

2014

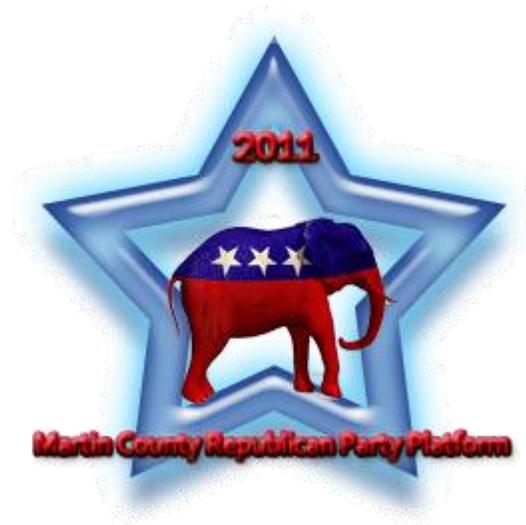
2014 Platform of Ideals

Martin County Republican Party

This document reflects the views and opinions of the Martin County Republican Party



“The beliefs and principles outlined in this platform are the primary beliefs and principles of the Republican Party of Martin County. Omission on a position should not be construed as a lack of opinion by this body. Our platform is such that we complement the RNC platform and would refer to that document for further information. We do expect our candidates running for office and elected Republican officials to support these principles. It should be understood that not every party member supports every principle listed in the platform. Anyone who believes in and desires a majority of these principles is therefore considered a like-minded Republican and we welcome your support and participation.”



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Article I: Statement of Principle

“God Who Gave Us Life Gave Us Liberty.”

– Thomas Jefferson

The United States has attained its position as a world leader and a champion of freedom by protecting our God-given liberties. We believe our rights come from our Creator and are the unalienable rights of the individual. It is a government’s first duty to protect these God-given rights: to life; to liberty; to property; to the pursuit of happiness.

Government is but one institution among many that exist to serve the common good. Families, religious communities, businesses, the press, and a host of voluntary societies have their roles to play in meeting the needs of society. As Republicans, we seek to reform government so that it performs its proper role with excellence and with efficiency, while leaving room for the other institutions of society to thrive.

We believe that today’s government is too large and too intrusive, exceeding its proper scope, doing things for which individuals and private organizations are better equipped. We believe families, communities, and institutions of faith can better teach the American values of honesty, responsibility, accountability, hard work, compassion, and mutual respect.

We believe that the functions of government should be handled at the level nearest and most accountable to the people.

The Martin County Republican Party seeks to apply these time-honored principles at all levels of government:

- Faithful adherence to the U.S. Constitution as originally intended;
- The sanctity of human life, from the moment of conception to its natural end;
- The equality of all people before the Law ;
- Public integrity – enforcing and administering the laws justly, in the fear of God and in accordance with the Constitution;
- Recognize and restore the Judeo-Christian heritage upon which our nation was founded;
- Respecting the dignity of each individual and the integrity of families;
- Fiscal responsibility and restraint;
- Defense of property rights;
- Promotion of free markets, free trade and freedom throughout the world.

At the Federal level, we call for maintenance of a strong national defense, protection of our freedom of religious expression, and protection of our rights as law-abiding individuals to keep and bear arms.

We support the right of Americans to retain their hard-earned wages through the substantial reduction of the federal income tax rate and the establishment of a fair system of taxation.

We believe in personal responsibility and individual accountability. We desire to limit government involvement in the lives of families and individuals. We believe that a sound, traditional family unit is essential to the strength, stability, and success of our nation. We will defend the institution of the family against those who seek to use the levers of government to undermine or redefine it.

We believe in efficient government programs have displaced individual responsibility, compassion, and involvement in our communities. We will work to reform or eliminate impersonal, inefficient and redundant programs, while encouraging individuals, families, and private organizations to exercise their civic responsibilities, act with genuine compassion and offer assistance and care to people in need.

We believe that individuals have certain rights to do with their property as they choose without the interference of Government. These rights are unrestricted as long as their actions do not harm the health, safety or welfare of the general public. These rights are constitutionally granted and should be protected at all levels of Government.

We believe the best choices are not always the easiest, and that decisions which take commitment, sacrifice and perseverance result in more honorable, longer-lasting solutions. We believe the Republican Party provides the best opportunity to translate these ideals into positive and successful principles of government.

Article II: The Family

Section 1- Preamble:

Traditional marriage, consisting of one man and one woman, is meant to provide for each family member's physical, emotional, financial, spiritual, and social well-being. Both parents are needed to support and to encourage happiness, health, and good education for their children, creating the next generation of citizens who are constructive members of society. Multigenerational families foster mutual respect and cooperation while providing support for extended family members and forming enduring relationships. We believe God is the Author and Creator of human life and that each individual should be treated with dignity and compassion.

Section 2- Marriage:

We believe that marriage between one man and one woman is a covenant relationship, instituted by God, not to be entered into casually, and is fundamental to our very existence and survival as a nation.

Section 3- Children:

- (a) We believe that children are a special gift from God, and their safety and protection paramount.
- (b) We support strict adherence to due process of law during child abuse investigations.
- (c) We oppose the immediate removal of children from responsible family members unless abuse allegations are confirmed or the child is in immediate danger.

Section 4- Adoption:

- (a) We encourage an adoption process that recognizes the rights of parents while maintaining safeguards for the children.
- (b) Except for adoption by a qualified relative (as defined by existing law) we support adoption by traditional families, defined as a marriage between a man and a woman.

Section 5- Right to Life:

- (a) We believe that 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. We affirm our support for a Human Life Amendment to the Constitution and to clarify that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children.
- (b) We oppose Federal funding of abortion clinics/programs. We believe that determination as to the legality of abortion should be left to the individual states.

Section 6- Healthcare

- (a) We support individual choices of broad medical options without government intervention. We believe that medical science and health care should be wholly dedicated to prolonging and improving natural life.
- (b) We oppose mandatory universal healthcare. We urge passage of health care reform which results in more affordable healthcare through a market-based, competitive, open and transparent health care system, including tort reform, interstate competition and genuine accountability and oversight, where America's families choose their own doctors and health care plans.

(c) We support stem cell research, with the exception of embryonic stem cells. We staunchly oppose the use of aborted babies for all medical research or for commercial purposes.

(d) We oppose human cloning.

Section 7 - Religious Freedom:

(a) We believe the First Amendment's Establishment Clause was intended to prevent a state-sponsored religion rather than a separation of God from our government. All Americans, whether as private citizens or public officials, should be entitled to acknowledge God. This acknowledgement includes the freedom to display religious symbols in public areas.

(b) We believe that statements regarding religion and morality made by the Founding Fathers are just as relevant today as they were 200 years ago.

Section 8 - Civil Unions:

We acknowledge for some partners that civil unions will provide legal assurance in finance and health issues.

Article III: Education

Section 1- Preamble:

We acknowledge our dependence upon Almighty God and ask His blessings upon our students and their parents, teachers, and nation.

The primary goal of public schools should be to teach proficiency in the basic subjects such as reading, written and oral communication, mathematics, sciences, history including our founding documents, the Godly heritage of our nation, and critical thinking skills.

Locally elected school boards should have the authority to determine and implement all public school curricula, policies and procedures for their districts. We demand excellence and accountability from all tax-funded institutions of education in Florida. The federal government has no Constitutional role in education. Furthermore, we support the creation of a free market education system. We believe Florida's students are among the best and brightest and deserve a high quality education.

We believe it is the right and the responsibility of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children, without interference, regulation or penalty from the government. We therefore support the right of parents to choose the method of schooling for their children, whether public, private, charter, home schooling, or other means of education, without interference from the government at any level.

Section 2- Early Childhood Development:

We oppose programs which are 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).

Section 3- Discipline:

We recognize 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.

Section 4- Support for Classroom Teachers:

We support quality education by:

- (a)** Recognizing the need to attract and maintain competent professional teachers in the classrooms of Florida public schools so that every student will receive the best possible education;
- (b)** Recognizing the need for teacher involvement in education planning and program development for the betterment of education at the local level;
- (c)** Recognizing the need to minimize administrative reports and excessive paperwork by teachers not directly conducive to excellence in teaching;

(d) Supporting greater use of school education funds for teacher salaries and for those needs which relate directly to education;

(e) Supporting teacher incentives through monetary and recognition rewards established at the local level.

Section 5- Traditional Values in Education:

(a) We support faculty in public institutions that will instill and encourage traditional American religious, moral, political and economic values.

(b) We believe in promoting a "Back to Basics" curriculum, including the teaching of rigorous academics in the subjects of reading, writing, grammar, spelling, history, civics, economics, mathematics, science and technology, and the fine arts, using proven teaching and testing methods.

(c) We believe in reinstating mandatory Civics classes as well as K-12 academic curriculum teaching the Declaration of Independence, United States & Florida State Constitutions, and the Bill of Rights from their original sources, to all children.

(d) We support rejecting federal control over education by the elimination of the U. S. Department of Education.

Section 6- Tenure:

We support the elimination of tenure in all public schools, but support rewarding competent teachers with monetary incentives, and providing firm procedures to remove ineffective educators (teachers and administrators)

Section 7- Private and Home Education:

(a) The Party believes that parents have the primary responsibility for the education of their children, and that the State should not have the power to force any parent or guardian to send their children to public school.

(b) We believe that parents and guardians may choose to educate their children either in a private school or at home without government interference.

(c) We believe in improving the quality of education by maximizing parental choice through expanded support for charter schools, school choice programs, parental rights to home school their children, more competitive and accountable public school systems, expanded tax credits, deductions and school voucher programs, including those to religious or private schools.

(d) We believe that the final approval authority for all public school curricula and standards rests with the Florida Legislature. We support the approval of grants from the Florida or U.S. Departments of Education only after full public discussion at open meetings of our local School Board. Reliance or dependence on federal sources of funding should be reduced or eliminated to protect the principle of home-rule and State sovereignty. Progressive programs such as Education for Sustainability must be exposed as political intrusions into local education matters.

Section 8- Pledge of Allegiance in Public Schools:

(a) We believe in requiring the presence of the United States flag in all classrooms.

(b) We believe that students should be led in the Pledge of Allegiance and in patriotic songs on a daily basis to ensure that the loyal and patriotic spirit of America's past is preserved and passed on to our children.

Section 9- School Prayer:

We believe that School Prayer or a quiet moment of reflection should be encouraged and practiced.

Section 10- Textbooks:

We call upon state legislators to make an ample quantity (minimum of three) of proposed textbooks conveniently available to interested citizens and to guarantee public hearings before the State Board of Education as a component of the textbook review process.

Section 11- Parental Rights:

(a) We recognize that parents have a fundamental right to direct the education and upbringing of their children and parents have the right to make educational decisions for their children, including the right to view mandatory public school tests after they are given, health decisions for their children, including responsibility and authority regarding sex education and other essential decisions without government intervention.

(b) We believe that parents, not government, have the God given responsibility and right to raise their children.

Section 12- School Funding:

We believe that school districts should be required to publish their budget and expenditures for the current year and the proposed budget for the next fiscal year before receiving funds for the next fiscal year.

Article IV: State and Local

Section 1- Preamble:

We believe all persons are responsible and should be held accountable for their actions. We believe in transparent and honest government with minimal intervention, providing protection for all citizens with fair and equitable treatment, enforcement, and justice. We realize without economic freedom there is no political freedom. We believe the greatest incentive for creation of that wealth lies in the respect for private property rights and in the free enterprise system, which allows for the best and most efficient distribution of resources.

Section 2- Economic Development:

We support the promotion of free enterprise with minimal government intervention or burdensome regulation.

Section 3- General:

We believe that a state-declared emergency may not include gun confiscation.

Section 4- Property Rights:

We believe that government should be prohibited from condemning a business or property through the process of eminent domain for the sole purpose of increasing tax revenues rather than for the general public good or taking private property from one owner to favor another private entity.

Section 5- Insurance:

All insurance companies should be allowed entrance into the State, giving the free market system an opportunity to flourish and to drive down the costs by competition, provided they can prove the minimum standards set by the State for their respective lines of insurance, including but not limited to health, property and automobile.

Section 6- Transportation:

We support legislation requiring that all state fuel and vehicle taxes and tag fees go for state, county and local transportation infrastructure.

Section 7- Taxation

(a) We advocate for balanced Federal, State and Local budgets.

(b) We oppose a State Income Tax.

(c) We oppose any transfer of Taxing Authority to those not subject to election by the voters.

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Article V: Federal

Section 1- Preamble:

The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land and should be interpreted according to the original intent of the founding fathers. We call for reaffirmation of our God-given rights enumerated in the first ten amendments, the Bill of Rights. Our founding fathers based the Declaration of Independence, our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and early laws on traditional Judeo- Christian principles and values. We believe that these documents are the basis for law, order, and behavior, allowing individuals, including government officials, the freedom to involve God in all activities according to their consciences.

The Legislative, Judicial, and Executive branches, are separate but equal, and are bound by the powers granted them by the Constitution, which was intended to limit the powers of the federal government and thereby protect individual rights from illegal and excessive encroachment by the government. We support foreign policies that acknowledge the sovereignty of the United States and that place the interests and values of its citizens above those of the United Nations or any international organization, public private partnership or any private corporation. We believe in a strong national defense and support for our military.

Section 2 - Foreign Policy

We believe our foreign and domestic policy must be based upon our own strategic national interests and must always jealously guard our national sovereignty.

Section 3 - Defense:

We believe that a strong, well-funded military is essential to our safety and preservation as a people and a nation.

Section 4- United Nations:

We believe that the United States Constitution is the supreme law of the land and that no other laws shall supersede it, including conventions, resolutions, rulings, treaties, mandates or any other laws or policies written by the United Nations or any other international organization.

Section 5- Constitutional Issues:

(a) We call for requiring each federal or state legislator who proposes a new law or new agency to cite the exact section of the state or federal constitution at the beginning of the bill that empowers the legislature in that area, and to identify sources of funding necessary to implement the bill.

(b) We oppose unfunded government mandates from Federal to State levels, and State to local levels.

(c) We in the United States stand as a Judeo-Christian country and, although we believe in freedom of religion, we do NOT believe that any other "religion" should come to our shores with a POLITICAL agenda to change our Constitution.

(d) We believe that every worker should continue to have the right to a federally-supervised secret ballot when deciding whether to organize a union

(e) We believe that our laws should support the principle that individuals have basic Constitutional rights to defend their families and property.

Section 6- Social Security:

We are committed to putting Social Security on a sound fiscal basis.

Section 7- Agriculture:

(a) We believe that preservation of the family farm, the primary producers of crops and livestock, is vital to the economic condition of our communities, states and nation. Family farms should be allowed to operate as free, independent, responsible producers and should not be encumbered by onerous regulations.

(b) We believe that the Republican Party should advocate for the elimination of all agricultural subsidies.

Section 8- Immigration:

(a) We support legal immigration and the opportunity to earn U.S. citizenship for all who enter the country legally.

(b) We believe that the United States should revise and improve the legal immigration process.

(c) We believe the United States should secure and protect our borders against illegal entry and that the National Guard should be used as needed for that purpose.

(d) We believe that border control is a national security issue, and current laws must be rigorously enforced

(e) We believe that illegal entry undermines the rule of laws, and threatens the security offend dilutes the rights and privileges of all citizens and legal residents.

(f) We believe that illegal immigrants who commit felonies should be deported.

(g) We oppose all amnesty or "guest worker" legislation, except to fill emergency needs until real immigration reform has been defined and enacted into law.

(h) We support the elimination of incentives that draw illegal immigrants, such as birthright citizenship, education, driver's licenses, medical care, and welfare.

(i) We recognize the primary jurisdiction of the federal government securing our borders and legislation governing immigration and naturalization. However, we support the rights of state to enforce the laws against the use of false identification to obtain driver license, voter registration, state benefits and employment.

Section 9- Election Reform:

We support modifications and strengthening of election laws to assure ballot integrity and fair elections. Specifically, we support a state government-issued photo ID at in-person voting; increased scrutiny and security in balloting by mail; prohibition of internet voting and any electronic voting without a verifiable paper trail; prohibition of mobile voting and prosecution for election fraud with jail sentences.

Section 10- Energy:

(a) We believe that energy development of all types is an essential part of our nation's economy and security; therefore we encourage a comprehensive energy policy that allows more development of domestic energy sources and reduces our need for foreign energy. Energy policy should be cooperative, economically viable, and environmentally safe.

(b) We call for the abolition of the U.S. Department of Energy, returning control to the state and local governments.

(c) We oppose government restrictions such as windfall profits and/or severance taxes, and regulations that restrict the construction of refineries or power grids and the location of gas and oil drilling, or mandating the use of alternative fuel for vehicles. We oppose any legislation that supports any type of "Cap and Trade" policy, or permits ceding of any energy policy authority to any international agreement.

(d) We encourage the building of more oil refineries in America, to lower the cost of gasoline and to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

(e) We advocate drilling for oil and natural gas in oil rich locations, including off America's coasts, with appropriate safeguards to protect the environment. .

Section 11- Taxation:

(a) We demand fiscal responsibility at all levels of government and that government operate within the structure of a balanced budget and without using borrowed or emergency funds.

(b) Over the long run, the mammoth IRS tax code must be replaced with a system that is simple, transparent, and fair while maximizing economic growth and job creation.

(c) We believe that the federal income tax system is unfair and that the death tax should be abolished.

(d) We believe a Fair Tax system should be instituted. The option of a single rate system could give taxpayers the convenience of filing their taxes with a single sheet of paper.

(e) We believe that the high rate of the United States corporate taxes makes it difficult for US corporations to compete internationally, which causes corporations to move overseas. Reducing corporate taxes would make America a more attractive place for business to provide good paying jobs.

Section 12- Federalism:

(a) We believe that neither Congress nor Florida legislature shall make any law that applies to the citizens of the United States, or the State of Florida that does not apply equally to the members of

Congress, or members of the Florida Legislature: neither shall they make any law that applies to a US Senator, a US representative, or Florida State Senator or State Representative, that does not apply to the Citizens of the United States of America and the State of Florida.

(b) We support intergovernmental cooperation within our region between agencies of local, state and the federal governments for finding coordinated solutions to regional problems by elected officials. We are opposed to binding mandates developed by unelected regional administrative bodies. All such cooperation and coordination must respect the 10th Amendment provisions of the U.S. Constitution and local home rule. We totally reject the concept of regionalism in any form which includes but is not limited to the Seven 50 plan. We oppose any unelected layer of bureaucracy with taxing authority. Miami Dade county residents should have no voice in Martin County's development. Local governments should maintain control over their own respective areas and should be controlled only by elected officials accountable to Martin County voters.

Section 13- Property Rights:

- (a) We believe that the legal principle of private property is an essential element in the philosophy of American life and jurisprudence, and is an expression of our belief in the unalienable rights granted by our Creator and enshrined in the Constitution of the United States,
- (b) We believe the expressed policy of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), or any of its thousands of local and state presenters is the extinction of the concept of private property, as stated in the United Nations document "Agenda 21", which is hostile to the founding principles of the United States
- (c) We believe that affiliation with or membership in any organization spawned by ICLEI is a violation of the Constitutional requirement for congressional consent (approval) before any government agency may enter into an agreement or affiliation with any foreign entity.
- (d) We believe that any official of government who is bound by the Oath of Office to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States must, under penalty of law, reject and repudiate the adoption of programs arising out of or conforming to Agenda 21 in any of its forms within the United States.

Section 14- General:

- (a)** We support congressional auditing of all policies and operations, with full disclosure and transparency, of the Federal Reserve, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC), the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA), and any other federally sponsored corporations.
- (b)** We oppose any government effort to restrict, license or regulate journalists, bloggers, or other persons expressing their opinions on the internet.
- (c)** We call for a dramatic reduction to the size and scope of government at all levels. We believe the power of the federal government should be strictly limited to the eighteen enumerated powers in the

United States Constitution and that all others should be left to the States and to the people in accordance with the Tenth Amendment.

(d) We oppose one world government and reject all attempts of any international entity to impose, upon American citizens, laws not written by Congress.

(e) We believe the Supreme Court should reject all foreign amicus briefs seeking to influence American law; should ignore foreign constitutions and laws in interpreting American law and the United States Constitution; should cease citing foreign court rulings for precedence when interpreting American law; and should protect our national sovereignty. We believe the United States must not participate in the formation of the North American Union.

(f) We oppose governmental funding of advocacy groups such as Planned Parenthood, AARP, ACLU, PBS, NPR or other citizen groups.

(g) We oppose action by Congress to pass any law or enter into any treaty that would infringe on the sovereignty of the United States. We are opposed to the NAFTA Super-Highway and the Law of the Sea Treaty.

(h) We support equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity for all citizens, regardless of race, creed, gender, age or disability.

(i) We assert the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as guaranteeing the individual citizen's right to keep and bear arms.

(j) We affirm that English should be the official language of all election ballots and all other government documents should be printed in English only.

(k) We believe Congress should make it a crime to advocate acts of terrorism or violent conduct that leads to the killing of innocent people in the United States.

(l) No foreign laws, religious or secular, should ever be used in adjudicating court cases in any court in the United States, including laws and resolutions from the United Nations or Islamic Shari'ah Law.

Section 15- Environment:

(a) We advocate for the repeal of the "Endangered Species Act," or any other measure that does not balance the potential human harm and suffering caused by restriction or elimination natural resources or their access against the fundamental needs of our citizens.

(b) We advocate for the defunding and elimination of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(c) We believe that we can solve environmental problems faster and cheaper with innovative technologies than with litigation and government regulations. Entrepreneurs are more likely than bureaucrats to solve America's energy and environmental problems.

Section 16- Religion:

(a) We affirm the beliefs of the Founding Fathers, and the understanding throughout our history, that religion and morality were important to creating and building this country and are central to America's success. We believe that the references to the Creator in the Declaration of Independence are testament to these fundamental beliefs.

(b) We reject the Ninth Federal Circuit Court's declaring the Pledge of Allegiance as unconstitutional.

(c) We reject the ban of all prayer in public schools. We support the right of high school students saying thanks to God in a graduation speech.

(d) We approve of the display of nativity scenes, Menorahs or other religious symbols placed on public property during the appropriate holiday seasons.

(e) We favor a law to protect the public, impartial display crosses or other religious symbols on public facilities from all litigation using a "separation of church and state" argument.

Section 17 - National Guard:

"The militia clause" articulated in Art I Sec 8(16) gives command and control over the Army and Air National Guard in peacetime to the respective states. We support the preservation of state control as a fundamental safeguard against over-centralization of the military forces in our nation.