



# **Oregon Republican Party 2013 Platform**

**as amended  
August 10<sup>th</sup> 2013**

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### **Preamble**

*We, the Oregon Republican Party, affirm that the United States of America is one nation under God and that unalienable rights are granted us by our Creator. These rights, as expressed in the Declaration of Independence, confirm in each individual the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We believe in the freedom and equality of every individual as set forth in and protected by the Constitution of the United States of America and which also limits the powers of the federal government. All other powers are reserved to the states or the people.*

*The Oregon Republican Party advocates personal responsibility, limited government, free markets, fiscal accountability and a strong national defense. We support ethical and accountable public officials that advocate these principles and those stated in this platform.*

### **Crime and Justice**

*The Oregon Republican Party believes that the laws of the United States and the State of Oregon should convey the principles and constraints of the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Oregon; that laws for the punishment of crime shall be founded on these principles: protection of society, personal responsibility, accountability for one's actions and reformation; to preserve and protect the rights of crime victims.*

- 2.1 We support the highest prioritization for the funding of public safety.
- 2.2 We support strong, appropriate and equal enforcement of the law that will reduce and deter crime.
- 2.3 We believe that an effective criminal justice system should include the use of the death penalty in capital crimes.
- 2.4 We support mandatory minimum prison sentences for serious violent offenders.
- 2.5 We support tougher prison sentences for repeat property offenders.
- 2.6 We believe all courts should exercise judicial restraint, not activism, when interpreting our constitutions and statutes.
- 2.7 We support truth in sentencing; that sentences imposed by the courts shall be carried out as ordered and not modified.
- 2.8 We support Oregonians' right to privacy, specifically including personal possessions and electronic records, from mass surveillance, search, or seizure unless authorized by a specific warrant based on probable cause.

## **Economy**

*The Oregon Republican Party believes private property rights, free-market capitalism, sound monetary policy, and low taxation are the foundations of a stable economy.*

- 3.1 Individuals shall have title, control, use and right to transfer private property.
- 3.2 The supply and demand for goods, services and labor shall be determined solely by the free-market. To that end, government must not create, own, operate, subsidize or assume control of any private business nor be party to any enterprise which could be operated privately.
- 3.3 A vibrant free-market flourishes under low taxation and minimal government intervention.

## **Education**

*The Oregon Republican Party believes that all children deserve access to a quality education. Parents have the primary right and responsibility to educate their children. We support parents' rights to choose public, public charter, online, private, or home education. Teaching the principles of our Constitutional Republic is an essential of education.*

- 4.1 Children are best prepared for success when schools emphasize basic skills, including reading, written and verbal communication, science, mathematics, US History and governance.
- 4.2 Educational choice and competition are the most effective mechanisms for improving the quality of education. The adoption of tuition tax credits for private education choices are the best methods of achieving meaningful educational reform.
- 4.3 English is the language of success; therefore, non-English speaking students should be brought to fluency as quickly as possible.
- 4.4 Public school curriculum, testing and standards, including Common Core, should be decided by local school boards and parents, not by the state or Federal government.
- 4.5 We recognize that public employee unions, and their unchecked power in decision making during the legislative process, have undermined student achievement and academic success in the state of Oregon. We support parents, teachers and school boards being the decision makers to bring about educational success and achievement in Oregon.
- 4.6 We oppose mandatory universal public pre-school and birth-to-five early learning hubs.
- 4.7 We support using competition, technology and market forces to provide quality higher education.

## Environment & Natural Resources

*The Oregon Republican Party believes that our environment and natural resources are key to our state's wealth and prosperity. These natural resources can and should coexist with responsible industry to provide a strong economic base for growth and prosperity. We support the free market system in conjunction with minimal regulation to preserve the long-term beauty of Oregon and quality of life for our citizens, provide economic growth, and create jobs. Among these important industries, we support.*

- 5.1 Minimal government intervention and artificial restrictions, to naturally encourage the free market growth of all viable resources.
- 5.2 Environmental regulations that strive to cause the least harm to human resource and business economic pursuits.
- 5.3 A renewable, stable, sustainable and functioning timber industry managed by Oregonians for the benefit of Oregon.
- 5.4 State policies that do not stand in the way of all sustainable natural resource industries.
- 5.5 A healthy and productive agricultural industry within the free market system.
- 5.6 Responsible and economically viable power generation.
- 5.7 Tourism.
- 5.8 The utilization of both strategic and non-strategic mineral resources through responsible extraction and restoration processes, while respecting the constitutional rights of small-scale miners.
- 5.9 Opposition to the declaration by any president without approval from Congress to the taking of productive and/or accessible public lands for wilderness, monument, and other restrictive categories. We encourage the state of Oregon to take back control of federally managed public lands and stop all proposals to federalize public lands and waterways.
- 5.10 The protection of the best and highest use of private property.
- 5.11 Established water rights as real property.
- 5.12 Additional water storage sufficient to provide sound water management, hydroelectric power and environmental policy based on verifiable science. We oppose the breaching of dams.
- 5.13 The recognition of the critical importance of water to agriculture in Oregon.
- 5.14 The opposition to unreasonable setbacks on public and private lands.
- 5.15 Not referring to public lands as government lands.

## **Family**

*The Oregon Republican Party believes that the traditional family is ordained by God our Creator and is the foundation of our society. A traditional family is formed through the marriage of one man and one woman. This environment is the optimum for raising children into responsible, self-sufficient, productive citizens.*

- 6.1 We believe that government intervention into matters regarding the family must be kept to an absolute minimum and be subject to due process.
- 6.2 Because every person has a fundamental right to life that begins at conception and endures to the natural conclusion of life, we strongly oppose both abortion and assisted suicide. We oppose any government funding for the abortion of an unborn child.
- 6.3 Marriage is between one man and one woman.
- 6.4 We believe that where law dictates parents to be unfit to raise children, state and local governments have the responsibility to intervene. In those cases, the grandparents or other immediate family members shall always be the first option as an alternative to the parents.
- 6.5 We oppose sexual exploitation and human trafficking. We believe that obscenities are degrading, exploitive, and detrimental to Society.
- 6.6 We believe it is the role of the parent and family to direct topics of education in sexual matters, sexually transmitted diseases, birth control, ethics and moral values. Governmental or public agencies shall obtain parental permission before discussing sex-related subjects with minor age children.

## **Foreign Policy**

*The Oregon Republican Party believes that foreign relations and foreign policy decisions must be based upon the security interests and well-being of the United States, its sovereignty and its citizens, by adhering to the U.S. Constitution.*

- 7.1 The position of the United States in world affairs is based upon our freedoms, moral standing, economic prosperity, effective diplomacy, free trade, and a strong military.
- 7.2 We oppose the expenditures of Foreign Aid that are not in the vital national security interest of the United States.
- 7.3 We encourage the foundations of the rule of law, the principles of individual liberty, and human rights. It should be the moral policy of the United States to oppose genocide, abortion, and religious and political persecution.
- 7.4 It is the position of the United States in world affairs to respect the sovereignty of all nations and to reject nation building. Freedom and self-determination are the foundations of all constitutional republics. Peaceful free nations should not be deprived of the right to defend their continued existence and independence.

- 7.5 We recognize that violent, radical Islamic Jihadists and other groups are at war with us. We believe that the U.S. Government needs to be clear and forthright about which nations and groups are at war with the United States. We believe that the overreliance on a criminal justice approach to combatting terrorist acts of war is ineffective. The United States will not tolerate terrorist actions or nations that enable terrorism. This in no way legitimizes depriving U.S. citizens of their Constitutional rights.
- 7.6 The United States shall defend its sovereignty and is solely responsible for its security. We oppose movements, such as the United Nations Agenda 21 policy, to cede jurisdiction, to relinquish any control over the United States, its citizens, military, territories or resources, or to give taxing authority in violation of the U.S. Constitution to any world body such as the United Nations, World Court, and the World Trade Organization.
- 7.7 We believe that the continued development of advanced military weapon systems, that ensure the technical and military superiority of the United States, is vital to maintaining defense in the 21st century and preventing any attack on U.S. homeland, its territories, and vital interests.
- 7.8 We affirm that the President of the United States must adhere to the Constitutional separation of powers by seeking and receiving Congressional authorization for any act of war.

## **Government Spending**

*We believe in efficient and economical government, at all levels, in the performance of their core constitutional functions with the effective use of all our assets. It is vital that the federal government operates within a balanced budget. There will be no unfunded mandates or bailouts from any level of government.*

## **Health Care**

*The ORP supports health care reforms that will lower costs and maintain quality health care delivered in a free-market based system. Families and individuals have the sole responsibility and right to make their own health care decisions. We advocate the repeal of the federal "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" and any efforts to implement similar efforts at the state level. We support the protection of the physician-patient relationship, promotion of competition, quality healthcare and patient choice in which the consumer, not the provider, controls payments. The Republican Party supports:*

- 9.1 Eliminating government barriers or incentives that limit the ability to make healthcare choices, limit options and result in increased costs for individuals, families, groups and employers.
- 9.2 Removing barriers in Oregon law to the marketing of health care and insurance solutions.
- 9.3 The fundamental and inalienable right of an individual to seek out and pursue the healthcare of their choosing.
- 9.4 We are committed to aggressively pursuing tort reform legislation to help avoid the

practice of defensive medicine, to keep healthcare costs low, and improve healthcare quality.

## **Immigration**

*The Oregon Republican Party recognizes that the integrity of our borders is essential to ensure the security and safety of our country.*

- 10.1 All government agencies must work together to enforce immigration laws, including, but not limited to, document verification, and to secure our borders.
- 10.2 We oppose amnesty and the designation of any city, county or jurisdiction in Oregon as a sanctuary for illegal foreigners.
- 10.3 Limit birthright citizenship to those born to a citizen of the United States, with no exceptions, within the intent of section 1 of the 14th Amendment.
- 10.4 English must be the official language of Oregon, the United States of America and all government business conducted therein.
- 10.5 We believe that voting is a treasured privilege and right that can only be earned through naturalization and citizenship.
- 10.6 With the exception of life saving medical services, taxpayer funded public services, privileges and entitlements should not be provided to illegal foreigners.
- 10.7 We endorse a simplified guest worker program (e.g. using the e-verify system).

## **Individual Liberty through Limited Government**

We demand the protection of individual rights, freedoms and private property by local, state and federal government. We agree with our nation's Founders' that our unalienable rights are endowed by our creator and that government, without the consent of the governed is tyranny. The powers of the federal government are limited to those enumerated in the US Constitution and restricted by the 9th and 10th amendments. Essential safeguards for our liberties must be restored to their original intent.

## **Oregon Seniors**

*Oregon Republican Party recognizes that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness does not end regardless of age.*

- 12.1 We oppose age-based discrimination.
- 12.2 We support the permanent segregation of the Social Security fund from the general fund.
- 12.3 We support the premise that all pensions, whether private or government, except social security retirement benefits, should be treated equally with regard to taxation.

12.4 We oppose taxation of Social Security Income.

## **Regulation**

*The Oregon Republican Party affirms the importance of practical regulations that promote confidence in our economy among individuals, families, entrepreneurs and businesses. We support only those regulations that protect free enterprise and personal freedoms.*

## **Self-Protection**

*It is an unalienable right of all people to use any reasonable and necessary force to defend and protect themselves, others and their property. All citizens have the right to keep and bear arms in a manner of their choosing without government interference.*

## **Voter Integrity and Election Reform**

- 15.1 We believe to protect the value of each constitutionally qualified Oregon vote in all elections, each voter must prove their United States citizenship, Oregon residency, and legal voting age of 18.
- 15.2 We support all measures to ensure timely delivery of ballots to military personnel and that those votes are properly counted.
- 15.3 In support of the United States Constitution, we oppose the National Popular Vote Movement, in order to maintain the Electoral College as it stands.
- 15.4 Ballot security is imperative to ensure confidence in the election results and in the rule of law. No votes shall be altered. All ballots shall be fully accounted for from printing to final disposition. No ballots shall be opened until Election Day.
- 15.5 Election divisions shall be transparent in the receipt, counting, and storing of the ballots by opening the entire process to election observers.
- 15.6 To ensure election integrity, penalties for violation of election laws must be severe and consistently enforced.
- 15.7 We support the direct election of Precinct Committee Persons.
- 15.8 The Oregon Republican Party supports the use of voter identification at local polls.
- 15.9 Automatic voter registration is not acceptable to the Oregon Republican Party.

## **Veterans**

*We support our veterans.*