) The defunding of Planned Parenthood and support organizations such as Pregnancy Resource Center which provide counseling and alternatives to abortion.
- 5) Opposing all instances of public funding of elective abortions and any mandates on private institutions to provide abortions.
- 6) Enforcement of rape prosecution.

TORT REFORM We support

- 1) Reform the Freedom of Information Act to stop frivolous requests.
- 2) Requiring that the costs incurred from lawsuits without merit shall be borne by the plaintiffs.

BEHAVIOR We support

- 1) Integrity courtesy and transparency at all levels of government, and in all political campaigns; Working together, being organized, planning ahead in a timely manner; Reaching out to our constituency, encouraging each other to make a difference.
- 2) Requiring elected officials at all levels from PCOs through local, state and federal levels be willing to listen to the citizens and be open to suggestions for potential change which will be of benefit to their constituent
- 3) Strong family, community and business values
- 4) Congressional cooperation
- 5) Repealing the Patriot Act and the Net Neutrality Act.
- 6) Stopping our over involvement in foreign affairs
- 7) Requiring public office holders and public employees have no exemption to the laws and regulations they create.