

RESOLUTION TO SIMPLIFY THE TEXAS REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence is 2 pages long, The US Constitution is 20 pages long, the Bill of Rights is 10 pages long, but the Texas Republican Party Platform is 32 Pages long;

WHEREAS, The general public seems to be too busy to read long and involved platforms, and therefore many do not understand what the Republican party stands for, giving them an apparent apathetic view of voting for Republicans;

WHEREAS, the Texas Republican Platform contains such a diversity of positions, many of them contradictory, many of them of excessive specificity and some of the offensive to many members of our party;

WHEREAS, some candidates find it politically impossible to run while adhering to our current platform or choose to ignore it or have not even read it because of its length and poor reputation;

WHEREAS, historically Texas Republican Party Platforms prior to 1980 never exceeded 13 platform planks and focused on general principles held in common by all Republicans;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Texas Republican Party Platform be limited to a general preamble of no more than 1000 words and Ten (10) platform planks, each to be limited to no more than 500 words.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures;

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has held that that the right to travel from one state to another ...is not a mere conditional liberty subject to regulation and control under conventional due process or equal protection standards, but a right broadly assertable against private interference, as well as governmental action, and a virtually unconditional personal right guaranteed by the Constitution (Shapiro v Thompson 394 U.S.);

WHEREAS, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has deployed advanced imaging technology requiring a traveler to either submit to a scan with the capability to capture a virtual naked image of the person or to submit to an intrusive, groping search including the touching of the individual's genitals as a condition of travel without probable cause that the individual poses any threat;

WHEREAS, there remain significant questions about the long-term safety and effectiveness of the technology as a security device;

WHEREAS, refusal to submit to a body scan does not constitute probable cause to be searched;

WHEREAS, it is an appropriate role of the State of Texas to protect her citizens from the abuse of over-zealous government employees groping and abusing them without probable cause and in the name of safety; now therefore

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Republican Party of Texas recommends the passage of legislation to protect the rights and dignity of travelers by requiring that probable cause must be present for an individual to be searched as a condition of access to public facilities or transportation.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EQUAL TREATMENT UNDER THE LAW

WHEREAS, the Republican Party was founded on the principle of equality for all people regardless of their differences;

WHEREAS, the Republican party led the fight for civil rights for minority groups, opposing Jim Crow laws, ending miscegenation laws, desegregating the federal government and military and passing the Civil Rights Act;

WHEREAS, Republican activists and lawyers have led the fight against “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”, California’s Proposition 8 and other discriminatory measures;

WHEREAS, marriage is a sacrament of the church and the government is constitutionally prohibited by the First Amendment from dictating marriage policy to churches or to appropriate the use of the term marriage;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Republican Party of Texas should support equal legal status for all people and specifically in the area of marriage we encourage our state legislature to provide legal equality for all couples in the form of contracts of civil union and a declaration that the government has no jurisdiction over the sanctification of marriage.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING AGENDA 21

WHEREAS, The United Nations Agenda 21 promotes international directives and agendas and such as “smart growth” and “sustainable development” through the use of unrepresentative government boards to create taxes or otherwise obtain public funds resulting in the regulation and management of Colorado citizens; and

WHEREAS, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, ICLEI, is a UN accredited Non-Governmental Organization which helped author and whose design is the implementation of the action plan of Agenda 21;

THEREFORE be it resolved that we support for the right of the citizens of Texas to acquire, use and dispose of real property. We reject any and all UN Agenda 21 programs, projects, treaties and contracts that jeopardize private property rights and create unrepresentative local entities and endorse the introduction and passage of legislation prohibiting the state of Texas and the counties, cities and municipal agencies of Texas from implementing programs of, expending money for, receiving funds from or contracting with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives.

RESOLUTION ON GAMING IN TEXAS

WHEREAS, individuals should have the right to spend their money as they choose on any form of entertainment, even games of skill and chance;

WHEREAS, every state bordering Texas offers some form of legalized private gambling so that laws restricting gambling within Texas only direct that business to a neighboring state;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that legalized gambling in Texas would generate \$9 billion in business revenue and \$2.4 billion in tax revenue annually and create as many as 50,000 additional jobs in Texas;

WHEREAS, the example of cities like Gulfport, Mississippi suggests that legalized gambling reduces crime and improves public welfare by growing the economy and reducing unemployment;

WHEREAS, the state is likely to face future budget shortfalls and revenue from gambling would make a significant impact on state revenues, both directly and indirectly;

THEREFORE be it resolved that privately operated casino and mechanized gaming should be permitted in Texas at appropriate locations, including Horse and Dog tracks, on Indian lands and at other designated places, with an appropriate level of tax charged on all gambling winnings.

RESOLUTION ON INTERNET RIGHTS AND SECURITY

WHEREAS, the internet has become the strongest growth sector in the US economy, producing jobs and opportunities which benefit the entire nation;

WHEREAS, existing laws have been used successfully to prosecute internet piracy and theft of intellectual property both domestically and internationally;

WHEREAS, the privacy and property rights of all citizens are protected by the Bill of Rights and no person should be deprived of their rights, property or the product of their labor without due process of law;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Republican Party opposes all attempts to pass special laws, like the Stop Online Piracy Act, which suspend the rule of law on the internet and allow government to shut down websites either directly or through intimidation without a warrant or judicial hearing.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT SCHOOL CHOICE

WHEREAS, The Republican Party of Texas platform encourages the Texas Legislature to enact funding options that “fund the student, not the school or district;”

WHEREAS, the dropout rate in Texas has reached crisis proportion, costing taxpayers many millions of dollars each year;

WHEREAS, diversity of educational opportunities makes it possible to address the varied needs of different student populations;

WHEREAS, school choice can improve the quality of education for all students both through expanding education options, through competition and through reducing pressure on community schools;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the State of Texas urges the passage of a School Choice bill in this legislative session which will require school districts to provide vouchers to each student of a value equal to 70% of the amount spent per student in their home district which can be spent with any public, private or charter school.

RESOLUTION TO REGULATE MARIJUANA LIKE ALCOHOL

WHEREAS, there is no power found in the United States Constitution that grants the federal government authority to regulate marijuana but that authority is reserved to the States and to the people under the 9th and 10th Amendments to the US Constitution;

WHEREAS, marijuana has proven health benefits for alleviating suffering and treating a number of diseases;

WHEREAS, there is no evidence that marijuana is more addictive or more dangerous to users than other legal drugs like alcohol and nicotine;

WHEREAS, Texas taxpayers are burdened by the substantial costs of investigating, arresting, prosecuting and jailing non-violent offenders for charges involving marijuana use and possession;

WHEREAS, the high levels of crime along our border with Mexico result primarily from the high risk and high profit nature of the illegal trade in drugs;

WHEREAS, removing marijuana from the underground market and regulating it like alcohol would enhance public safety, expand the Texas economy with a valuable additional agricultural product and generate tax revenue for public purposes;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Republican Party of Texas encourages the Texas legislature to pass legislation making possession of limited amounts of marijuana legal for adults 21 and older, establishing a system in which marijuana is regulated and taxed similar to alcohol and allowing for the legal cultivation of industrial hemp in the State of Texas.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

WHEREAS, English common law and Article One, Section 9 of the constitution guarantee citizens the right of *Habeas Corpus*;

WHEREAS, the Fourteenth Amendment to the constitution guarantees the right to due process of law and prohibits state and local governments from depriving citizens of life, liberty or property;

WHEREAS, the Fifth Amendment to the constitution guarantees that “No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury;”

WHEREAS, the *Posse Comitatus Act* expressly declares that it “shall not be lawful to employ any part of the Army of the United States, as a posse comitatus, or otherwise, for the purpose of executing the laws, except in such cases and under such circumstances as such employment of said force may be expressly authorized by the Constitution or by act of Congress;”

THEREFORE be it resolved that all Republican state legislators in Texas should support legislation to protect and preserve these rights, including by nullifying or passing protective legislation to counter provisions in federal laws which authorize unconstitutional detention of citizens by federal law enforcement without due process or any enforcement of federal law by the military within the State of Texas, including sections 1021 and 1022 of the National Defense Authorization Act.

RESOLUTION REGARDING PRIVACY RIGHTS IN TEXAS

WHEREAS: The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution guarantees the right of private individuals to be free from government interference in their homes and private lives;

WHEREAS: The Texas law making sodomy a crime has been struck down by a conservative Supreme Court largely appointed by Republican presidents from Texas;

WHEREAS: The inclusion of an endorsement for the reinstatement of the sodomy law in Texas has made the Texas Republican platform the target of criticism in the media and from Republican groups both within Texas and nationwide;

THEREFORE be it resolved that consistent with our belief in the principles of limited, constitutional government, the Republican Party of Texas does not support any legislation that would attempt to control or criminalize the private sexual practices of consenting adults.