



**BENTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY 2024 PLATFORM**  
**April 18, 2024**

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## OUR REPUBLICAN PARTY

The Republican Party is founded on a long and proactive history of equal rights for **ALL PEOPLE**.

The Republican Party was founded in 1854 to abolish slavery; we are the **Party of Lincoln**. Our first Republican President, Abraham Lincoln, issued the Emancipation Proclamation to free the slaves at the height of the Civil War, leading to the defeat of the Confederacy and reunification of the nation.

- **Republicans** passed the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution permanently **abolishing slavery**.
- **Republicans** passed the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment **granting citizenship to emancipated slaves** born in the United States of America.
- **Republicans** Passed the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment which **guaranteed African American men the right to vote**.
- **Republicans** passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving all **women the right to vote**.
- **Republicans** in the US House and Senate, in far greater percentages than Democrats, **passed the 1964 and 1968 Civil Rights Acts**.

For decades since, Democrats have consolidated power in the cities where many have suffered from poverty, non-performing schools, urban blight, crime, and hopelessness despite government spending trillions of dollars. It's time for these failed Democrat policies to end.

The Republican Party believes in equal rights for **ALL PEOPLE**. The Republican Party strongly supports the Nation of Israel and the Israeli people.

### PREAMBLE

We hold these truths to be self-evident that the unalienable rights and freedoms endowed by our Creator, as enumerated in the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitutions of the United States and Washington State are fundamental to the preservation of our Constitutional Republic and our American way of life.

The key to maintaining our rights and freedoms is the acceptance of that responsibility by each individual. Parents are expected to carry out their responsibilities for moral, social, and religious teachings. A strong family is the core for building a strong nation. We uphold and respect traditional values affecting family, including the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, and marriage between one man and one woman.

The proper role of government is to provide for the citizens only those critical functions that cannot be performed by individuals or private organizations. The most effective, responsible, and responsive government is the government closest to the people. We believe in states' sovereignty as stated in the Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Government officials must be held accountable for their decisions and actions, and elected officials should have limited terms.

As we are a kind and compassionate nation, we understand unfortunate circumstances can strike any of us at any time. Our heritage as a nation has always been one of self-sufficiency; and therefore, we believe in giving people a hand up, not a hand-out. Government programs need to be limited to citizens that are truly in need and should not foster an entitlement society.

We believe in equality of 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. People should be judged on the merits of their individual performances.

We reaffirm the time-honored core values of the Republican Party, such as liberty with responsibility, providing for a strong national defense, respect for law and justice, economic and educational opportunity, and government fiscal restraint. Therefore, we offer the following platform planks:

## **PLATFORM PLANKS**

### **ELECTION INTEGRITY**

We believe that the integrity of our election processes is fundamental to our governing structure. Without confidence in our election results, our system of governance will quickly disintegrate.

In addition, voting privileges belong only to U.S. citizens with proof of identification. Elections should preferably be held at public polling places on paper ballots. Mail-in ballots should be for approved absentees only. Felons shall not be allowed to vote until their incarceration and all court-ordered stipulations have been fulfilled. We support the repealing of any National Popular Vote bill.

We further support the addition of the citizenship question in the U.S. Census questionnaire and that the Congressional and Legislative Districts be based on U.S. citizens.

Since our elections, even at the national levels, can be influenced by relatively small differences in vote counts, it is imperative that our election accuracy and results are beyond reproach. In order to assure this level of accuracy, the BCRPWA supports implementation of the following improvements to our election processes:

- Trained/Certified observers from each party present at all times at the counting areas with full facility access.
- Established counting machine validation tests before and during operation, and after all operations are completed. Set ALL counting machine testing standards and building standards to Military testing and building standards.
- Records retention and availability of all applicable voting information for a minimum of 22 months after the election date, in accordance with Federal requirements.

### **NATIONAL DEFENSE**

National Defense in all of its forms is the most important function of government, as established in our Constitution. Military strength is a cornerstone of U.S. national security. Our military strength is a key component of deterrence: dissuading potential adversaries from undertaking undesirable actions here and abroad, reassuring our allies, and enhancing the peace and prosperity of the United States. We support our defense service personnel (Active Duty, Reservists, and National Guard) wherever they serve and we demand they have the leadership, material, and capacities and capabilities necessary to successfully conduct their various missions in the removal of threats to US national security. We support the United States Space Force and spending the funds necessary to obtain superiority in the realm of space defense and security. We are committed to support all disabled military veterans and their survivors with the provision of complete medical, educational, and financial benefits. We demand the building of the wall on the United States border to deter illegal immigration, as well as human and drug trafficking.

We support all efforts to prevent foreign governments/corporations from acquiring lands near our military bases, and from acquiring any of our domestic farmlands.

### **LAW AND JUSTICE**

Citizens and business owners have a fundamental right to their freedom of conscience and religion. Our liberties are documented in the Bill of Rights and reaffirmed in Article 1 of the Constitution of the State of Washington. "Hate speech laws" are unconstitutional and infringe upon our unalienable right to free

speech. We demand the restoration of the right of law-abiding citizens to bear arms without infringement or impairment from federal, state, or local governments.

Laws must reduce and deter crime through appropriate punishment, including the death penalty. We support all necessary funding for our law enforcement functions, and prosecution of those in accordance with our laws. Burden of proof shall be on the prosecution, never on the accused. Silence is not admission of guilt.

We affirm the United States should never agree that any person be permitted to practice Sharia Law rather than the laws of the United States and individual state governments.

## **ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

Free market capitalism creates jobs; therefore, it is imperative that the legislature and government agencies remove regulations that cause intrusions and administrative delays that drive-up business costs. Recruiting and retaining businesses and industries in the state of Washington requires a business climate that will enable them to successfully compete locally, nationally, and globally.

Retaining our dams is a positive effect on trade and commerce, supporting our workforce in many areas: agriculture, marine transportation, trucking, flood control, and power. Therefore, we demand that no dams be removed from any waterways that pass through our state.

We additionally encourage the Federal Government's consideration of turning over parts of the Hanford Site for commercial energy purposes, but recommend that, instead of the placement of wind generators and solar photovoltaics on the site (as DOE has proposed), that it instead be further developed for nuclear energy, biofuels, hydrogen and other purposes. These are applications that draw much more strongly on the high-tech resources of our community, can include mass-production facilities for clean energy technologies and will enable far more jobs, an advantage that will greatly aid our region as the Hanford Cleanup eventually draws to a close.

We support all efforts to improve our domestic American manufacturing base by encouraging and incentivizing government and private contract placement with manufacturing firms within the United States and encouraging manufacturers to relocate their operations back to within our own borders.

## **TAXATION**

We support a balanced budget by all levels of government and the elimination of federal debt. No government should place a tax on an estate or an inheritance. We support Washington State's continued rejection of a state income tax and the voter-approved 2/3rds-majority requirement to raise state taxes, becoming a Constitution of the State of Washington amendment.

We support limited government and minimized taxes as required for appropriate government administration. Minimizing regulations, licenses, and taxes will make Washington businesses more competitive.

We support reviews of taxation on business to reduce regulations in order to enable businesses to compete in national and international markets. We support the thirty-dollar car tabs, as voted upon by the Washington State voters. Any proposed new tax must have a specific targeted purpose and a mandatory review date or date of elimination, this includes state and local taxes.

## **IMMIGRATION**

We understand we are a nation of immigrants sharing a desire for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Our country will always attract good, honest people from throughout the world, looking for opportunities to build a better life. America is a stronger and better nation because of the hard work and entrepreneurial spirit of immigrants.

We have lost control of entry and settlement of our immigrant population, and the current uncontrolled invasion that is occurring at our southern border must be stopped. We are a nation of laws that we all must respect, adhere to, and enforce. Therefore, we support reforming and enforcing the immigration process to ensure it is legal, safe, orderly, and humane. With the complexities of an economy based largely on multiple generations of willing immigrants with a strong work ethic, the reforms need to address, with dignity, the needs of these undocumented workers.

We welcome those who follow the process and come here legally, helping new immigrants assimilate into American culture, with a path to citizenship, including learning the English language.

We support a streamlined path to citizenship for graduates of United States universities with advance degrees and especially in a technical field.

We support expanding legal immigration to meet the needs of the American workforce by issuing seasonal work permits to permit temporary and agricultural employment and limiting permanent residency (i.e. Green Cards) to immigrants who have needed skills. It is in the national interest to know who is in the United States and no foreign national should be present in the country without a visa, temporary work permit, or other form of authorization.

Federal and State elected or appointed officials that are found undermining the security of our border or are intentionally funding illegal immigration should be prosecuted.

## **EDUCATION**

Education of our young people in the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, is an essential investment in our future for the perpetuation of our liberties, prosperity, and our sovereign constitutional republic.

We therefore support the right of parents to have the ultimate control over their children's education, and have the option to choose public, charter, private, or home schooling for their children. We support providing vocational and apprentice education at the high school level as well as liberal arts and college preparatory options. We advocate for the elimination of the U.S. Department of Education and the execution of its responsibilities fulfilled by the state, county, and local levels. We recommend that the State set minimum graduation requirements but leave curriculum decisions to local school boards. We insist that local school boards maintain control and transparency to provide parents with up-to-date information about their children's academic performance, academic curricula, and instructional materials.

We insist that the study of the English language be a top priority, especially for English language learners. We insist that schools teach students history and civics with an emphasis on our founding documents, especially the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, Constitution of the United States, and Constitution of the State of Washington. We support teaching citizenship and its obligations, including the necessity of the citizens to be virtuous and use their liberty in a responsible manner. We also support teaching the advantages of the free enterprise system of economics and the shortcomings and perils inherent in socialism, including socialism's threat to our liberty and prosperity.

We encourage the continued growth of Washington State University Tri-Cities and Columbia Basin College. We support rewarding outstanding teachers and paraeducators in hard-to-fill disciplines with

salaries that reflect their performance and skills. We insist that education institutions provide equal educational opportunity for all students so that they can achieve their potential in a safe environment free of inequitable treatment. We therefore oppose programs such as DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) that undermine the student's ambition, promote racial and ethnic strife, and place students and staff in an unsafe environment or situation. We also oppose programs that promote or glamorize unsafe behavior, such as sexual experimentation or promiscuity or the use of mood-altering chemicals, as well as unsafe and unfair competition: specifically, boys on girls' athletic teams. We support a students' right to privacy and therefore oppose any policy that permits boys to enter girls' restrooms or locker rooms. We oppose any promotion of gender mutilation in schools masquerading as "gender-affirming care." We support the use of standard English and therefore oppose the use of preferred pronouns, pseudonyms, or aliases that affirm a deceived student's belief that he or she is a different sex or animal. We oppose educational facilities displaying flags other than the US or Washington State flag. We oppose the government assumption of student loan debt.

## **HEALTH CARE**

A healthy country can only arise from a healthy citizenry, so good health care is vital.

The COVID-19 inoculation is gene therapy containing mRNA that has caused innumerable severe adverse side effects; we therefore recommend terminating required/mandated COVID-19 inoculations. We support wellness programs that include a focus on education and information on nutrition and exercise. Chronic disease treatment should address prevention, and treatment through personal responsibility.

We support legislation to ensure medical decisions are made by the patient in consultation with the medical provider of the patient's choice, not controlled by medical insurance or government. We support the use of private healthcare insurance providers, transparent pricing, self-pay options, tax-free health savings accounts, limiting healthcare provider liability, and allowing individuals and business owners to seek health insurance across state lines in order to reduce health care costs. We support legislation to foster competition and encourage health insurance companies to enter and remain in the Washington State market. We also support legislation that exempts primary caregivers from jury duty as long as their full-time care is required.

We support the growth of the Tri-Cities as a medical care center, as well as additional behavioral health services in Washington State and Benton County. We support the funding of medical research predicated on the basis of sound science. We support repealing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obama Care). We insist that medical personnel who were fired or resigned because they would not take the experimental COVID-19 inoculation be rehired.

We oppose giving the health department power to mandate health directives with which the citizenry must comply. We oppose the mandatory requirement of citizens to wear masks, as well as the mandatory requirement of citizens to receive experimental medical treatment or inoculations. We oppose socialized medicine, in which the government makes health care decisions for the patient, rather than the patient in consultation with his or her medical provider. We oppose mandated or a single payer health insurance system, with the exception of Medicare.

We oppose using taxpayer funds for abortions or any organizations that perform abortions. We oppose gender mutilation of youth in the name of "gender-affirming" surgery. We support requiring youths from birth to 18 years of age, if questioning their birth gender, receive counseling by medical and psychological experts, with full knowledge and direct involvement in these counseling sessions by parents. We oppose

the administration of any gender-changing medications or pharmaceutical agents (e.g. hormones or hormone blockers) to youths below the age of 18.

## **ENERGY**

We are committed to developing new and upgrading existing energy facilities and protecting the national power grid from an electromagnetic pulse. The rapid pace of technological development demands we remain on the leading edge of innovation and science. We must provide a nurturing environment for new technologies. We support development of research and technologies unfettered by government regulations unsupported by sound scientific reason.

We are also committed to U.S. energy independence and expanding economically feasible, clean energy sources, including nuclear, hydroelectric, bioenergy, hydrogen, wind, and solar coal, oil, or natural gas. Benton County electricity is amongst the most affordable in the nation and low-cost energy has been a major consideration for businesses to locate in our region. Maintaining an adequate, reasonably priced energy supply is essential for economic growth and competitiveness. With an abundance of affordable, non-fossil electricity, Benton county's greenhouse footprint is also among the lowest in the nation.

We also support additional investment in safe nuclear energy for baseload clean electric power including the use of the Hanford Site for the demonstration and commercialization of small, modular nuclear reactors, reprocessing spent nuclear fuels, and long-term storage/disposal of nuclear waste. We are in favor of Washington State's statutory inclusion of nuclear and hydroelectric energy as "clean energy".

We oppose the imposition of a carbon tax, such as was proposed by two state-wide initiatives in 2016 and 2018, and which were rejected by the public and we oppose the "green new deal".

We additionally support and encourage energy-related science and technology projects at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and Washington State University's Tri-Cities Campus, both of which are located in Benton County, and which continue to support local, state-wide and national energy needs.

We oppose any legislation restricting the purchase of natural gas, diesel, or gasoline-powered appliances or equipment. We oppose the installation of additional windmills.

## **AGRICULTURE**

General agriculture and viticulture are major industries and employers in Washington State. We recognize their importance to the general economy and support their retention and further growth.

We support realistic reasonable regulations of agricultural practices and expect all regulation of herbicide, pesticide, and fertilizer applications and field burning to be based on proven need and valid scientific evidence. Our agricultural products should have open and fair access to export markets.

We support a balanced view, taking into consideration the economic impact of environmental concerns and water rights on farming, forestry, property rights, and other commercial activities. We recommend that Washington State fund a study to determine the effectiveness of farming and crop production as a means of carbon capture to reduce the carbon footprint on our state.

We oppose the sale of Washington State farmland and other means of food production to interests representing foreign governments.

We support the Benton County moratorium on the growth and sale of recreational marijuana.



## **TRANSPORTATION**

Washington State must have a safe, economic, and efficient transportation system.

We support the continued improvement of our roadways, waterways, dams, and growth of the Ports and their services, including railroads and Tri-Cities Regional Airport. Ben Franklin Transit should operate more efficiently with better fiscal responsibility and accountability.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

We support the promotion of cost-effective conservation techniques and technologies, along with continued examination of alternative energy opportunities. A balance can and must be achieved between economic viability and the need for a healthy and unpolluted environment.

The rights of private property owners are paramount and must be protected from government regulations and eminent domain.

We support returning most of the federally designated land back to the sovereign states.

We endorse the use of sound honest scientific, economic, and engineering principles in the analyses of, and solutions to, environmental problems. We encourage a wide range of economic incentives and disincentives if they are consistent with a strong preference for market-based solutions, small government, and personal responsibility. We encourage responsible environmental conservation and regulation decisions to be made in the context of the many other important state and national priorities including economic development, national sovereignty, and national security.

We support continued adequate funding for the restoration and expeditious cleanup of the Hanford Site. We support the retention of dams and operation of the Columbia and Snake River Systems and support the completion of the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project, including the East High Canal and East Low Canal.

We support the enhancement of existing water supply availability, increased private sector funding, and construction of new and renewed water supplies.