

2010

**Pierce County Republican
Party Platform**

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Preamble

"All political power is inherent in the people, and governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed and are established to protect and maintain individual rights."

Washington State Constitution, Article I, Section I, 1889

Republicans in Pierce County, Washington affirm the principles of individual liberty on which our country, our state, and our party were founded. In this current period of economic challenges, we seek policies that allow individuals, families, and businesses to keep more of their earnings, to pursue prosperity through free enterprise, and to improve their daily lives through strong families, schools and communities.

To this end we embrace the following platform...

1. Economy, Jobs and Taxes

“Government does not produce revenue. It consumes it.” ~ Ronald Reagan

- Business enterprises should succeed or fail based on their merit, not by government intervention or bailout. Government is not a philanthropic agency.
- We support lower taxes and fees at all levels of government.
- Government regulation of business should be minimal except for contracts and public safety.
- It is the proper role of government to provide an environment that promotes capitalism and job growth.
- We support an individual's right to work.
- We oppose state income taxes and support the right of citizens to decide at the polls whether or not to increase their taxes.
- We support zero-based budgeting and a priority listing of government services.
- We support elimination of the Washington State "death tax" and the elimination of sales tax on all taxpayer supported construction projects.
- As all levies are based on current assessed value, all new levy initiatives should clearly state the real out of pocket cost to the voters.
- We support the Constitutional right of the voter initiative process and encourage the reduction and simplification of government regulations as a means of promoting growth and opportunity.
- We encourage reform of the Federal tax system and recommend replacing it with a simplified system that encourages economic growth, honesty and family financial security.

2. Education

***"The philosophy of the classroom today will be the philosophy of government tomorrow."* ~ Abraham Lincoln**

- We believe the primary authority and responsibility of educating our children resides with the parents. State may set minimum graduation requirements, but local School Boards should be free to determine education priorities and curriculum.
- Understanding our Nation's foundation and rich history form the basis of our common identity and freedom. Educators should support materials, curricula and programs that support our common culture, foundations and history as Americans.
- To achieve their full potential, we support non-English speaking students being immersed in special English language classes.
- We support school districts being allowed to dismiss in a timely manner any employee who fails to meet district performance or conduct standards.
- We believe the Federal Department of Education should have no role in State or local education and should be eliminated. Funds obtained from the elimination should be dispersed to the States or used to reduce the national deficit.
- Before graduation or grade promotion, students in grade K3 to K12 should be required to demonstrate competency in math, reading, and history.
- We support strong penalties against teacher unions who strike illegally.
- We believe that non-academic instruction in homosexuality should not be taught or promoted.
- We support parents' rights to withhold their children from specific classes that offend their family morals or beliefs.
- We believe parents have the right to enrollment choices within their public school system. We also support parents' right to private and/or home schooling.

3. Personal Liberty and Property Rights

"The fact is that government cannot produce equality, and any serious effort to do so can destroy liberty and other social goods." ~ Jeane Kirkpatrick

- We believe in a strong, free America that leads the world in the concepts of freedom, individualism and liberty for all.
- We believe in limited government as expressed by the Thomas Paine quote "That government is best which governs least".
- We support the right of citizens to defend themselves, their families and their property to include the keeping and bearing of arms as provided in the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution.
- The right to vote is essential to our liberty and we support measures to protect the voting process from fraud and abuse.
- We support the Washington State Constitutional right to initiative and referendum process. We object to any attempt to restrict those rights and processes.
- A citizen's right to "free speech" shall not be infringed upon.
- We believe that the voice of the people should be paramount and to that end, we believe that the Legislature's suspension of the voter approved "Taxpayer Protection Act", also known as Initiative 960 should be immediately reversed.
- "Eminent Domain" should not be used in situations that directly and primarily benefit developers and commercial interest or whose main purpose is to increase city/county/state tax revenues.

4. National Defense and Homeland Security

"And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." ~ John F. Kennedy

- Our State and Nation should honor all promises and obligations to our men and women in uniform who have defended us or are currently defending us.
- We support strict enforcement of our immigration laws to include securing our national borders. The war on terror cannot be won without strong control of our own national borders.
- We believe in maintaining a strong national defense to discourage attacks on our homeland.
- We support the relentless pursuit of all enemies of the United States.

- The United States of America is a sovereign nation. Therefore, we should never relinquish our sovereignty to a foreign nation or international body in any form.
- To defend our homeland, we support the development and deployment of a ballistic missile shield.
- We welcome legal immigrants who wish to build a better life in America.

5. Energy and Environment

- We believe that the free market, rather than government, will provide the best solutions to the continued improvement of our energy resources and our environment.
- We support accelerated, but environmentally safe development of oil, coal, hydro and nuclear energy in order to decrease our need for foreign oil and to limit the flow of American dollars to these foreign nations.
- We believe that government efforts to regulate carbon output should be based on sound science and proven dangers to our society. All scientific assertions should be completely vetted by an open and transparent peer review process.
- We support efforts to maintain fish runs that do not impede the operation of our dams.
- We strongly support the conservation of the environment, natural resources, wilderness areas and public parks based on sound scientific research.

6. Health Care

***“Man is not free unless government is limited...
As government expands, liberty contracts.” ~ Ronald Reagan***

- We believe that a healthcare system based on free enterprise provides all Americans with quality and accessible health care.
- Individuals and families should have the freedom to make healthcare decisions that are best for them, free of government intrusion.
- Our health care system should be a doctor/patient oriented process.

- We believe allowing competition, sale of health insurance across state borders, tort reform and increased preventative care are essential to lowering the cost of health care.
- All prescription drug purchases and health insurance premiums should be fully tax deductible without having to meet income limitations.
- We support the expanded use of personal and private tax exempt health savings accounts (HSA).
- We support the immediate repeal of the Health Care Act of March 2010.

7. Marriage, Family and Life

- We believe that the marriage between a man and woman is the cornerstone of a functional civil society.
- Parents and families hold primary responsibility for guiding their children to be good citizens through the use of education, care, discipline and training.
- We believe families, churches, and local communities make for a strong civil society. These entities are better suited than government to address most human needs and should be the primary providers of charity.
- We believe in the sanctity of life from the moment of conception to the moment of passing.
- We believe families are responsible to protect and care for family members.
- We believe the best adoption option for a child is to a legally married man and woman.

8. Transportation

- Investment in transportation infrastructure is critical to the Washington economy. Traffic relief should be an urgent matter to the Department of Transportation
- Transportation infrastructure project financing should be free of local and state taxation.
- To insure taxpayer funds are spent wisely, regular financial and performance audits of transportation agencies should be required, publicly reported, and findings implemented.
- Public transit projects should be primarily paid for by the users.
- We believe motor vehicle fuel taxes should be used solely for improving and maintaining state roads and highways.

- We support the construction and maintenance of general purpose roads over taxpayer-funded trains and light rail. The different modes of transportation should be prioritized, invested and funded in relationship to frequency of use.
- We encourage the private sector development of efficient, green energy sources and vehicles.
- We believe an individual has the right to choose their own mode of transportation. Government development of alternate transportation modes or methods should compliment this right rather than impede or adversely impact an individual's preferred choice.

9. International Issues

- We do not support international initiatives and mandates that abridge American sovereignty. We recognize that the success of America is due to its unique Constitution, which limits the power of the government over its citizens and in turn has led to increased opportunities and wealth. This system should never be overruled by adopting programs from foreign agencies.
- We support exporting our system of freedom, rather than embracing foreign-led programs, such as Agenda 21 as implemented by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (I.C.L.E.I.) and other agencies.

“You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the wealthy out of freedom. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else.” ~ Adrian Rogers