

2012 Resolutions

Brazos County Republican Party

In Memory of Dick Birdwell. Brazos County Republicans lost a true, proven conservative on April 4, 2012. Dick Birdwell was elected as a mayor and City Councilman in Lake Jackson, Texas in the 1980s. He later served a total of 6 years as a councilman in College Station, as well as being a Republican Precinct Chairman and delegate to the Republican State Convention. Dick Birdwell was a steadfast, consistent, creative pillar of our community who said what he meant, and meant what he said. The world is better for his having been in it, and this platform is dedicated to his memory.

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. **Abolish Federal Departments** - We support significant cuts in the unconstitutional growth in the federal bureaucracy including the abolition of the following federal departments: Department of Education, Department of Energy, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Commerce, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Labor and the Department of the Interior. Doing this would ensure that taxpayer money is not wasted and that unelected authority is not transferred to thousands of federal bureaucrats.
3. **Abolishing the Federal Reserve** - We support abolishing the Federal Reserve of the United States, and moving to a system of floating interest rates, competing currencies (including but not limited to gold and silver) and Congress as the monetary authority of the United States as outlined in Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution. As long as the Federal Reserve exists, we support making transparent all financial and monetary transactions of the Federal Reserve of the United States by means of a comprehensive audit.
4. **Debt Ceiling Increases** - We oppose all debt ceiling increases and any federal program or action that increases the national debt. We call on all Republican members of Congress to oppose every increase of the debt ceiling.
5. **Balanced Budget** - We support a constitutional amendment requiring our federal government to maintain a balanced budget, except for during wartime, which is defined as a period following a congressional declaration of war. Furthermore, we support limiting the federal budget to no more than 20% of the Gross National Product. Federal, state and local governments should have a balanced budget.
6. **Public Employee Unions** - We support the abolition of public employee unions.
7. **Controlling Government Growth** - Every government body should be required to limit any annual budget increase and spending to the percentage increase in non-governmental economic growth unless the increase is first voted on by the appropriate elected officials.
8. **Domestic Drilling** - We support drastically reducing or eliminating restrictions on domestic drilling.
9. **Affirmative Action** - We oppose all applications of affirmative action or quotas.
10. **Division of Federal and State Powers** - We call on Congress to step up their duties and responsibilities moving toward proper division of Federal and State powers, as declared in the Constitution and the Federalist papers.
11. **Judicial Restraint** - Judges are to judiciously interpret and apply the law according to the Constitution, not make it.
12. **Drug Testing** - Welfare recipients, elected officials and government workers should be subjected to random drug testing.
13. **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. We support the idea that the "public use" clause of the Fifth Amendment is to mean public ownership, and not the taking of property for a private use or development.
14. **Government Shutdown Guidelines** - We resolve that in the event of a government shutdown the funding priorities shall be: 1) debt services, 2) military, 3) social security and 4) Medicare.
15. **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.

16. **Internet Freedom** - We oppose all efforts to further regulate the Internet in the United States, or to impose taxation upon goods and services sold over the internet at the state or federal level. We oppose regulation of the Internet by international entities.
17. **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.
18. **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.
19. **Overtake the Dodd-Frank Act** - We support overturning the Dodd-Frank Act.
20. **Presidential Appointment of "Czars"** - We oppose the President appointing "czars." These officials must be approved by the U.S. Senate.
21. **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. We reject the efforts of courts, legislators and activists who seek to remove such symbols from our public lives.
22. **Reform Government Spending** - We support comprehensive government spending reform in order to simplify purchasing laws and maximize free market competition among qualified suppliers, and to provide the best value to taxpayers. We support removing government agency incentives to accelerate spending toward the end of the fiscal year, also known as "use it or lose it" budgeting.
23. **Repeal 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution** - We support the repeal of the 17th Amendment, which took the power to select US Senators from our state legislators. This will enable the States to recoup the balance of powers granted them by the Constitution of the United States as intended by the Founding Fathers.
24. **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.
25. **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.
26. **Tax Code Reform** - We support abolishing the Internal Revenue Service and the 16th Amendment, as well as overhauling our current tax system.
27. **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.
28. **Term-Limits for Elected Federal Offices** - We call for term-limits for all elected federal office holders and their staffs.
29. **U. S. Space Program** - We support funding for both America's space program and private sector research and development of space technology. We further believe that the U.S., led by the state of Texas, should continue to lead the world in space technology and not be dependent upon other nations.
30. **Welfare Programs** - We support the abolition of all federal welfare programs, as they are not an appropriate role of the federal government.
31. **Sunset Legislation** - We support the passage of sunset legislation requiring ongoing justification for all federal agencies, boards and funded programs.
32. **Unfunded Mandates** - We oppose all federal and state unfunded mandates.
33. **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."
34. **Intergovernmental Assistance** - We oppose all

monetary assistance from the U.S. federal government or any of its agencies (including the Federal Reserve System) to any other government, including but not limited to: U.S. state governments, municipal governments, foreign national governments or international organizations.

35. **Strong National Defense** - We support a strong national defense and giving our volunteer service members the best support we can provide.
36. **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.
37. **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.
38. **Constitutional Amendment** - "Congress shall make no law that applies to any citizen of the United States that does not apply to all members of congress. Congress shall make no law that applies to any member of Congress that does not apply equally to all citizens of the United States. All existing laws and regulations that do not meet these criteria shall be declared null and void."

STATE

1. **No New Taxes** - We oppose any new state-wide taxes, including a personal income tax, property tax or any further tax increases and encourage the Legislature to stop wasteful spending.
2. **Annexation of Rural Areas by Cities** - In recent years, there have been many instances of annexation of rural subdivisions and open land by adjacent cities, and this has occurred against the will or consent of the annexed citizens. Therefore, we urge the Texas Legislature to correct this type of annexation by promoting legislation requiring that residents and landowners, in the proposed annexation area, have an opportunity to vote in the next regularly scheduled election for or against annexation.
3. **Texas House Pledge Cards** - We call on the Texas Legislature to cease the use of pledge cards in all future Texas House Speaker races. Requiring house representatives or pressuring them, to pledge their vote for a speaker candidate eighteen months before the election is a flawed practice that could potentially prevent them from representing the will of their districts. We further call on Brazos County Republicans not to sign pledge cards.
4. **Enhance Border Security Technology** - We support

the increased use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles over the skies of Texas' international border region.

5. **Voter ID** - We support government-issued photo IDs as a requirement to vote in the state of Texas.
6. **Proving Capital Punishment** - We believe the death penalty should be used only in cases where the crime is proven with direct physical evidence. Circumstantial evidence alone should not result in the death penalty.
7. **Hate Crimes** - We believe that the current Hate Crimes Law is unnecessary and creates classes of victims that are discriminatory. We urge the Texas Legislature to immediately repeal this law.
8. **Rotation of Earliest-Voting States in Presidential Selection Years** - Be it resolved that the BCRP calls for rotating primaries in Presidential election years so that all states have an opportunity to hold an early primary.
9. **State and Local Government Debt Limits** - We believe state and local governments should limit the amount of debt they incur. These entities should not carry more debt than can be serviced by 25% of their annual revenues.
10. **Texas and the Voting Rights Act of 1965** - We disagree with the Justice Department's interpretation of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its subsequent ruling on the Texas voter ID law, which disregards the will of Texas voters. Therefore, we fully support Attorney General Greg Abbott's challenge of this Act's constitutionality.
11. **Legislative Accountability** - We support a permanent rule requiring that all votes cast in the Texas House and Senate be recorded votes, which are freely available to the electorate.
12. **Precinct Conventions** - We support the Republican Party of Texas establishing an option to select a meeting schedule for precinct conventions other than immediately following the closing of the polls on primary election days.

LOCAL

1. **Taxpayer Handouts** - We oppose local governments using tax dollars to give handouts to businesses and other private entities in the name of economic development.
2. **Zoning** - We believe in allowing flexibility for land uses and keeping zoning restrictions as few as possible, as the marketplace can best determine how land is developed.
3. **Building Codes** - We oppose unreasonable

implementations of the building codes that are unnecessarily burdensome on small business owners.

4. **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.
5. **Deregulation** - We support deregulation of municipally owned electric utilities. We believe that citizens should be able to purchase electricity on the marketplace.
6. **Local Issues Platform** - We support a current and future presence in the Brazos County Republican platform for taking positions on local issues. The platform will be utilized to review candidates for all local elected offices, whether partisan or non-partisan.
7. **Ronald Reagan's 11th Commandment** - Republicans should follow Ronald Reagan's 11th commandment by refraining from both personal and anonymous attacks and by being respectful of fellow Republicans.

EDUCATION

1. **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." The study of additional languages is encouraged but not at the expense of the English language.
2. **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.
3. **More Education for Our Dollars** - Educating Texans is a priority to Texas taxpayers. In order to prioritize education spending, it is necessary to maximize the percentage of school funds that are directed toward instructional purposes.
4. **Public Education Finance Reform** - Public Education finance in the State of Texas is overly complex and lacks accountability, with policy often determined by litigation instead of legislation. We call upon the Texas legislature to craft a simple, fair and efficient method for financing our public school system to ensure our children receive a high quality education.

5. **Private and Home Education** - We believe that parents should have the right to home school or choose the school their children will attend, with vouchers in an amount equal to the average total per pupil district spending .
6. **Local Control** - We believe high quality education is best achieved by returning control of public schools to the local level.
7. **Texas State Board of Education** - We support returning to the State Board of Education the power to hire and fire both the Commissioner of Education and the Executive Administrator of the Permanent School Fund.
8. **Textbooks** - We believe all textbooks should be verified as factually and grammatically correct. Textbooks should be utilized in a cost effective manner. We support closer review of textbooks by the state board of education and the elimination of "branding" and bias.
9. **American Identity, Patriotism and Loyalty** - The current teaching of a multicultural curriculum is divisive. We favor strengthening our common American identity and loyalty instead of multiculturalism that emphasizes differences among racial and ethnic groups. Students should pledge allegiance to the American and Texas flags daily to instill patriotism.
10. **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.
11. **UIL Participation for Private and Home Schools** - We call on the Texas Legislature to adopt legislation requiring the University Interscholastic League to open participation to both private and home schools.
12. **Fair Admissions** - We support merit-based admissions for all college and university applicants to public institutions. We further support the repeal of the 1997 Texas legislative act commonly known as the Top Ten Percent Rule.
13. **Graduation Requirements** - We encourage the State Board of Education to require the successful completion of courses in Early American History, civics and economics in order to receive a high school diploma in Texas.
14. **Tenure** - We support rigorous and frequent post-tenure review to ensure that tenure is not abused.

HEALTHCARE

1. **Repeal Obamacare** - We support an immediate repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), also known as "Obamacare." We support giving control of the health care system to patients and their health care providers, not bureaucrats in government.
2. **Freedom for Religiously Affiliated Healthcare Entities** - We oppose any effort by the federal government to require private entities to perform abortions or provide contraception against their will.
3. **Medicare Block Grants to States** - We support divesting federal government responsibility for the administration of Medicare through block grant funding to the states.
4. **Competition Among Insurers** - We support increased competition among health insurance firms in a national market that traverses state lines. Responsible patients should not have to worry about losing their insurance. Insurance companies should have to worry about losing patients' business.
5. **Eliminate Healthcare Kickbacks** - We support the removal of healthcare industry Safe Harbor protections from federal anti-kickback statutes, which economic studies indicate has led to an unsustainable rise in U.S. healthcare costs since its passage in 1987.
6. **Incentivize Healthcare Providers by Outcomes** - We support financial incentives for healthcare providers to keep patients healthy, not for the number of tests they run or procedures they perform.
7. **Medicaid Reform and Co-Payments** - We support Medicaid Reform that includes the addition of a nominal patient copayment to ensure over-utilization of Medicaid is minimized.
8. **Medical Liability Reform** - We support meaningful tort reform that leaves healthcare provider accountability in place, while reducing the practice of defensive medicine and ensuring medical malpractice insurance costs go down.
9. **Reduce Healthcare Costs** - We support free market reductions in healthcare costs by increasing healthcare competition, not by raising taxes or by replacing the current system with even greater inefficiency and the uncontrollable costs of a government monopoly.
2. **Foreign Aid** - We oppose all foreign aid, except in cases where national defense or disaster may require it.
3. **Free Trade** - We support free trade as a necessary component of American capitalism and of the United States' influence in the world.
4. **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 United States to enter into war with another nation and urge Congress to return this Constitutional principle to practice in the future.
5. **United Nations** - Due to the repeated attempts by the United Nations (U.N) to infringe upon the sovereignty of the United States and their failure to fulfill their charter, we support the withdrawal of the United States from the United Nations and the removal of U.N. headquarters from U.S. soil unless substantial changes are made.
6. **International Organizations** - We support U.S. withdrawal from the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the World Bank.

FAMILY

1. **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 right 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 Constitution.
2. **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 with exception of mother's identity.
3. **Federal Funding for Abortion** - We oppose all federal funding for abortion.
4. **The Sanctity of Marriage** - We believe that marriage should be between one natural man and one natural woman.

PLATFORM ACCOUNTABILITY

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

FOREIGN POLICY

1. **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.