

# Utah County Republican Party Platform

(as adopted 26 April 2003)

## PREAMBLE

- We the members of the Utah County Republican Party do hereby affirm our belief and trust in God, that it was through His intervention that this country came into being.
- We believe that all people are created equal and should be treated as such.
- We believe that the role of government should be limited to protecting and preserving the God-given rights of life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the ownership and control of property.
- We believe that the unborn child's right to life is central among these rights.
- We believe that traditional families, independent of unnecessary government regulation, are essential to a free and healthy society.
- We believe a society can only remain free when the majority of its members lead spiritually grounded and morally upright lives.

## PROPER ROLE OF CITIZENS

Individual responsibility and accountability are necessary for government to operate within the limited powers granted by the divinely inspired Constitution of the United States of America in keeping with the principles established by our Founding Fathers.

## PROPER ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

The proper role of government at all levels is to protect each person's unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and each individual's right to own and control property. Any other rights or privileges should not be construed or applied in any way to infringe on our God-give unalienable rights.

**Freedom of Religion.** God is our supreme Sovereign, and the sole source of our rights. We must, therefore, be free to worship Him in public and private. Government should not restrict public prayer or other forms of public religious expression.

**Support of Local Government.** Local governments allow for greater community involvement and are most aware of the needs of the people. State governments should not regulate the local matters of cities and towns. Federal regulations of state and local governments should be restricted to powers specifically enumerated in the Constitution of the United States.

**Accountable Government.** All government officials are accountable to the people. Any government agency or entity that receives public funds must be open to public audit and review.

**Fiscal Responsibility.** Government at all levels should be required live within a balanced budget. Increases in government spending should not exceed inflation and population growth.

**National Sovereignty.** Ours is a sovereign nation governed solely by the Constitution of the United States of America. Our government shall not relinquish its authority to foreign or world powers.

**National Defense.** We affirm the principle of peace through strength and call for the rebuilding of our armed services to defend our nation. The United States of America should only be involved in armed conflicts when there is a clear and present threat to our safety or vital national interest. It is the right of the United States Congress alone to declare war.

## TAXATION

Taxes are necessary for the operation of government, but it is the right of the governed to determine the level of their taxation. Licensing and user fees are forms of taxation. We encourage the simplification of our tax systems. We should reduce deficits by reducing spending, not increasing taxes. Tax collection methods should be equitable, and should not discourage investment and economic growth.

## EDUCATION

A well educated and informed citizenry is essential to the long term well being of a free society. The primary responsibility for education rests with the student and the family. Parents have the right to choose whether a child is educated in private, public or home schools and government should not infringe on that right. To promote excellence, consumer choice in education should be encouraged. Schools or other government entities should not invade the privacy of parents or their children. We oppose the use of non-consensual curricula and psychological testing. We favor local accountability and control in all aspects of the education system. Public schools should abstain from teaching promiscuity in any form.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Utah's economic growth should be sustained through the principles of free enterprise. We encourage the privatization of public services where appropriate. We oppose excessive and restrictive government regulation.

## ENVIRONMENT

Zoning and land use restrictions must be used judiciously to avoid the unfair limitation of the rights of property owners. We oppose coercion by the federal government to force communities into a "one size fits all" philosophy to resolve environmental concerns. There must be a balance between the economic benefits of growth and the need for clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUSTICE

Law enforcement agencies and the judiciary should strictly uphold the law in the exercise of their duties and work with citizens to maintain safe communities.

**Crime Prevention.** The primary defense against crime is stable and responsible family life emphasizing personal accountability and respect for the law. Swift and certain punishments with severe penalties are essential deterrents to crime.

**Victim's Rights.** Victim's rights should never be subordinate to criminal's rights and should include restitution.

**Judicial System.** Each individual is entitled to a trial by jury in both criminal and civil cases. It is the duty of juries to rule on the law as well as the facts of a case. We call upon the judiciary to reestablish this process and to inform juries of this duty. State senators must hold thorough hearings for all judicial nominees, and members of the Judiciary should undergo regular reviews. The results of such reviews should be a matter of public record. We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of human life.

**Juvenile Crime.** Juveniles who are charged with a serious violent crime should be tried as adults, acknowledging that in some instances the judicial system must use discretion when dealing with young offenders. We support adult punishment for the conviction of adult crimes. We call for swift and severe punishment for adults who aid in the commission of crimes by juveniles.

**Right to Bear Arms.** The right of the people to keep and bear arms must not be infringed.

## SOCIAL NEEDS

**Family.** Parents have the right to bear children and determine what is in their best interest without interference from government. We encourage all efforts to strengthen the moral character of our children and oppose policies, practices, and public expressions that degrade humanity and the sanctity of family relationships. We oppose efforts to include sexual orientation as a protected minority. We oppose any effort to legitimize same sex marriages or to extend legal standing to same-sex couples.

**Protection of Human Life.** We affirm the fundamental, unalienable right to life for both the born and the unborn. We oppose using public funds for abortion or to support any organizations that promote abortion. Abortion should be illegal except where the life of the mother is at serious risk, or the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest. All people should be protected from abuse and exploitation.

**Personal Agency and Accountability.** Individuals have the primary responsibility for their own welfare. Family, church, and private organizations should provide secondary support when needed. The focus of assistance programs should be the development of self-reliance.

**Gambling.** We oppose all efforts to legalize gambling in any form.

**Pornography.** Pornography is destructive to the family and the community. We support the vigorous prosecution of those who create, distribute, or promote pornographic materials, especially in connection with children. Local communities have the right to maintain moral and ethical standards.

**All Republican elected officials, candidates and party officers are expected to endorse these principles and agree to be held accountable to the people and to the party.**