



REPUBLICAN PARTY OF BRAZOS COUNTY 2014 PLATFORM

FEDERAL

- 1. Role of Government** - We hold that the only just and proper role of government is in the protection of man's God-given rights, which are life, liberty and property.
- 2. Universal Truths** - We believe in the existence of universal truths and absolute morality and reject the illogical fallacy of moral relativism pervasive in our society today.
- 3. Public Acknowledgment of God** - We affirm that the public acknowledgment of God is undeniable in our history and vital to our prosperity and strength as a nation. We affirm the constitutionality of public symbols of faith such as "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance and "In God We Trust," our national motto. We affirm the constitutional right of the people and their elected officials to display symbols of faith such as the Ten Commandments.
- 4. Sovereignty of the Church** - We support and acknowledge that the Church is a God-ordained institution with a sphere of authority separate from that of civil government and thus the Church is not to be regulated, controlled or taxed by any level of civil government.
- 5. Abolish Federal Departments** - We support significant cuts in the unconstitutional growth in the federal bureaucracy including the abolition of the following federal departments and agencies: Education, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Commerce, Health and Human Services, Labor, Interior, and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- 6. Abolishing the Federal Reserve** - We support the abolition of the Federal Reserve System, and adoption of a system consisting of floating interest rates and competing currencies (including but not limited to gold and silver), with Congress as the sole monetary authority per Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. As long as it exists, we support full and comprehensive regular audits of the Federal Reserve System.
- 7. Debt Ceiling Increases** - In light of the fact that the national debt has skyrocketed out of control, we oppose raising the debt ceiling any further. In the event of a government shutdown, the funding priorities shall be: 1) debt service, 2) military, 3) social security, and 4) Medicare.
- 8. Balanced Budget** - We support a balanced federal budget, except during wartime, defined as a period following a congressional declaration of war.

- 9. Entitlement Reform** - We support reform to entitlement programs that allows young people to opt out while preserving the benefits promised to retired Americans.
- 10. Baseline Budgeting** - We support an elimination of baseline budgeting and adoption of zero-based budgeting for all federal departments and agencies.
- 11. Surveillance of U.S. Citizens** - We oppose warrantless government surveillance of U.S. citizens by any means, including but not limited to: unmanned drones, internet spying, e-mail monitoring, cell phone surveillance, and monitoring of bank records. We oppose forcing internet companies to turn over records of individuals for whom no warrant has been issued.
- 12. Executive Orders** - We oppose the unprecedented, unconstitutional abuse of executive orders and support repeal of all executive orders that violate of the Constitution and the separation of powers.
- 13. Second Amendment** - We believe that the Second Amendment to the Constitution is an individual right, and we oppose any efforts to limit that right for any citizen, age 18 and over.
- 14. Tenth Amendment** - We do not support federal involvement in issues that should be left to the states. We believe that non-enumerated governmental authority is to be left to the states, as required by the Tenth Amendment.
- 15. Tax Code Reform** - We support abolishing the Internal Revenue Service and the 16th Amendment, as well as overhauling our current tax system.
- 16. Repeal 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution** - We support the repeal of the 17th Amendment, which took the power to select U.S. Senators from our state legislators. This enables the States to regain the balance of powers granted them by the Constitution of the United States.
- 17. Habeas Corpus** - We oppose any bill or provision that would suspend habeas corpus for American citizens, except where properly provided for by the U.S. constitution.
- 18. End Birthright Citizenship** - We support amending the 14th Amendment to end birthright citizenship requiring that at least one parent be a citizen of the U.S.
- 19. Official Language** - We support national legislation to make English the only official language in which the business and affairs (especially election instructions and ballot language) of the United States government are conducted.

20. Immigration -

- a) We strongly support legal immigration and oppose illegal immigration. We also support efforts to increase and enhance border security and strengthen interior enforcement measures.
- b) We also believe all United States residents should pay taxes regardless of their status; however, we do not believe that non-citizens should receive government assistance.
- c) We support legislation that prevents any area of the United States to be a sanctuary for illegal immigrants.
- d) We further support a real solution for illegal immigrants who live and work in the United States that includes utilizing the work-visa program while applying for legal status. While we oppose amnesty, we also oppose mass deportation.
- e) We support a national temporary work-visa program for illegal immigrants that allows legal residence for specific reasons such as work or education, is self-funding through fines and fees, includes criminal background checks, waives access to public entitlement programs, requires proficiency in the English language, and requires the full payment of taxes by workers and employers.

21. Sharia Law - We oppose any efforts to implement or recognize Sharia Law as valid in the United States of America. We oppose allowing separate Sharia courts.

22. Judicial Restraint - Judges are to judiciously interpret and apply the law according to the U.S. Constitution, not make it.

23. Presidential Appointment of "Czars" - We oppose the President appointing "czars." These officials must be approved by the U.S. Senate.

24. Eliminate Congressional Privilege Amendment - "Congress shall make no law applicable to a citizen of the United States that is not equally applicable to Congress and all government employees. All existing laws and precedents that do not meet this criterion shall be declared Null and Void."

25. Term-Limits for Elected Federal Offices - We call for term-limits for all federal elected officials.

26. Drug Testing - Elected officials, government workers and welfare recipients should be subjected to random drug testing for illegal drugs.

27. Welfare Programs - We support the abolition of all federal welfare programs, as they are not an appropriate role of the federal government.

28. Unfunded Mandates - We oppose all unfunded mandates.

29. Government Bailouts - We oppose all bailouts or direct monetary injections from the government into private companies. In a free market economy, no entity is "too big to fail."

30. Environmental Regulations - We oppose regulations in service to the theory of climate change.

31. Domestic Drilling - We support drastically reducing or eliminating restrictions on domestic drilling.

32. Internet Freedom - We oppose all efforts to further regulate the Internet in the United States or internationally, or to impose taxation upon internet goods and services.

33. Public Employee Unions - We support the abolition of public employee unions.

STATE

34. No New Taxes - We oppose any new state-wide taxes, including a personal income tax, property tax or any further tax increases. We support a repeal of the Margin Tax.

35. Legislative Accountability - All votes cast in the Texas Legislature should be recorded votes.

36. State Budget Accountability - We support an honest state budget process that eschews the use of accounting gimmicks to balance the state budget each biennium.

37. Constitutional Carry - We support the abolition of the portion of Article I, Section 23 of the Texas Constitution that regulates the wearing of arms, to allow open carry for the citizens of Texas to exercise their Second Amendment right.

38. Campus Carry - We support the right of Concealed Handgun License holders to carry handguns at all Texas public institutions of higher learning.

39. Texas House Pledge Cards - We call on the Texas Legislature to cease the use of pledge cards in all future House Speaker races. We call on Brazos County representatives to not sign pledge cards.

40. Hate Crimes - We urge the Texas Legislature to immediately repeal the Texas Hate Crimes Act, which is unnecessary and creates classes of victims.

LOCAL

41. Local Debt - Local government debt is out of control, and we support defined limitations on debt at the local level.

42. Taxes - We oppose all tax increases by local governments and support tax rates being as low as possible. Any increase, including an increase using the effective tax rate, should be considered a tax increase. Any tax rate increase should be publicly disclosed.

43. Corporate Welfare - We oppose local government handouts to businesses and other private entities in the name of economic development.

44. Bond Transparency - Costs and details of bond proposals should be clear in the ballot language of bond elections.

45. Annexation - Residents and landowners, in an area proposed for annexation, should have the right to vote to approve or reject the annexation.

46. Zoning - We believe in allowing flexibility for land use and keeping zoning restrictions to a minimum.

47. Development Regulations - We oppose unnecessary development regulations that are burdensome to small businesses, including excessive enforcement of building codes, costly permitting, and bureaucratic processes.

48. Electricity Deregulation - We support deregulation of municipally owned electric utilities. We believe that citizens should be able to purchase electricity on the marketplace.

49. Special Taxing Districts - We support restricting the authority of special taxing districts, such as Municipal Utility Districts and Municipal Management Districts, so that they are accountable to the people they serve and may not incur bond debt without a vote of their residents.

50. Eminent Domain - We oppose the government's taking of property without the consent of the property owner, unless the property is to be taken for a legitimate public use and with fair compensation.

51. Public Compensation - Public employee salaries and benefits should be comparable to similar private sector jobs.

52. Local Issues Platform - We support a continued presence for local issues in the platform of the Republican Party of Brazos County, and utilizing it to review candidates for local office, whether partisan or non-partisan.

FAMILY

53. Right to Life - We believe in the sanctity of human life, and that all life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death is a granted natural inherent rights by God that cannot be infringed upon by government. We believe that abortion, genocide, euthanasia and assisted suicide are infringements upon the right to life as stated in the preamble to the U.S. Constitution.

54. Federal Funding for Abortion - We oppose all federal funding for abortion.

55. Abortion Judicial Bypass - We support requiring complete public disclosure of all information (judge's name, position held, ruling or non-ruling and financial expenditures) concerning judicial bypass, except the mother's identity.

56. The Sanctity of Marriage - We believe that marriage should be between one natural man and one natural woman. We call on Congress to use its Constitutional Powers to enforce the Defense of Marriage Act.

HEALTHCARE

57. Repeal Obamacare - We support the immediate repeal of Obamacare and oppose replacing it with any new government-run healthcare system.

58. Freedom of Conscience - We oppose any effort to require private entities, such as Hobby Lobby, to cover abortions or contraception in health plans against their will.

59. Medicare Block Grants to States - We support divesting federal government responsibility for the administration of Medicare through block grant funding to the states.

60. Insurance Competition - We support patients having the ability to purchase health insurance across state lines.

61. Medicaid Copayment - We support Medicaid Reform that includes the addition of a nominal patient copayment to ensure over-utilization of Medicaid is minimized.

62. Reduce Healthcare Costs - We support free market reductions in healthcare costs by increasing healthcare competition, and reducing government regulations.

FOREIGN POLICY

63. Strong National Defense - We support a strong national defense and ensuring that our armed forces are supported during times of war and peace.

64. Declaring War - Since World War II, the United States Congress has not officially declared war. We believe that a declaration of war is necessary for the U.S. to enter into war with another nation and urge Congress to return this Constitutional principle to practice in the future.

65. Foreign Aid - We oppose all foreign aid, except in cases where national defense or disaster may require it.

66. United Nations - Due to the repeated attempts by the United Nations to infringe upon the sovereignty of the U.S., we support the withdrawal of the U.S. from the U.N. and the removal of U.N. headquarters from U.S. soil.

67. Defense of Israel - We call on the Republican Party to support mutual defense with the nation of Israel, considering Israel's position as a strong ally of the U.S.

68. International Organizations - We support U.S. withdrawal from the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the World Bank.

69. Free Trade - We support free trade as a necessary component of American capitalism and of the United States' influence in the world.

EDUCATION

70. Local Control - We support returning control of public schools to the local level from state and federal bureaucrats.

71. School Choice - We support giving parents the freedom to choose their children's education according to their own values, and believe that tax dollars should follow the child.

72. CSCOPE/Common Core Curriculum - CSCOPE and Common Core seek to indoctrinate our children with relativism, secular values, and socialist ideology. We urge the Texas Legislature to ban CSCOPE and Common Core from being taught in Texas schools.

73. Fair Admissions - We support merit-based admissions, and oppose affirmative action and quotas for higher education. We support repeal of the Top Ten Percent Rule.

74. Bilingual Education - We support the abolition of bilingual education, as it currently exists in Texas. We believe that the best method is an "English Immersion Program."

75. School Prayer - We urge Congress and the Texas Legislature to pass school prayer amendments and require school personnel to inform students of their First Amendment rights to pray and engage in religious speech, in groups or individually and on school property.

76. Education Spending - Education spending should prioritize classroom instruction and minimize administrative overhead and spending on non-educational facilities.

77. School Finance - The school finance system in Texas is in need of serious reform. We support a simple, fair and efficient method for financing our public school system.

78. Homeschool Education - We believe that parents have the right to homeschool, and should not face burdensome rules and regulations from government.

79. Textbooks - We believe all textbooks should be verified as factually and grammatically correct. We support closer review of textbooks by the State Board of Education and the elimination of "branding" and bias.

80. American Identity, Patriotism and Loyalty - The current teaching of a multicultural curriculum is divisive. We favor strengthening our common American identity and loyalty which includes the contribution and assimilation of different racial and ethnic groups. Students should pledge allegiance to the US and Texas flags daily to instill patriotism.

81. Equal Access to State Grants - We believe that all Texas students, whether graduating from public, private or home schools, should have equal access to all state supported grants, scholarships and loans.

82. UIL Participation for Private and Home Schools - We support legislation requiring the University Interscholastic League to allow participation by private and home schools.

83. Tenure - We support rigorous and frequent post-tenure review to ensure that tenure is not abused.

CONTINUOUS PARTY IMPROVEMENT

84. Presidential Primary - We call on the Republican Party of Texas (RPT) to demand a greater role in the presidential primary process by holding an earlier primary.

85. Platform Enforcement - The Republican Party of Brazos County shall request that all candidates filing in the Republican Primary indicate their positions on each plank of the platform of the Republican Party of Brazos County when filing in the Republican Primary. The positions of candidates shall be made publicly available.

86. Closed Primaries - We call on the RPT to support closed primaries.

87. Review of Candidates - We call on the RPT to review the qualifications of candidates for all elected positions, including so-called non-partisan offices.

88. Early Voting - Early voting should be conducted in the most cost-efficient way possible.

89. GOP Database - Improve or replace the RPT Database.

90. Party Focus - The RPT should focus on turnout and not just registration, and have real metrics for measuring success.

91. Election Training - Training for Election Clerks and Judges should be improved with updated information.

ADDENDUM

COMMENDING JUDGE J.D. LANGLEY

WHEREAS 85th District Judge J.D. Langley has chosen to retire at the end of 2014 after 24 years of exemplary service on that bench, and

WHEREAS Judge Langley has been an outstanding Republican standard bearer as a judge in Brazos County, becoming in 1990 the first Republican elected to be District Judge in this county since the reconstruction era, ousting a two-term incumbent Democrat judge, and

WHEREAS Judge Langley has served more years as District Judge than any other person in Brazos County history, and

WHEREAS Judge Langley served as County Court at Law Judge four years prior to his election as 85th District Judge, and

WHEREAS Judge Langley has managed his court well, giving justice under the law to thousands of Brazos County families and individuals, following Republican principles of speedy trial, equal justice under the law, due punishment for crimes committed and judicial restraint, and

WHEREAS Judge Langley has been a fine model of judicial temperament and honorable conduct in all his dealing, inspiring other judges, lawyers and fellow citizens, and

WHEREAS Judge Langley has administered the oath of citizenship to numerous new American citizens in Brazos County,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2014 Republican Party of Brazos County Convention on behalf of all Republican voters in this county for more than a quarter century, to express sincere congratulations and deep gratitude to 85th District Judge J.D. Langley for his honorable service and dedication, wishing him and his family the very best during his retirement years.

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