

2006 WASHINGTON STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

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Platform Committee Chair: Olga Miller

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*“In all that the people can individually do as well
for themselves, government ought not to interfere.”*

Abraham Lincoln

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PREAMBLE

Republicans believe that good government is based on the individual and family, that each person's ability, dignity, freedom and responsibility must be honored and recognized. Our basic freedom, the value that makes our country unique in the world is rooted in Free Enterprise and the basic right to Private Property. The role of Government is to preserve and defend our ability to live in a free and peaceful society.

We reaffirm the words of our founding fathers as written in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these Truths to be self evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness -That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."

Our Republic was founded as one nation under God on principles clearly set forth in the Declaration of Independence and codified in our Constitution.

PLATFORM

OUR REPUBLICAN VISION FOR WASHINGTON STATE IS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY – Jobs, Growth and Prosperity

Government must practice fiscal responsibility, while allowing individual citizens to enjoy an atmosphere of free enterprise, unfettered by burdensome government regulation. Believing that the power to tax a people is the power to enslave a people, Republicans support principles that would create jobs, strengthen the free enterprise system, encourage entrepreneurs, protect our economic base while lowering taxes, and promoting a conservative fiscal policy.

Economic opportunity should include:

- Reducing taxes and fees on businesses and individuals.
- Eliminating the B&O tax.
- Reducing excessive regulation on businesses in Washington State.
- Examining government regulations to ensure they reflect the intent of the law and are based on sound peer-reviewed scientific data.
- Expanding international export trade while protecting national security.
- Making the Bush tax cuts permanent.
- Eliminating all inheritance and capital gains taxes because savings and property have already been taxed.
- Re-instating tax and spending limitations passed by the voters of Washington State (I-601) which were repealed in 2005.

- Reforming the current Washington State minimum wage law to make Washington businesses more competitive.
- Maintaining a supermajority requirement for excess levies and bonds.
- Opposing any form of a state income tax.

LABOR UNIONS

We recognize the historical importance of labor unions, and their protection of workers' health and general welfare. Union members should be given flexibility in regards to the political use of their Union dues and informed of their rights with respect to those dues.

SECTION 2: NATIONAL DEFENSE/WINNING THE WAR ON TERROR - Superior military strength is vital to our national security

“We will rally the world to this cause by our efforts, by our courage.

We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail.”

George W. Bush

We believe in a strong and free America, a nation leading the world in the expansion of peace, freedom and human rights. We are at war, and we support President Bush in all aspects of this War on Terrorism, including the government's responsibility to monitor the communications of terrorists and their allies.

National defense should include:

- Preventing the subjugation of the national sovereignty of the U.S. to any foreign or international body.
- Ensuring that U.S. military personnel remain only under U.S. command.
- Continuing the development of the Strategic Defense Initiative.
- Gaining control of our borders and adopting immigration reform that includes a guest worker program but does not include amnesty for those who are here illegally already.
- Supporting the historical doctrine of pre-emption in US conflicts.
- Supporting the Patriot Act with all of its provisions as a reasonable and necessary balance between personal freedom and national security.
- Supporting access for military recruiters in all schools that accept federal funding.
- Honoring all past and current obligations to our troops and veterans, and their families, and improving pay and allowances to surviving military dependents.

- We believe that terrorists are "enemy combatants" and should be dealt with as such in the appropriate tribunals consistent with the foreign policy interests of the United States.

IN DEFENSE OF ISRAEL

Israel, as a sovereign state, has the right of self-defense against foreign enemies and state sponsored terrorism. The Bush Doctrine clearly includes supporting Israel, which is being targeted by terrorists. For a peaceful, democratic Palestinian state to exist, we must support Israel in winning their war against terror in their homeland. The Republican Party will only support a Palestinian state which recognizes Israel as a sovereign nation.

SECTION 3: BORDERS, IMMIGRATION, AND HOMELAND SECURITY

"There's no bigger task than protecting the homeland of our country"

George W. Bush

"The New Colossus" as printed on the base of the Statue of Liberty, November 2, 1883

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."*

Emma Lazarus

America is a nation of laws, and we are a people of optimism and compassion. The first line of defense for the national security of the United States is our borders. National security requires controlled borders and a rational policy allowing legal immigration. Our current laws and policies have caused a drain on our social services, our jobs, and have otherwise become a burden to the taxpayers of our state and our nation.. We need to gain control of our borders and enforce our immigration laws while encouraging legal immigrants who come seeking the American Dream.

Therefore, we support:

- A stronger policy of securing our borders using additional personnel, technology, and physical barriers.
- The reform of the immigration laws of our country so as to be enforceable and to meet our country's citizens' legitimate interests.
- The legal immigration of those individuals who wish to become US citizens with the strong enforcement of immigration laws.
- Enactment of a meaningful guest worker program which includes proper security measures, to allow those who wish to participate in our economy to do so in a legal and responsible way.
- Requiring any guest worker program to require the applicant for such program to initiate and process their application in their native land.
- An immigration policy that includes no amnesty for those persons who are here illegally already.
- The elimination of the "Safe City" program at any level of government that receives federal funds.
- The original intent of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution (1868) which declared, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States..." and thereby recognized the citizenship of ex-slaves and in no way granted citizenship to the babies of illegal aliens.
- A pillar of American citizenship, which is equal treatment under the law; therefore no special rights or privileges should be granted to any illegal resident alien from any county that are not granted to a legal immigrant or to a citizen of the United States of America.

SECTION 4: FAMILY – Families, the cornerstone of free society

The traditional family unit is the cornerstone of our society, and it is the primary responsibility of parents to guide and discipline their children. We understand that a primary responsibility of government is to uphold and respect traditional institutions, such as marriage, between a man and a woman, and family which are its foundations. Our commitment to protecting the life of innocents from conception through the infirmities of age must be nurtured in both our culture and our laws.

We support:

- The parental right and responsibility to direct the upbringing of their children, and to provide care, discipline and moral training.
- Protection of innocent human life, pre-born or born, through all stages of life, sickness and disability.
- Existing Washington State Law that defines marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman.
- An amendment to the United States Constitution defining marriage as the union

between a man and a woman.

SECTION 5: EDUCATION - The key to equal opportunity begins in the classroom

The primary authority and responsibility for educating children resides with parents. The Federal Government, based on the 10th Amendment of the U. S. Constitution, may not determine expenditures and curriculum. School boards should be free to determine priorities, focusing on basic academics, teaching of the constitution and civics, history, foreign language, opportunities for vocational and technical training, and the promotion of traditional American values.

We support:

- Providing the highest quality education through offering a broad selection of choices, whether public, private, charter or home school.
- Appropriate funding of public schools, and tax credits and vouchers for other choices.
- The right of parents to direct the education of their children.
- Education reform to pursue the standard of excellence for students of all abilities by giving parents more choices, stronger accountability of schools, proven teaching methods and more local freedom.
- Teaching English as our official and primary language, concentrated English instruction for non-English speaking students and regular instruction in English for all other subjects which will ensure successful job skills in a diverse, but overwhelmingly English speaking population.
- Sex education programs that promote abstinence before marriage.
- A policy that public schools not promote or identify homosexuality as a healthy, morally acceptable, or alternative lifestyle.
- Teaching the Declaration of Independence and the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Washington in our schools.
- Graduation requirements with an emphasis on rigorous academic skills in English, literacy, mathematics and sciences.
- Academic freedom and the free expression of all varying viewpoints on our campuses.

SECTION 6: HEALTH CARE - Access and affordability for all

Health care is a personal issue, and informed individuals can make better decisions about their own care than government. Republicans believe in free market solutions that reduce health care costs by offering more information for additional and better choices for consumers.

We support:

- Personal/private tax-exempt health savings accounts.
- Increasing competition among health care providers to promote accountability to

- patients.
- The reduction of regulation in order to reduce the cost of health care and prescription drugs.
 - All prescription drug purchases and health insurance premiums being fully tax-deductible.
 - Research of adult and placenta stem cells and oppose human cloning; banning government funding of embryonic stem cell research; and call for the RU-486 Review and Suspension Act.
 - Making malpractice liability reform an urgent priority, which will lower the cost of healthcare for all of us.
 - Requiring parental consent for minors who seek medical procedures, treatments, or pharmaceuticals.
 - Calling upon the Federal and State Legislators and the Governor to immediately work toward national parity in the way that Medicare reimbursements are made to healthcare providers.
 - The belief that government regulations and funding will not improve the quality or affordability of health care; therefore, oppose a universal government-run health care system
 - Legislation and regulations that foster competition among health insurance carriers and provide more options for consumers.

SECTION 7: PROPERTY RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT - Recognizing the importance of people and our Northwest way of life

“We share this common goal: we must foster economic growth in ways that protect our environment. We must encourage growth that will provide a better life for citizens, while protecting the land, the water, and the air that sustains life.”

George W. Bush

Humans are an important part of the environment, and must be given primary consideration when environmental decisions are made. We can achieve a healthful environment and continued economic growth and prosperity when government works with property owners in a positive cooperative fashion. Property owners implementing environmental practices that are supported by sound, peer-reviewed scientific methods are a model of responsible natural resource stewardship.

Washington State and local governments have responded to rapid population growth by devising a Growth Management Act that violates the property rights guaranteed to state citizens under its Constitution and has set the stage for broad takings of private property without just compensation. We believe that increasingly onerous and unjustified land-use regulations are affecting our ability to maintain a sustainable economy.

We support:

- Reasonable limits on environmental regulations to insure that legislative intent is followed.
- Providing private timber owners with a set of responsible, reliable and consistent government rules under which to operate.
- The repeal of the Growth Management Act.
- Saving our dams by funding improvements in fish passage, improvements in spawning habitat and ocean survival.
- The review and reform of the Endangered Species Act, critical area ordinances, and other environmental regulations in order to avoid unnecessary limitations being imposed on the citizens of Washington.
- A balanced approach to salmon recovery in the Pacific Northwest, recognizing that while the extinction of salmon is not an option, the economic extinction of our communities is also not an option.
- Reforming environmental regulations to allow sustainable forest management practices to be used on state and federal timberlands.
- Legislation that will prohibit all governmental agencies use of eminent domain for the development of private property in order to increase revenue.
- Compensating property owners at market value when their property (e.g., timber, water, and mineral rights) is devalued or taken by government action. Any property owner that has lost property to eminent domain shall have the right to redeem the property, for the price they were paid, should the condemning authority sell any or all that land.
- Releasing water for new permits where objective peer reviewed science cannot show defined damage to fish and/or wildlife.
- The adjudication of water rights conflicts at the superior court level and not by the state Department of Ecology.
- Ensuring that water rights stay with landowners and other users and do not transfer to state or federal ownership.
- Preservation of historic water rights (i.e., “first in use, first in right.”).

SECTION 8: RURAL / AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES

Washington’s economy and the health of many of our rural communities are based on farming, fishing, mining, and the timber industry. Natural resource industries are the economic foundation of our economy. By ensuring economic opportunity for America’s farmers and family farms of all sizes we will secure our domestic food supply and strengthen the rural economy.

To make our products competitive in the free market and make our farms viable and sustainable, we must:

- Establish a strong and secure domestic food supply that is not dependant on

foreign products.

- Improve efficiencies in our ports and on our transportation routes.
- Create tax policies that recognize fluctuations in farm income and assist farmers in surviving low-income years.
- Require imported food to meet all U.S. standards.
- Require country of origin labeling for the benefit of American consumers.
- Protect individual (including corporate) water rights and value using water resources in food production.
- Support completion of the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project.

SECTION 9: CRIME AND JUSTICE - Swift punishment for criminals

The primary role of government is to protect its citizens' freedoms and their property from both foreign and domestic crime. Crime threatens our ability as individuals to exercise our right of self-government. The rule of law is protected by policies that punish, reduce and deter crime.

We support:

- Constitutional protections, which safeguard our individual liberty, due process, and equal protection under the law.
- The efforts of law enforcement officers and firefighters who serve and protect our communities.
- Jessica's Law, which requires a minimum 25 years sentence for sexual crimes against children and all others unable to defend themselves irrespective of relationship to the victim.
- The role of the judiciary which is to uphold the law in a manner faithful to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, in accordance with legislative intent and established domestic legal precedent as the only legitimate standard.
- The right of individuals to provide for the defense of themselves, their families, and their communities within the bounds of Common Law and the U.S. Constitution.
- The death penalty where appropriate and oppose early release of convicted felons for budgetary reasons.
- Legislation requiring limitation on the number of appeals and period of time with bonds posted by the appealing party.
- Dylan's Law Initiative which sentences certain criminal sex acts to life imprisonment without parole.

SECTION 10: ENERGY - Republicans believe in the reduction of our dependence on foreign energy and:

- Support President Bush's Energy Bill to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign crude oil.
- Support drilling for oil on the ANWR reserve.

- Support incentives for the use of renewable fuels.
- Support economically and scientifically viable alternative energy sources.
- Support reducing regulations and costs that may hinder re-licensing of many of our State's dams.
- Support resumption of safe nuclear power plant construction.
- Oppose removal of dams used for hydroelectric, irrigation, and transportation.
- Support establishing and maintaining secure broad-based fuel resources within our nation's jurisdiction.

SECTION 11: TRANSPORTATION

Investment in our transportation infrastructure is critical to both rural and urban economies in Washington State. River, rail, roads, and air freight, and our ports all have an important role to play in moving products and people across the Northwest. Washington taxpayers deserve accountability for the money they provide to transportation agencies. Assurance that money is being spent efficiently can only be achieved through practical performance measures and regular performance audits of transportation agencies. To maintain our economic advantage we support:

- Regular independent performance audits of all publicly funded transportation agencies by the State Auditors office.
- Increasing the use of regional transportation improvement districts.
- Appropriate targeting of funding so that revenue collected for specific transportation purposes is allocated to them alone.
- Elimination of sales tax on materials and labor used on publicly funded transportation projects.
- Elimination of costly prevailing wage laws and statutes which needlessly inflate the cost of transportation construction projects and in the delivery of transit services. We cannot maintain highly subsidized transit monopolies that have no incentive to increase productivity.
- Funding for Sound Transit only by those who live in the Sound Transit District.
- Ongoing assessment of the needs of the transportation system and updating the current working plan.
- Maintaining the Columbia-Snake River as a navigable waterway. River barges are integral to our economy as well as to energy independence.

SECTION 12: PERSONAL LIBERTY - A Bill of Rights for All Washingtonians

We have a moral obligation, a minimum debt owed, as free Americans, to defend and preserve our freedoms: Free Speech, Freedom of Assembly, Defense of Life, the Right to Vote, Private Property Rights, Parental Rights, the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, and protect competitive free enterprise. Government exists by the consent of the governed. Smaller and more effective government will restore civic responsibility and individual freedom.

Ours is a nation created not by force, but by unifying ideals. People came here to be free to worship God as they choose without State restriction. For ours to remain one nation, where the source of our rights derive from God, not the state, we have the duty and obligation to teach our children the profound meaning behind the simple statement of allegiance to our flag and the ideals our nation was founded upon and to which so many have sacrificed their lives.

We re-affirm that the proper role of Government is to protect our inalienable rights, including:

- Proof of United States citizenship for voting eligibility protects our right to vote.
- Protecting the integrity of the vote of our overseas military personnel.
- Campaign finance law that in no way prohibits free expression.
- The initiative process provided for by the Washington State Constitution.
- Compensating property owners when government actions reduce the value of their land secures our right to own property.
- Parents' right to choose their children's schools, be it public, charter, private, or home, with tax credits or vouchers protects our right to equal opportunity.
- Protecting individuals' first amendment right of religious expression in our public schools does not conflict with the Establishment Clause.
- All people are entitled to be treated equally by government. The use of quotas or preferences to favor one person or group over another violates that principle, as well as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the laws of the State of Washington.

2nd Amendment

We believe the right to keep and bear arms as stated in the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 24 of the Washington State Constitution guarantees an individual right, and as such, we support Right to Carry laws. We support state reciprocity of concealed weapons license.

We support protection of the American firearms industry against frivolous and harassing lawsuits that blame them for the actions of criminals, and we call for increased enforcement of existing laws against criminals, not more laws aimed at law-abiding citizens.

We encourage personal responsibility in exercising these rights.

SECTION 13: THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

We strongly support and wish to promote and protect the continued use of the phrase "one nation under God" in our Pledge of Allegiance.

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