

# Pierce County Republican Party

## PLATFORM

Revised 2021

***Preamble: Republicans in Pierce County, Washington affirm that it is the proper role of government to protect our unalienable rights and principles of individual liberty and responsibility on which our state and our country were founded. We recognize that our rights come from God and government is instituted to protect those rights. We seek policies that empower individuals, families, and businesses to pursue prosperity with freedom from government intervention.***

### 1. Government and Property Rights

- a) We believe in a strong America that leads the world in the concepts of freedom, individualism, and liberty for all underscored by a belief in limited constitutional government, free markets, and fiscal responsibility.
- b) We support the Washington State Constitution, Declaration of Religious Freedom, that states: "Absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief and worship, shall be guaranteed to every individual..."
- c) We support the right to the initiative and referendum processes to its citizens. We object to any attempt by the government through legislation, ordinance, or the courts to intimidate or obstruct those individual rights and processes.
- d) We believe there should be due process of law prior to any government agency participating in asset forfeiture.
- e) We support the exercise of eminent domain only according to its original intent and oppose any uses that principally benefits commercial interests or increased tax revenues.
- f) We believe in individual private property rights and the right of property owners to determine the best use of their land with limited government intervention.
- g) We oppose the practice of separating and selling the various rights of a property, such as water, development, and conservation rights. Programs such as Transfer Development Rights, Purchase Development Rights, water banking, and land banking compromise the economic viability of land and undermine future generations' use and enjoyment of that land. Categorizing parcels of land into additional myriad jurisdictions, such as watershed regions, further erodes property rights and transfers authorities to largely unaccountable bureaucrats.
- h) We believe using taxpayer funds to purchase private lands, as a means of increasing public land ownership, should be used sparingly. Private ownership of land is consistent with economic freedom and private property owners are better stewards of their land.
- i) We support strong laws to protect individuals' rights and property by requiring Federal and State agencies to uphold contractual and historical land rights for water, grazing, forestry, agricultural, and land management.
- j) We support poll voting. We should end the practice of vote by mail and other indirect methods like electronic voting. We also support the county's right to request proof of the individual's right to vote. We affirm Pierce County voters' decision to reject Ranked Choice Voting.
- k) We support a statewide voter registration by party under the principle of freedom of association. We believe a caucus system is superior to a primary system.

- l) We support the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution and, therefore, reject government mandates that force organizations and individuals to engage in actions that go against their religious beliefs.
- m) Recognizing that at least fifteen states have already passed legislation making such a call, we support the call for a Convention of States, per Article V of the U. S. Constitution, limited to proposing amendments that: impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress.

## **2. Economy, Jobs, and Taxes**

- a) We believe the private sector creates jobs and generates revenues whereas government creates liabilities. The role of government should be to provide reliable infrastructure, property protection, and consistent regulations that strengthen existing businesses and attract new ones.
- b) Business enterprises should succeed or fail based on their ability to compete in the free market, not by government intervention or bailouts.
- c) We support Washington State becoming a “Right to Work” state where employees are not required to pay union dues, fees, or donations simply to obtain or keep a job. We object to “card check” union elections and “prevailing wage” laws.
- d) We believe that government employees should not be unionized. If government unions are allowed, the government should not automatically withhold union dues from paychecks, as it camouflages the extent of union involvement in employees’ lives. Private citizens conducting business or providing services caring for adults and/or children should not be required to be part of a union.
- e) We believe wages should be determined by the free market as embodied by negotiations between employers and employees. Minimum wage laws are counterproductive and should be eliminated at all levels of government.
- f) We oppose a state income tax and the Washington State “death tax.”
- g) We support the right of citizens to vote on whether to increase or decrease taxes.
- h) We oppose being charged sales tax on all government purchases, especially taxpayer supported construction projects.
- i) We believe levy initiatives should clearly state the immediate and long-term costs to the voters.
- j) We support replacing the federal tax system with a simplified tax structure. We support a Washington State Constitutional Amendment that requires a two-thirds majority vote to increase taxes.

## **3. Transportation**

- a) We believe that investment in our transportation infrastructure is critical to the Washington economy. Congestion relief should be the #1 priority for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).
- b) We believe an important goal of the WSDOT should be securing safe and cost-effective methods of moving people and commerce, not on “social engineering” such as three-person minimum occupancy lanes and dual toll lanes.
- c) We oppose government subsidies for transportation
- d) We support requiring timely financial and performance audits of transportation agencies and projects, with the findings accurately reported to the public.

- e) We believe motor vehicle taxes should be used solely for improving and maintaining roads and highways for motorized vehicles.
- f) We support the construction and maintenance of general-purpose roads over taxpayer-funded trains and light rail.
- g) We encourage free market, private sector development of energy efficient vehicles without government grants, subsidies, or mandates.
- h) We support competitive bidding to include out of state companies.
- i) We oppose a mileage tax, GPS tracking, and other invasive tax mechanisms.
- j) We support the voters' decision on \$30 car tabs.

#### **4. Energy and Environment**

- a) We believe the U. S. Department of Energy no longer serves the public interest and should be dissolved. The free market offers the best solution to the continued improvement of our energy resources and environment.
- b) We believe dependence on foreign oil endangers our national security, sovereignty, and economy. We support drilling and the development of pipelines, refineries, and viable alternative energy solutions financed by private investment.
- c) We support the environmentally safe development of oil, coal, hydroelectric, natural gas, and nuclear energy. We oppose the implementation of metering privately owned wells.
- d) We do not believe "anthropogenic" (man-made) climate change has been scientifically substantiated. Therefore, we do not support public policies written to fund, subsidize, or implement "solutions" to this theoretical problem.
- e) We support efforts to maintain fish runs while continuing the current operation of our dams.

#### **5. Education**

- a) We believe the primary authority and responsibility of educating our children resides with the parents. The state may set minimum graduation requirements, but education priorities and curriculum should be determined at the local level.
- b) We object to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families interfering with the upbringing of young children and the controlling of child care providers. This department should be eliminated.
- c) We support parents' rights to withhold their children from classes, psychological surveys, and sex education that offends their family morals or beliefs. Parents should have access to all data collected on their child and have the ability to correct any errors. Parents should be notified in advance before such activities occur.
- d) We support the immersion of non-English speaking students into English language classes.
- e) We support the elimination of the federal Department of Education.
- f) We support basic education that emphasizes fundamentals; reading, writing, and arithmetic based, as opposed to "outcome" or "performance" based.

- g) We believe gender identity, sexual expression, and sexual orientation should not be taught or promoted in government “public” schools or early learning centers. Schools should not be encouraging children to believe they are born into the wrong gender.
- h) We object to biological boys identifying as girls, competing against biological girls in all-girl athletic events.
- i) We support educational standards that can be measured. We oppose trends in education policy to implement unproven curriculum and assessments such as common core. We also disapprove of the use of Social Emotional Learning to supplant family values with government values and we oppose intrusive surveillance that tracks the attitudes and behaviors of our children.
- j) We support the enforcement of strong penalties against teachers and other government employees who go on strike.
- k) We oppose the indoctrination of children into transgender ideology via Drag Queen Story Hour in public libraries.
- l) We oppose the indoctrination of very young children into the transgender, and more generally LGBTQ, lifestyle via comprehensive sexual education as early as kindergarten.
- m) We believe exposure to sexually explicit materials is harmful to the developing mind of a child and that schools should not distribute such materials.
- n) We object to biological males, ostensibly identifying as females, invading the safe spaces, such as bathrooms and locker rooms, of biological females.

## **6. Marriage, Family, and Life**

- a) We affirm that marriage between a man and a woman is the cornerstone of a functional, civil society and is the fundamental basis for the family structure.
- b) We believe the best environment for the adoption of a child is placement with a legally married man and woman.
- c) It is the duty of parents, not the state, to protect, nurture, and prepare their children for adulthood.
- d) We believe families, churches, and local communities make for a strong civil society. These entities should be the principle providers of charity as opposed to government.
- e) We believe in the sanctity of life from the moment of conception to the moment of passing. We reject the use of tax dollars to end human life at any time.
- f) We affirm that a person’s race, age, and gender are determined at conception and that these laws of nature are immutable.

## **7. Health Care**

- a) We believe the Affordable Care Act, “Obamacare”, has weakened our medical care system, leading to escalating costs, a decreasing pool of qualified medical personnel, rationing of care, and loss of jobs. It should be repealed.
- b) We believe in the free market and individual choice. Permitting health insurance companies to compete across state lines, supporting sensible tort reform, and championing health savings accounts will lower the cost of health care.
- c) We reaffirm the “Right of Conscience” for health care providers, medical professionals, and insurance companies.

- d) We believe that health insurance premiums and medical expenses should be fully tax deductible and not subject to income limitations.
- e) We believe that parents should have notification and access to all health care decisions of their children and reject policies that undermine parental access to insurance information and health records. We also believe that parents are an integral part of caring for their child and we oppose school-based health clinics that serve children on school grounds.
- f) We do not support mandatory vaccines.

## **8. National Defense and Homeland Security**

- a) The United States of America is a sovereign nation and we should never relinquish our sovereignty to a foreign nation or international body.
- b) We believe in maintaining a superior national defense, including a strong nuclear deterrent, to discourage attacks on our homeland.
- c) We oppose environmental and land use policies that interfere with maintaining our national borders and national defense.
- d) We support legal immigration.
- e) We believe our state and nation should honor all promises and obligations to our men and women in uniform who have or are defending us.

## **9. International Issues**

- a) We reject all efforts to undermine the rule of law in America with alternate legal frameworks such as Sharia Law or any other foreign legal systems. Only American laws, anchored by the Constitution, should be used in American courts.
- b) We acknowledge that America's mission is to serve the world community by being a model of freedom. We, therefore, reject global agendas that seek to undermine our sovereignty.
- c) We support strengthening our alliance with the nation of Israel and other historically friendly nations.
- d) We encourage healthy trade interchange with countries that practice fiscal and monetary policies supporting balanced trade.
- e) We support the repeal of taxes on imports and exports that undermine our region's competitiveness, such as the Harbor Maintenance Tax.
- f) We support the construction of a wall along the Mexican border.
- g) We support a gold-backed dollar standard and reject digital currency.