LUBBOCK COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

2016 Platform

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LUBBOCK COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

2014 PLATFORM

PLATFORM COMMITTEE:

Jon David Bruegel (chair) • Jim Baxa • Allen Corbin • Stephanie Lambert
Robert D. Rogers •Amanda Smith • Alan Sucsy • Brian Thornton

PREAMBLE

The embodiment of the conservative dream in America is Texas. Throughout the world people dare to dream of freedom and opportunity. Recognizing that the majority of citizens hold Conservative values and reject the intrusion of the Federal government in healthcare, education, and welfare, we Republicans support a return to traditional, conservative fiscal and social values. The Republican Party of Texas unequivocally defends that dream. We strive to preserve the freedom given to us by God, implemented by our founding fathers, and embodied in the Constitution. We recognize that the family is the strength of our nation. It is our solemn duty to protect life and develop responsible citizens. We understand that our economic success depends upon free market principles. If we fail to maintain our sovereignty, we risk losing the freedom to live these ideals.

PRINCIPLES

We believe in:

1. Strict adherence to the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. and Texas Constitutions;
2. Preserving American freedom and Texas sovereignty as guaranteed by the 9th and 10th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States;
3. Limiting the expanse of government power;
4. The sanctity of human life, created in the image of God, which should be protected from fertilization until natural death;
5. Personal accountability and responsibility. Equal opportunity is a right and a privilege but equal outcomes are not;
6. Self-sufficient families, founded on the traditional marriage of a natural man and a natural woman;
7. Having an educated population, with parents having the freedom of choice for the education of their children;
8. Americans having the right to be safe in their homes, in their streets, and in their communities, and the unalienable right to defend themselves without violating their individual liberties;
9. A free enterprise society unencumbered by government interference or subsidies;
10. Restoring American sovereignty and leadership in honoring all of those who serve and protect our freedom with peace through strength.

ARTICLE I: LIMITING THE EXPANSE OF GOVERNMENT POWER

SECTION I: GENERAL FEDERAL POWERS

1. **Limited Federal Powers**: We support state sovereignty reserved under the 10th Amendment, which says, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." We oppose mandates beyond the scope of federal authority. We further support abolition of federal agencies involved in activities not originally delegated to the federal government under a strict interpretation of the Constitution. We support the Governor, Attorney General, and Legislature to aggressively pursue enforcement of the 10th Amendment.

2. **Executive Branch Overreach**: The President of the United States and the executive branch of the federal government have violated and bypassed the Constitutional separation of powers. These executive branch rules and administrative regulations carry the authority of law, thus avoiding Article I of the Constitution. We demand that Congress assert its Article I Constitutional authority over administrative rules of executive agencies.

3. **Divestiture of Unconstitutional Powers by the Federal Government:** Congress shall begin the process of divesting and defunding the federal government of all departments of the federal government that currently create and enforce upon the states and the people, administrative laws extracurricular to the Constitutionally enumerated powers of the federal government.

4. **Abuse of the Commerce Clause:** We believe that regulation of Commerce in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution has been purposely misinterpreted from its original intent to facilitate the seizure of power by the federal government to micro-manage otherwise regular commerce within and between respective states.

5. **Constitutional Citations on Legislation:** We urge that all bills presented in Congress include citations to the authorizing Constitutional provision and cost of implementation.

6. **Germane Contents Requirement:** All language in any bill must be germane to the title of the act to prohibit the current practice of inserting funding or regulations into otherwise unrelated legislation.

7. **Laws Applying Equally to Legislators:** U.S. Congress and the Texas state legislature shall make no law that applies to the citizens of the United States or the State of Texas that does not apply equally to the Senators, Representatives, and their staff; Congress and the Texas state legislature shall make no law that applies to Congress or the Texas state legislature that does not apply equally to the people of the United States or the State of Texas.

8. **Elimination of Executive Orders:** We demand elimination of presidential power to issue executive orders outside of Constitutional authority and other mandates lacking congressional approval, as well as repeal of all previous executive orders and mandates which exceeded the scope of Constitutional authority.

9. **Eliminating the Appointment of Czars:** We urge Congress to use its full Constitutional authority to abolish current and future appointment of czars which bypasses Senate confirmation.

10. **National Labor Relations Board (NLRB):** We support abolishing the NLRB because of its gross abuse and misuse of its original intended powers. We support legislation that opposes the ruling which allows the micro-union approach to organizing. We also condemn the overreach of the NLRB to stop companies from moving operations to right-to-work states.

11. **Law Enforcement:**
    We support/believe:
    - Limitation of criminal jurisdiction of federal law-enforcement agencies in accordance with Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution;
    - Most crime is local. Law enforcement authority should be reserved to the state under the 10th Amendment;
    - The local sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer within each county which supersedes federal law enforcement authority.

We oppose:

- The expansion of federal law-enforcement authority and the use of military against citizens;
- The increasing militarization of local and state police departments;
- Law-enforcement agencies at all levels increasingly infringing on our civil liberties to especially include our 1st, 2nd, and 4th Amendment rights under the U.S. Constitution.

12. **U S A F r e e d o m Act:** We urge the immediate and full repeal of the USA Freedom Act. Administrative warrants are unconstitutional and should be abolished.

13. **Indefinite Detention:** We urge the immediate repeal of any legislation, executive and military and military orders and directives allowing indefinite detention or military custody of persons the government suspects of involvement in terrorism without benefit of *habeas corpus*.

14. **National Security Data Center:** Administrative warrants are unconstitutional. Therefore, all U.S. citizens should be free from bulk collection of metadata and government surveillance of personal electronic communications, except in cases authorized by judicially issued warrants following due process.
15. **Repeal Emergency War Powers:** We charge Congress to repeal the War Powers Act and end our declared state of emergency.

16. **Inter-jurisdictional Agreements:** We oppose inter-jurisdictional agreements with any state that prevent the Governor from controlling the military, police, other emergency management personnel, and State of Texas resources.

17. **Washington D.C.:** We strongly oppose making the District of Columbia a state.

18. **Census:** We oppose the Census Bureau's obtaining data beyond the number of citizens residing in a dwelling, and we oppose statistical sampling adjustments in the census. We urge that U.S. citizens who, because of religion or conscience, are compelled to withhold full response to any census question, be held guiltless.

19. **Preservation of Republican Form of Government in Texas:** We support our republican form of government in Texas and oppose Initiative and Referendum.

20. **Constitutional Convention:** We call for an Article V Convention to limit the role of the federal government. We recognize the concerns that some conservatives have about of a runaway convention, but we believe that the risk of continuing on the present course is far greater. If the Article V Convention were to become a runaway convention, we call for Texas to secede from such a union. Be it resolved that the Lubbock County Republican Party of Texas supports Governor Abbott's Texas Plan calling for a Convention of the States.

21. **Affirmative Action:** The Lubbock County Republican Party believes in equal opportunity for all American citizens without regard to race or gender; therefore, we oppose affirmative action.

22. **Annexation:** Residents of any area to be annexed must approve annexation by majority vote.

23. **Property Forfeiture:** Unless there is a felony criminal conviction, we oppose the use of civil forfeiture laws and support assessing damages, including legal fees and interest to reimburse injured parties for costs accrued when property is returned to its original owner.

24. **Eminent Domain:** We oppose the use of eminent domain, which includes seizing private property for public or private economic development or for its increased tax revenues. We urge the legislature to amend the Texas Property Code to protect the rights of private property owners by notification of their rights under the law with regard to condemnation and to require the condemner to show the just need for the action by petitioning a court of jurisdiction with significant due process safeguards for the property owner. We believe that the taking of property should follow with immediate fair market value compensation to the property owner. Afore stated compensation to include access to any remaining property and a right to purchase land not used for condemning purposes for the actual price paid.

25. **Homestead Protection:** We support continuance of Texas' homestead protection.

26. **Livestock and Pet Locations:** We oppose a mandatory national and state animal identification system requiring registration of all animals, of animal owners and their properties, including GPS coordinates.

27. **Free Speech for Non-profits and Religious Organizations:** We urge change of the Internal Revenue Code to allow non-profit and religious organizations to address political issues without fear of losing their tax-exempt status. We call for repeal of requirements that these organizations send government any personal information about their contributors.

28. **Drones:** We oppose the use of drones to attack and/or to spy on all U.S. citizens without due process, both domestically and internationally.

29. **Bureau of Land Management:** We call for the elimination of the BLM with the federal lands and parks to be ceded to the states in which they reside without cost to the states.

30. **Texas Independence:** We urge the State of Texas to pass a constitutional amendment allowing the people of Texas to decide on whether or not the State of Texas should reassert its status as an independent nation.

31. **Daylight Savings Time:** We call for Texas to stop changing times, and stay on daylight savings time all year long.

32. **Repeal Ban on R-12 & R22 Freon:** We declare that the ban and penalties on the use of R-12 & R-22 Freon, and the nations deemed as developing are free to use the inexpensive R-12 & R22 Freon be repealed along with the high taxes that go fund the disproven science of global warming.

33. **Refugees:** We believe that all refugee settlements in Texas should be done solely by the State of Texas, not by the Federal Government.

34. **Federal Highway Funding:** We oppose the Federal Government making highway funding contingent upon any state law.

SECTION II: REFORMING THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

1. **Accountability of United States Court Judges:** We oppose any rulings by Judges that are made using "International law" or laws of foreign countries that have not been established by due process of the United States Congress. We support the overturning of these rulings.

2. **Direct Election of State Judges:** We support our right to select our judges by direct, partisan vote.

3. **Visiting Judges:** We support legislation prohibiting judges defeated by the electorate from serving as visiting judges, or acting as judges in any capacity, until such time they are reinstated by the electorate through a subsequent election.

4. **Judicial Restraint:** We support judges who strictly interpret the Constitution based on its original intent. We oppose Judges who assume themselves legislative powers.

5. **Remedies to Activist Judiciary:** We call Congress and the President to use their Constitutional powers to restrain activist judges. We urge Congress to adopt the Judicial Conduct Act of 2005 and remove judges who abuse their authority.

6. **Statutory Authority for Regulation:** Defendants charged with violating a governmental regulation should have the right to see the enabling law. Defendants shall have an affirmative defense, both within an agency and a court, if there are conflicting laws or regulations, or if such a regulation is in conflict with Constitutional rights.

SECTION III: RESTORING INTEGRITY TO OUR ELECTIONS

1. **Fair Election Procedures:**

   We support:

- Modifications and strengthening of election laws to assure ballot integrity and fair elections;
- Government-issued photo ID at in-person voting;
- Increased scrutiny and security in balloting by mail;
- Prohibition of internet voting and any electronic voting lacking a verifiable paper trail;
- Prohibition of voting by private mobile device;
- Felony prosecution for election fraud with jail sentences.

2. **Repeal the Voting Rights Act of 1965:** The original intent of the Voting Rights Act was to overcome the residual combined efforts of the Ku Klux Klan and the Democratic Party to suppress primarily "black" and other minority voter participation in a number of Southern states after the Civil War. Now, the locus of the Democratic Party has shifted from the targeted states in the South to the nation's population centers and evidence of voter discrimination in the original targeted Southern states that are now predominantly Republican, has significantly abated and taken different forms in non-targeted states. The original intent of the law is being subverted as a means to actually enable voter fraud and to diminish the intended Constitutional powers of the targeted states in favor of a more dominate federal government.

3. **Candidate Eligibility:** A candidate running for office should be required to reside within the geographical boundaries of the office sought.

4. **Voter Registration:**
   We support:
   - Restoring integrity to the voter registration rolls and to reducing voter fraud;
   - Repeal of all Motor Voter laws;
   - Re-registering voters every four years;
   - Requiring photo ID of first time registrants;
   - Proof of residency and citizenship along with voter registration application;
   - Retention of the 30-day registration deadline.

5. **Electoral College:** We support the Electoral College.

6. **Voting Rights:** We support equal suffrage for all citizens of voting age who are not disqualified by State law. We oppose any identification of citizens by race, origin, or creed and oppose use of any such identification for purposes of creating voting districts.

7. **Write-in Candidates:** We urge the Texas State Legislature to enact legislation to allow a voter to write-in a person of his/her choice for any office in any election and be counted in the final tally of such elections.

8. **Felon Voting:** We affirm the Constitutional authority of State legislatures to regulate voting, including disenfranchisement of convicted felons.

9. **Protecting Active Military Personnel's Right to Vote:** We urge the Texas Secretary of State and the U.S. Attorney General to ensure that voting rights of our Armed Forces will neither be denied nor obstructed.

10. **Residency Requirements:** We support legislation that determines residence in accordance with Common-Law rules, as recognized by the courts, except as otherwise provided by the Texas Election Code.

11. **Water Districts:** We urge the Texas State Legislature to allow voters the ability to recall elected officials of an irrigation district, fresh water supply district, municipal utility district, or any other special purpose district.

12. **Campaign Finance Reform:** We urge immediate repeal of the McCain-Feingold Act. We are opposed to any legislation that limits individual financial contributions. We believe that any individual or corporation has the freedom to donate any amount of financial support without having to disclose that amount and any personal information.

13. **Disclosure of Candidates' Position on the State/County Party Platforms:** We call on all candidates for public office seeking a Republican nomination to disclose their position on each plank of the current state and/or county party platforms, respectively, in order for voters to be better informed.

14. **Platform/Legislation:** We recognize our Constitutional rights as a political party, as affirmed in *Kucinich v. Democratic Party of Texas*, 5th Cir. (2009) to require each of our non-judicial candidates to indicate their position on each platform plank before their acceptance on the primary ballot. Publication and distribution of candidate responses is permitted.

15. **Lobbying Limitation:** We support legislation to prohibit former officials and government employees from lobbying for a foreign government and/or any business for five years after leaving public service. We support legislation to prevent lobbying by any organization receiving federal grants except that relating to its tax status.

16. **Legislative Accountability:** We support rules requiring that all votes on bills cast in the Texas House and Senate be recorded votes, freely available to the electorate. We support rules prohibiting proxy voting in the Texas House and Senate.

17. **AWOL Legislators:** We urge the Texas House and Senate to compel attendance of absent members and penalize those who attempt to bust the quorum by leaving the state or hiding within it.

18. **Filibuster:** We support return to the traditional Filibuster in the U.S. Senate.

19. **Cloture Rule:** We support a 60% cloture rule in both the United States and Texas Senates.

20. **Party Convention Transparency:** Transparency in elected government is a strong Republican value. We demand the Republican Party allow proper documentation (audio/video) at all convention levels.

21. **Public Official Election Fraud:** We believe that if a public official or employee of any government body is involved in election fraud or fails to report such fraud, that employee should be subject to termination in addition to felony prosecution.

22. **Closed Caucus Nominations:** We support a closed caucus system for nominating all candidates to receive the Republican nomination in place of the present primary system.

23. **Early Voting:** We urge the Texas State Legislature to reduce the early voting days to two days of early voting and the official Election Day.

SECTION IV: HONORING THE SYMBOLS OF OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE

1. **Ten Commandments:** We oppose any governmental action to restrict, prohibit, or remove public display of the Decalogue or other religious symbols.

2. **Flag Desecration:** We recognize that the American flag is a powerful symbol of our great nation and any desecration of it is an act of blatant disrespect of our nation and/or its people.

ARTICLE II: STRENGTHEN FAMILIES, PROTECT LIFE & PROMOTE HEALTH

SECTION I: CELEBRATING TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE

1. **End Marriage Licenses:** We believe that marriage is a covenant between a man, a woman, and God; not involving the state. Therefore, we assert that the government should have no role in the licensing, authorization, or regulation of marriage. We propose that the parties may voluntarily register a legitimate marriage for legal purposes including but not limited to tax law, family law, insurance law, and inheritance law.

2. **Marriage and Divorce:** We believe in the sanctity of marriage and we support Covenant Marriage

3. **Homosexuality:** We believe that healthy families are comprised of a father and a mother, and contribute to the strength of society. We believe that the practice of homosexuality contributes to the breakdown of the family unit. Recognizing the sacredness of all persons, we also recognize that homosexual behavior is contrary to the fundamental, unchanging truths that have been ordained by God, recognized by our country's founders, and shared by the majority of Texans. Homosexuality must

not be presented as an acceptable "alternative" lifestyle in our public education and policy, nor should "family" be redefined to include homosexual "couples." We are opposed to any granting of special legal entitlements including, but not limited to; marriage between persons of the same sex (regardless of state of origin), custody of unrelated children by homosexuals, homosexual partner insurance or retirement benefits. We oppose any criminal or civil penalties against those who oppose homosexuality out of faith, conviction, or belief in traditional values. We call on the legislature to extend the protections found in the Pastor Protection Act to all citizens, regardless of profession.

4. **Nullify *Obergefell*:** We believe that the US Supreme Court overstepped their bounds in the Obergefell v. Hodges decision. Therefore, we call upon the Texas legislature to defend the state Constitution which states that marriage is between one man and one woman, and nullify this tyrannical order. We call upon Texas to refuse to issue marriage licenses that contradict the Texas Constitution. State or local funds may not be used to enforce an order requiring the issuance or recognition of a marriage that violates the Texas Constitution.

5. **Marriage Penalty:** We call upon Congress to completely remove the marriage penalty in the tax code, whereby a married couple receives a smaller standard deduction than their unmarried counterparts living together.

6. **Pornography:** We oppose the creation, distribution and use of child pornography and support the maximum penalty for those convicted of child pornography

SECTION II: PROTECTING INNOCENT HUMAN LIFE

1. **Removal of Supreme Court Jurisdiction Over Abortion:** Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: The Sanctity of Life Act is authorized by Article I, Section 8 and Article III, Section I which gives the Congress power to establish and limit the jurisdiction of lower federal courts as well as Article III, Section 2 which gives Congress the power to make exceptions to Supreme Court regulations. It amends the federal judicial code to remove Supreme Court and district court jurisdiction to review cases arising out of any statutes, ordinance, rule, regulation, or practice, or any act interpreting such a measure, on the grounds that such measure:

- Protects the rights of human persons between conception and birth;
- Prohibits, limits, or regulates the performance of abortions or the provision of public funds, facilities, personnel, or other assistance for abortions.

Congress should recognize that each state has the authority to protect the lives of unborn children residing in the jurisdiction of the state.

2. **Right to Life:** All innocent human life must be respected and safeguarded from fertilization to natural death; therefore, the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We affirm our support for a Human Life Amendment to the Constitution and to make clear that the 14th Amendment's protection applies to unborn children. We consider the unborn child a unique person from conception. We support the Life of Conception Act. We oppose the use of public revenues and/or facilities for abortion or abortion-related services, even if utilizing private funds. We support the elimination of public funding for organizations that advocate or support abortion. We are resolute regarding the reversal of Roe v. Wade. We affirm our support for the appointment and election of judges at all levels of the judiciary who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life. We insist that the U.S. Department of Justice needs to prosecute hospitals or abortion clinics for committing induced labor (live birth) abortion. We are opposed to genocide, euthanasia, and assisted suicide. We oppose legislation allowing the withholding of nutrition and hydration to the terminally ill or handicapped.

Until our final goal of total Constitutional rights for the unborn child is achieved, we beseech the Texas Legislature in consideration of our state's rights, to enact laws that restrict and regulate abortion including:

- Parental and informed consent;
- Protecting the established Texas state law requiring a sonogram to be performed and shown to each mother about to undergo a medically unnecessary, elective abortion;
- Prohibition of abortion for gender selection;
- Prohibition of abortion due to the results of genetic diagnosis;
- Licensing, liability, and malpractice insurance for abortionists and abortion facilities;
- Prohibition of financial kickbacks for abortion referrals;
- Protecting the established federal law prohibiting of partial birth and late term abortions;
- Enactment of any other laws which will advance the right to life for unborn children.

3. **Parental Consent:** We call on the legislature to require parental consent for any form of medical care to minors. We urge electoral defeat of judges who, through judicial activism, seek to nullify the Parental Consent Law by granting bypasses to minor girls seeking abortions. We support the addition of the legislative requirement for the reporting of judicial bypasses to parental consent on an annual basis to the Department of State Health Services and such reports shall be made available to the public. Further, we encourage the Congress to remove confidentiality mandates for minors from family planning service programs operating under Title X of the Public Health Services Act and Medicaid. In cases of pregnancy in unmarried, minor females, all practical efforts should be made to determine the paternity of the child in order to enforce existing statutory rape laws.

4. **Protection of Women's Health:** Because of the personal and social pain caused by abortions, we call for the protection of both women and their unborn children from pressure to have unwanted abortions. We commend the Texas Legislature for the passage of the Woman's Right to Know Act, a law requiring abortion providers, and prior to an abortion, to provide women full knowledge of the physical and psychological risks of abortion, the characteristics of the unborn child, including by sonogram, and abortion alternatives. We urge the state government and the Department of State Health Services to ensure that all abortion providers are in compliance with this informed consent law and to ensure that all pregnancy centers and other entities assisting women in crisis pregnancies have equal access to the informational brochures created by the Department of State Health Services.

5. **Alternatives to Abortion:** We urge the Department of State Health Services to provide adequate quantities of "A Woman's Right to Know" resource directory to anyone that works with pregnant women.

6. **RU 486:** We urge the FDA to rescind approval of the physically dangerous RU-486 and oppose limiting the manufacturers' and distributors' liability.

7. **Morning After Pill:** We oppose sale and use of the dangerous "Morning After Pill" which is used to end human life.

8. **Unborn Child Pain Protection:** We support legislation that requires doctors, at first opportunity, to provide to a woman who is pregnant, information about the nervous system development of her unborn child and to provide pain relief for her unborn if she orders an abortion.

9. **Unborn Victims of Violence Legislation:** We urge the state to ensure that the Prenatal Protection law is interpreted accurately and consider the unborn child as an equal victim in any crime, including domestic violence.

10. **Abortion Clinics:** We support legislation that holds abortion clinics to the same health regulations as other medical facilities and that subjects clinics to the same malpractice liabilities. We oppose any public funding for Planned Parenthood or other organizations/facilities that provide, advocate or promote abortions.

11. **Abortion Requirements for Hospitals:** We propose legislation that entitles hospitals to refuse to perform abortions because government has no authority to require such an abortion.

12. **Conscience Clause:** We believe that doctors, nurses, pharmacists, any employees of hospitals and insurance companies, healthcare organizations, medical and scientific research students, and any employee should be protected by Texas law if they conscientiously object to participate in practices that conflict with their moral or religious beliefs, including but not limited to abortion and contraception. This protection extends to the prescription for and dispensing of drugs with abortifacient potential, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, eugenic screenings, euthanasia, terminal sedation, assisted suicide, and the withdrawal of nutrition and hydration. We call on the Texas Legislature to pass legislation to strengthen and clarify the current conscience clause in the Occupational Code to include the above-mentioned persons and practices. We further encourage legislation that requires hospitals and clinics to inform all healthcare personnel of their right to refuse to become involved in all of the above related practices and their protection from prosecution and retaliation under Texas law.

13. **Personhood of Unborn Babies:** We urge the Texas Legislature to repeal Section 19.06 of the Texas Penal Code, which contradicts Section 19.01 by permitting the murder of unborn children; and we urge the Texas Legislature to ignore and refuse

to enforce any and all federal statutes, regulations, executive orders, and court rulings which would deprive an unborn child the right to life.

SECTION III: PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

1. **Parental Rights and Responsibilities:** We believe that parental rights and responsibilities are inherent and protected by the United States Constitution. Local, state, or federal laws, regulations, or policies shall not be enacted that limit parental rights in the rearing of both biological and adopted children. The Party supports the Texas Parental Rights Restoration Act to amend this statute and restore the fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. We unequivocally oppose the United States Senate ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which would transfer jurisdiction over parental rights and responsibilities to international bureaucracies.

2. **Support of Parental Authority:** We support parental authority and the teaching of moral values in the home. We oppose school–based clinics and/or youth impact centers located at, sponsored by, or funded by any state agency or public school district, whether or not they dispense condoms and contraceptives or refer, aid, or advise minors to have abortions.

3. **Child Care:** We oppose any government regulations that will adversely affect the availability, affordability, or the right of parents to choose childcare.

4. **Child Support and Visitation:** We support equity between responsible parents in child support, custody, and visitation rights and costs, as well as the strengthening of laws designed to protect children from abuse. No parent/grandparent should be denied court ordered visitation, because of jurisdictional disputes between states, as defined by the Parental Kidnapping Protection Act. We also believe that no individual convicted of child abuse or molestation should have the right to custody or adoption of a minor child, and that visitation with minor children by such persons should be prohibited but if ordered by the court limited to supervised periods.

5. **Adoption:** We support reducing time, cost, and bureaucratic interference without degrading the integrity of the adoption process. The law should assure parent(s) of a choice in selecting a traditional home for their children at the time of terminating their rights for adoption. We oppose mandatory open adoption.

6. **Foster Care:** We support eliminating bureaucratic prohibitions on corporal discipline and home schooling in foster homes to help alleviate the shortage of foster parents. Exceptions should only be permitted with the concurrence of a CASA worker assigned to investigate the proposed home situation and the child. We support a second chance for birth families to end abuse of their children. We oppose third and fourth time efforts to end abuse. We support careful screening of potential foster parents prior to acceptance into the foster care programs. We oppose excessive and overreaching regulations and monitoring which discourage and demoralize foster parents and punish foster parents with the presumption of guilt until proven innocent.

SECTION IV: ASSISTING FAMILIES TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

1. **Welfare Reform:** We support the transition from public reliance on government welfare programs to voluntary private partnerships with faith-based institutions, community, and business organizations to assist any individual in need.

2. **DFPS Accountability:** We support the appointment of local elected officials to review charges of abuse of discretion by the Department of Family and Protective Services with respect to intervention into the family unit. It is imperative that this local board have the authority to recommend appropriate corrective and disciplinary action as needed. We support that Child Protective Services be evaluated by the Sunset Provisions or other measures and face restructuring if evaluations reveal inappropriate actions. We support that the power and role of CASA be strengthened in the determination of placement of children in the custody of Child Protective Services. Both CPS and the courts should be mandated to cooperate with CASA as specified in the law with consequences when they ignore their duty to the detriment of the children in their custody. We believe that only law enforcement officers may remove a child from his or her home or school when there is an immediate danger to the child's physical health or safety. All other removals of a child shall be pursuant to a court order. No child may be interviewed by the state without video or audio recording of the interview, and the recording shall become evidence. DFPS/CPS will require the tipster to identify themselves by name and contact

information to the agency. This information will be kept confidential, and the tipster will be notified by the agency that false information will be prosecuted and that false tips will be subject to a fine. A family shall have the right to learn of their accuser with a judicial order. Only findings determined in open court and by trial may be retained by the State.

3. **Social Security:** We support an immediate and orderly transition to a system of private pensions based on the concept of individual retirement accounts, and gradually phasing out the Social Security tax. We insist that Social Security benefits be non-taxable. To protect the Social Security System, its funds should not be co-mingled or spent with general revenues. We support Americans being allowed to purchase directly, and hold directly as a part of their tax-deferred retirement and educational savings plans, United States Treasury obligations, personally managed investment accounts, and tax-free equities. Individuals, who qualify for Social Security benefits, including school teachers, should receive all of the benefits for which they are entitled without penalty, for any reason including earned, passive, or portfolio income. We also believe that to protect freedom and privacy, government and private institutions should not require Social Security numbers as identification. Application for Social Security numbers should not be required before the age of consent.

4. **Individual Retirement Savings:** Individual retirement assets of all styles and any other qualified or unqualified plan allowing the individual the opportunity to control their assets shall remain in the sole control of the individual. Furthermore, we oppose any attempt by the federal government to become the owner, manager, or administrator of any and all funds owned by the individual.

SECTION V: EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO DIRECT THEIR HEALTHCARE

1. **Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) Labeling:** We support voluntary labeling of all products containing GMO's hormones, and antibiotics clearly and in a uniformed and recognizable fashion.

2. **Healthcare Choice:** The federal government shall divest all its interest and control in healthcare and return it to its rightful owners, the people, as guaranteed by the 10th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. We support market-based, private sector initiatives to improve the availability, portability, quality, cost, containment, and affordability of healthcare.

3. **Abolish the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare):** We call for Congress to immediately and completely repeal the entirety of the Affordable Care Act.

We believe:

- No federal law can compel, directly or indirectly, any person, employer, or healthcare provider to participate in any healthcare system;
- No resident of Texas shall be forced to obtain or maintain a policy of individual health insurance coverage;
- No person, employer, or healthcare provider can be required to pay penalties, assessments, fees, or fines for purchasing or providing lawful healthcare services in violation of this new law;
- That our state elected officials should reject or opt-out of any Medicaid expansion forced on Texas;
- There should be consumer choice of providers across state lines;
- That we should encourage the immediate expansion of medical savings accounts;
- That Texas Tort Reform Initiatives are a great remedy and we suggest that they be adopted by other states. The federal government may not claim tort jurisdiction;
- That the State of Texas needs to make available to all citizens through the internet, the exact price paid for specific healthcare items covered by Medicaid and paid for by the Texas taxpayers.
- All associated tax increases shall be rescinded.

4. **Market-Based Healthcare Reform:** We call upon our State government to adopt a policy of healthcare reform that is based upon free market principles, price transparency, and competition. Trained healthcare professionals should be allowed to practice to the extent of their education, their abilities, and their recognized limitations.

5. **Healthcare and Nutritional Supplements:** We deplore any efforts to mandate that vitamins and other natural supplements be on a prescription-only basis, and we oppose any efforts to remove vitamins and other nutritional supplements from public sale. We support the rights of all adults to their choice of nutritional products. We strongly favor legislation recognizing legitimate

alternative health care choices that do not pose a recognized danger to the public.

6. **Texas Medical Board:** We call upon the Legislature to transform the TMB and enforce rules that: reaffirm the sacredness of the patient-doctor relationship, eliminate anonymous complaints, eliminate anonymous witnesses, and mandate due process in all proceedings. All TMB members shall disclose conflicts of interest or apparent conflicts of interest.
7. **Immunizations:** All adult citizens should have the legal right to conscientiously choose which vaccines are administered to themselves or their minor children without penalty or consent of any other party. We oppose any effort by any authority to mandate such vaccines or administer them without parental consent.

8. **Medical Records:** We oppose any medical database that would contain personal records of citizens without their consent.

9. **Use of Legal Substances:** We oppose any prohibitions, limitations, regulations, or other bans on substances that are legal for use by the general public. Only reasonable regulations should be permitted for the protection of minors, but outright bans due to perverse interpretations of "rights" or "inconvenience" should be rejected. We also call on the State of Texas to cease and desist from their unlawful and unethical attack upon the food supplement industry.

10. **Raw Milk:** The sale of raw dairy products by farmers directly to consumers, off-the- farm, and in retail stores, should be made legal if properly labeled.

11. **Prescriptions:** We support expanding the number of pharmaceuticals that are available without a prescription.

ARTICLE III: EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN

SECTION I: KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE EDUCATION

1. **Educational Choice:** The federal government shall divest all its interest and control in education and return it to its rightful owners: the states and the people as guaranteed by the 10th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

2. **Parental Rights in Education:** The right of parents to raise and educate their children is fundamental. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any education program. We urge the Legislature to enact penalties for violation of parental rights.

3. **Local Control:** We support choice in public education and believe that quality education is best achieved by encouraging parental involvement, protecting parental rights, and maximizing local control. District superintendents and their employees should be made solely accountable to their locally elected boards.

4. **State Board of Education:** We support an elected State Board of Education (SBOE) with authority over the Texas Education Agency, selection and termination of the Commissioner of Education, and textbook adoption. The SBOE must retain constitutional authority over the Permanent School Fund. The state should offer subject-area teacher certification without additional educational requirements for individuals who hold a baccalaureate in their field or professionals who have equivalent life experience in a field.
5. **Textbooks and Curricula:** The SBOE must have authority over textbook content and state adoption, and this process must include public hearings. We urge the Legislature to give the State Board of Education authority to establish textbook adoption standards. We support competitive pricing as part of the textbook selection process by independent school districts and oppose standard maximum pricing schemes.

6. **History and Government:** We believe that all students should know and understand the founding documents of Texas and the United States, as well as, the principles and theories that shaped the authors' decisions. No student should graduate lacking an understanding of the basic functions of government or the electoral process.

7. **Parental School Choice:** We encourage the Governor and the Texas Legislature to enact child- centered school funding options – which fund the student, not schools or districts – to allow maximum freedom of choice in public, private or parochial education for all children. As a prerequisite, we urge passage of a constitutional amendment prohibiting imposition of state regulations on private and parochial schools.

8. **Funding of Education:** Educating Texans is a priority to Texas taxpayers. In order to prioritize education spending, it is necessary for 65 percent of school funds to be directed toward instructional purposes. We urge the Legislature to direct expenditures to academics first (books, desks, and teachers), then to non-academic and administrative activities; to provide funding for state mandates on local districts; and to not increase state taxes.

9. **Tax Deduction for Private and Home School:** We support a federal and state tax deduction for expenses incurred for all private and home schooling.

10. **Transparency**: We support legislation requiring all school districts to post their check registers online.

11. **U.S. Department of Education:** The Federal Government has no constitutional jurisdiction over education. We call for abolition of the U. S. Department of Education and prohibition of transfer of any of its functions to any other agency.

12. **Private Education:** Parents have the fundamental right and responsibility for educating their children, and the state should not have power to force any parent or guardian to send their children to public school. Parents or guardians may choose to educate their children in private school or homeschool without government interference of any kind. We urge the Legislature to require cities and counties to exempt private school students from daytime curfew ordinances. We urge the Legislature to require University Interscholastic League (UIL) to open participation to private schools.

13. **Juvenile Daytime Curfew:** We oppose Juvenile Daytime Curfews which put undue stress on parents of students who have a legitimate reason to be out of school.

14. **Early Childhood Development:** We believe that parents are best suited to train their children in their early development and oppose mandatory pre-school and Kindergarten. We urge Congress and the Texas Legislature to repeal government-sponsored programs that deal with early childhood development.

15. **Support for Classroom Teachers:** We recognize the need to attract competent teachers; to get teachers involved in educational planning and program development; to minimize reports and paperwork; to support teacher incentives through monetary and recognition rewards; and to empower teachers to remove disruptive students.

16. **Traditional Principles in Education:** We support school subjects with emphasis on Judeo- Christian principles upon which America was founded and which form the basis of America's legal, political and economic systems.

17. **Teach Free Market Principles:** We encourage the teaching of free enterprise principles, private property rights, entrepreneurial skills, personal finance skills, and investment skills.

18. **School Surveys and Testing:** Public schools should be required to obtain written parental consent for student participation in any test or questionnaire that surveys beliefs, feelings, or opinions in the areas of sexual activity, drug and alcohol use, religion, political persuasion, or other areas of morality.

19. **Bilingual Education**: We demand abolition of bilingual education. The best method is an "English Immersion Program."

20. **Education Entitlement:** We encourage legislation that prohibits enrollment in free public schools of non-citizens unlawfully present in the United States.

21. **Religious Freedom in Public Schools:** We urge school administrators and officials to inform Texas school students specifically of their First Amendment rights to pray and engage in religious speech, individually or in groups, on school property without government interference. We urge the Legislature to end censorship of discussion of religion in our founding documents, and encourage discussing those documents.

22. **Theories of Origin:** We support objective teaching and equal treatment of strengths and weaknesses of scientific theories, including Intelligent Design. We believe theories of life origins and environmental theories should be taught as scientific

theory, not scientific law. Teachers and students should be able to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of these theories openly and without fear of retribution or discrimination of any kind.

23. **Pledge of Allegiance in Public Schools:** No student should be denied the opportunity nor required to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance, the Texas Pledge, the National Anthem, and other patriotic songs to ensure that the loyal and patriotic spirit of Texan and American heritage is preserved.

SECTION II: HIGHER EDUCATION

1. **Higher Education: We support:**
   - An equal standard for public college admission based on merit and ability;
   - Republican elected officials to support student organizations such as College Republicans, Young Conservatives of Texas, Young Americans for Liberty, and like organizations when they are being harassed by university administrators;
   - Programs that educate people in Western Civilization and American Institutions such as the Institute for the Study of Western Civilization and the Free Market Institute at Texas Tech University;
   - The Texas legislature and all officials of the RPT and its county parties to support conservative reform efforts for higher education;
   - The repeal of "Tuition Deregulation" and the Texas legislature retaining the right to control the student tuition rates at public institutions of higher education as opposed to the current system of unelected bureaucrats known as 'Board of Regents.'
   - The teaching of the Constitution and the founding principles of the Republic.

   We oppose:
   - The "Top 10% Rule" allowing for automatic admissions;
   - Political correctness in higher education.

2. **College Tuition:** We recommend three levels of college tuition: In state requiring proof of Texas legal citizenship, out of State requiring proof of US citizenship, and, nonresident legal alien. Non- US citizens should not be eligible for state or federal grants.
3. **Public Higher Education Accountability:** We support binding audits by the State Comptroller of all public universities.

4. **Federal Funding for Universities:** We support the suspension of Federal funding from universities that prohibit military recruitment on campus.

5. **Permanent University Fund (PUF):** The Legislature of the State of Texas should cause the Permanent University Fund (PUF) to be distributed in a fair and equitable manner to all state supported universities so all students attending state supported universities can benefit from the resources of the State of Texas.

6. **Government Regulation of Religious Institutions**: The state should have no power over the licensing of clergy or religious institutions for training clergy. The curriculum, faculty, and boards of religious institutions should be determined only by the institution. We call on the State to withdraw all imposed regulations.

SECTION III: GENERAL

1. **Gambling and Education:** We strongly oppose any gambling to fund public education.

2. **School Healthcare:** We urge legislators to prohibit reproductive health care services, including counseling, referrals, and distribution of condoms and contraception through public schools. We support the parents' right to choose, without penalty, which medications are administered to their minor children. We oppose medical clinics on school property except higher education and health care for students without parental consent.

ARTICLE IV: PROMOTING INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM & PERSONAL SAFETY

SECTION I: INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

1. **Original Rights:** We oppose any attempts by those in government to create new rights or tamper with those retained by the

individual as stated in the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.

2. **Right to Keep and Bear Arms:** We oppose any governmental licensing of law-abiding gun owners and national gun registration and specific taxation on firearms, components, and ammunition as violations of the Second Amendment. We also oppose restrictions on 3D Printing. We oppose micro stamping and serialization.

3. **Concealed Carry:** We Support removing civil liability from property owners who do not prevent Concealed Handgun License holders from carrying on their premises.

4. **Concealed Carry on Campus:** We support legislation allowing Concealed Handgun License holders to carry concealed weapons on the grounds and in the buildings of publicly owned institutions of learning. We call for the elimination of gun free zones on public campuses.

5. **Open Carry:** We support the right of citizens to open carry handguns.

6. **Constitutional Carry:** Since the right of the people to keep and bear arms is protected by the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and this inalienable right clearly includes the right to carry a handgun for self-defense, we call upon the Texas Legislature to implement Constitutional Carry, and propose to the people of Texas a Constitutional Amendment to strike "but Legislature shall have power, by law, to regulate the wearing of arms, with a view to prevent crime" from Article I, Section 23 of the Texas Constitution.

We also support legislation prohibiting gun-confiscation during a state-of emergency; and prohibiting enforcement of all future anti-gun federal laws, executive orders, regulations and mandates.

7. **Freedom of Access Act:** We urge repeal of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Law. Those who assault peaceful protesters acting under the Constitution should be vigorously prosecuted. Picketing and literature distribution do not fall under the RICO Act.

8. **Freedom of Exercise:** We affirm the constitutional right of all individuals to worship in the religion of their choice.

9. **Sovereignty of the Church:** We acknowledge that the church is an institution with a sphere of authority separate from that of civil government and that the church is not to be regulated, controlled, influenced, or taxed by any level of civil government.

10. **Electronic Privacy:** We believe all law-abiding citizens should be free from government surveillance of their electronic communications unless authorized by a proper and legitimate judicial warrant. We further oppose any national ID program, including the Real ID Act and the use of Radio Frequency Identification Chips (RFID).

11. **Internet Regulation:** The internet should not be subjected to government regulations such as the "SOPA, "PIPA", CISPA, or any other similar bill.

12. **Personal Confidentiality:** Necessary dissemination of personal information among government entities must be safeguarded with the threat of criminal penalties. Legislation should provide redress to anyone denied service for refusing to provide such information.

13. **Equality of All Citizens:** We deplore all discrimination. We also deplore forced sensitivity training and urge repeal of any mandate requiring it. We urge immediate repeal of the Hate Crimes Law.

14. **Checkpoints:** We oppose any and all law enforcement checkpoints outside of Ports of Entry

SECTION II: PROTECTING CITIZENS FROM CRIME

1. **Prison Reform:** We believe our prison systems should emphasize protection of society and punishment of offenders, ever mindful of aiding in the reformation of those so desiring. The state should assist offenders who desire reform. Prisoners should be required to perform meaningful work. Prisoners should not have access to private information of any citizen. We

support alternative methods of prison administration. No elective medical care should be performed on prisoners at taxpayer expense.

2. **Sentencing Reform:** We urge parole boards to administer punishment according to the intent of the sentencing courts. We also call for disclosure to juries of their rights and powers; of prior convictions of the defendant; and of the actual time likely to be served before parole. We believe punishment should be assessed in proportion to the crime and should be a deterrent. We support imprisonment for life without parole for habitual felons. Convicted criminals should make restitution to their victims.

3. **Crime Should Not Pay:** No convicted criminal should be allowed to profit from sale of rights to their story for books, movies, etc., while incarcerated, on parole, or on probation.

4. **Capital Punishment:** Properly applied capital punishment is legitimate, is an effective deterrent, and should be swift and unencumbered.

5. **Juvenile Justice:** Juvenile justice reforms should continue and we should continue trying juveniles as adults when appropriate. We condemn incarcerating juveniles and adults in the same facility.

6. **Child Abuse:** We recognize the family as a sovereign authority over which the state has no right to intervene, unless a parent or legal guardian has committed criminal abuse. Child abusers should be severely prosecuted. However, we oppose actions of social agencies to classify traditional methods of discipline as child abuse. We support enactment of a homicide-by-abuse statute that provides punishment for abusing a child to death without intent of killing. We support requiring compliance by publicly funded private agencies with laws requiring reporting of instances of any kind of abuse as a condition of receiving such funding.

7. **Unborn Victims of Violence:** We believe a person who injures or kills an unborn child should be subject to criminal and civil litigation, whether the child dies in the womb or is born alive.

8. **Sexual Assault:** Adults convicted of sexual molestation of a minor should receive mandatory prison sentences without probation or parole. We urge the Legislature to eliminate from the child sexual assault law the "affirmative defense" when there is less than 36 months of age difference. The present statutory penalties for false accusations should be enforced.

9. **Property Seizure Without Due Process:** We oppose seizure of private property without due process. Neither law enforcement agencies nor their parent organizations should be allowed to benefit from such seizures.

10. **Drug Offenses**: Incarceration has not solved the drug problem, and in many cases has worsened it. We support decriminalization of the possession of personal quantities of narcotics, including cannabis, and other such substances which are generally known to be less harmful than those commonly classified as "hard drugs." In conjunction with such a decriminalization, we advocate a civil penalty for possession, harsher penalties for individuals committing criminal acts while under the influence of substances affected thereby, as well as a requirement that beneficiaries of social benefits be able to prove abstinence of any substances affected thereby, save and except any individual who's use of such a substance is prescribed by a medical professional.

ARTICLE V: STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY

SECTION I: GOVERNMENT SPENDING

1. **Fiscal Responsibility:** We urge local, state, and federal legislators to reduce spending. We urge a commission composed of citizens and business owners to identify cost savings and reductions in state government. We also support a "cap" on government spending at all levels, with adjustments based only on average family income and population change.

2. **Texas Budget Compact:** We urge the Texas legislature to follow the principles of the Texas Budget Compact

- Practice truth in budgeting;
- Support a Constitutional limit of spending to the growth of population and inflations.;

- Oppose any new taxes or tax increases and make the small business tax exemption permanent;
- Preserve a strong "Rainy Day Fund;"
- Cut the unnecessary and duplicative government programs and agencies.

3. **Controlling Government Growth:** All levels of government must deliver essential services in the most cost effective manner by implementing the following:
    - Limit any annual increase in budgets and spending to the combined increase of population and inflation
    - Use zero based budgeting and sunset commissions to review all programs and terminate those that are ineffective, redundant, wasteful or intrusive.
    - Adopt a federal Balanced Budget Amendment and Presidential Line Item Veto plus require a 2/3 super majority vote for any bill that includes tax increases.

4. **Stop Deficit Spending:** With spending out of control in Washington, our national debt is currently over $19 Trillion ($19,000,000,000,000) and increasing exceeding almost $3 Billion per day. Each citizen's share of the debt is over $55,000. We demand that President Obama and Congress stop deficit spending now on expanded government programs, stimulus packages and bailouts claiming to save our economy.

5. **Federal Reserve:** The Federal Reserve is a private bank chartered by Congress usurping the constitutionally mandated responsibilities of the Congress for the regulation and valuation of the money supply. The Federal Reserve has never been audited. We urge Congress to audit the Federal Reserve and report to the Congress and the American people the results of that audit. We urge Congress to sever the ties between the national treasury and the federal reserve.

6. **Waste and Fraud in Government Contracts:** We urge the Attorney General to investigate fraud and misuse of funds in government contracts, prosecuting those found responsible. All government contracts should be awarded through competitive bidding to the lowest responsible bidder. We also support repeal of the Davis Bacon Act which requires prevailing labor union wages to be paid on federal projects.

7. **No Government Funding for Political Advocacy Groups:** There must be no public funding of any kind given to groups that are similar to the group formerly known as ACORN or any other far left, Alynsky-type groups.

8. **No Earmarks in Appropriations Process**: We oppose all earmarks.

9. **No Corporate Welfare or Business Subsidies:** We oppose all taxpayer funded corporate welfare and business subsidies that unfairly support politically selected businesses giving them a financial advantage over their competitors. We support encouraging all businesses equally through lower taxes and minimal regulations to allow a free market economy to prevail both domestically and internationally.

10. **Government Lobbying:** We support legislation that prohibits governments or governmental agencies from paying lobbyists with tax dollars or paying dues or fees to organizations such as

    Texas Association of Counties and Texas Municipal League that lobby or hire state or federal lobbyists.

11. **Government Services:** We support privatization of government services.

12. **Repeal of Fee Award Act:** We support repeal of the Civil Rights Attorneys' Fee Awards Act, which pays attorney's fees to sue the government and to suppress freedom of religion.

13. **Government Bailouts:** We oppose all government bailouts to private companies.

14. **Government Spending:** In an effort to reign in excess government spending we support the end of baseline budgeting as a part of any echelon and entity of government. We believe, like the private sector, that a reward system should be in place for accomplishing the mission at better or below budget.

15. **Elimination of the National Science Foundation (NSF):** We call for the elimination of the National Science Foundation.

SECTION II: TAX BURDEN

1. **Federal Tax Code:** We favor the complete and total overhaul of the Federal Tax System. We support the repeal of the 16th Amendment, which established the Income Tax. We believe that the Fair Tax is less intrusive than the income tax.

2. **State Tax Reform:** We urge the Legislature not to create any new tax or to increase any current taxes or fees. We strongly oppose creation of a state income tax or state property tax. We support a constitutional amendment providing a two-thirds super majority of both houses to increase any taxes or fees.

3. **Repeal the Texas Estate Tax:** The estate "death" taxes should be abolished in both the State of Texas and the United States of America.

4. **Repeal the Gross Receipts Tax:** We urge the Texas Legislature to repeal the Gross Receipts Tax on businesses.

5. **Revised Franchise Tax:** We urge the Texas Legislature to repeal the gross receipt franchise tax which amounts to a business income tax that must be passed on to consumers through higher prices for goods and services.

6. **State Property Tax:** Heavy reliance on property taxes has become a huge financial burden through constant reappraisal hikes and tax rate increases. In effect, this causes property owners to actually only "lease" their property from local government. We call for the elimination of all property taxes in this state, with sales taxes being used as a replacement where necessary, after limiting spending at all levels.

7. **Property Tax Reforms:** Until ad valorem taxes are abolished, we recommend these reforms to make them less offensive:

- Values should be established by the last bill of sale on a property, not on unrealized estimates from other sales in the area which may not be comparable.
- We implore the Texas Legislature to implement further appraisal controls to include decreasing the annual cap on residential property, and to implement a cap on the reappraisal of commercial property. We recommend these caps at 5% for residential Property and 10% or lower for commercial property. Lower percentages or other concepts such as a 3-year averaging should also be considered.
- Prohibit the current appraisal district practice of including realtors' commissions on property sales as part of the value which artificially drives up reappraisal creep on all surrounding property.
- Central Appraisal District Boards should be elected by voters in the district, not appointed by school board members, county commissioners or city councils that represent the taxing entities that benefit from the increased tax revenues derived from appraisal hikes.
- Because of the regressive nature and impossibility for fairness, we urge outright repeal of property taxes on inventory for resale, goods in transit, or work in progress which would spur economic growth sufficient to offset the revenue loss from such tax exemptions through increased sales taxes and other revenues from the resulting increased business activity.
- Citizens should be allowed to participate in government voluntary work projects in lieu of paying property taxes.

8. **Internet Taxation:** We oppose any taxation on Internet commerce.

9. **End "Gas Tax" Fund Diversions:** We urge the Legislature to immediately stop the diversion of any "gas tax" funds above those allowed by the Texas Constitution. The laws of the State of Texas should be amended to, without exception, prohibit the diversion of any portion of the "gas tax" funds from roadway or highway construction and maintenance.

10. **Tolls on Existing Roads:** We support the legitimate construction of toll roads in Texas, but we oppose converting existing state and federal roads to privately owned toll roads without voter approval.

SECTION III: UNITED STATES ENERGY POLICY

1. **United States Energy Policy:** The foundation of our United States Energy Strategy must be to eliminate dependence on foreign sources for energy. We encourage Congress to: not support windfall profit tax; repeal oil and gas severance and production taxes; stop promulgation of unnecessary environmental regulation; and promote all energy production including, Keystone Pipeline, ANWR, offshore California, and the East Coast, while minimizing environmental impact.

2. **Abolish the EPA:** We urge Congress to abolish the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

3. **Man-made Climate Change:** We oppose taxes and regulations imposed based on the unproven and fraudulently promoted threat of man-made climate change.

4. **"Cap & Trade":** We oppose any and all pending Cap and Trade legislation, EPA and Energy Department regulations, and Presidential Executive Orders as new, costly, unfunded mandates.

5. **Carbon Dioxide:** We support the study of carbon dioxide sequestration in Texas and encourage the transfer of carbon dioxide to areas in Texas with a shortage of carbon dioxide. We recognize carbon dioxide is a valuable resource, often sold to the public as a pollutant. The shortage of carbon dioxide in the Permian Basin is the single largest limiting factor to the largest multi-billion- b a r r e l oil fields currently producing oil and gas in Texas. With proper administration, carbon dioxide can provide the solution for a possible problem, while potentially providing several economic opportunities.

6. **Alternative Energy Sources:** We strongly support creation of new technologies and markets wherein the U.S.A. can pursue real energy independence, but we oppose subsidizing alternative fuel production. We support the fair and equitable access to all markets such as pipelines and power grids.

7. **Clean Energy:** We support a free market solution to clean energy.

8. **Municipally Owned Electrical Utilities:** We are opposed to municipally owned electrical utility monopolies.

SECTION IV: BUSINESS AND THE ECONOMY

1. **Enable Small Business:** Thriving small businesses are the engine for prosperity and recovery. Predictable governmental policies must encourage growth and innovation, free from hostile unrealistic regulations, frivolous lawsuits, and onerous job destroying taxation. We must lessen the power of government bureaucrats over employers and employees by allowing flexibility in the workplace and portability of pension and health care plans.

2. **Wage Laws:** We urge repeal of minimum wage and prevailing wage laws that make it difficult for entry level employees to find jobs.

3. **Right to Work:** We oppose the Employee Free Choice Act (Card Check) that eliminates secret ballots in the workplace and exposes workers to intimidation and reprisals by union organizers. Every worker should have freedom to work without being forced to join or pay dues to any organization, particularly if the union misuses their dues for political purposes that do not reflect the position of the worker. Our Texas Right to Work Law provides this freedom and creates a productive management-labor relationship which fosters a good climate for economic growth.

4. **Limit the Role of Public Service Unions:** The role of public service unions should be limited to negotiations for wages, benefits, and decent working conditions, but without the right to strike or other coercion.

5. **Worker's Compensation:** We urge the Legislature to resist making Workers' Compensation mandatory for all Texas employers.

6. **Telecommunications:** We support removal of regulatory roadblocks to greater investment in telecommunications infrastructure.

7. **Interference with Contracts:** We oppose any action by any non-judicial government or semi- governmental entity to intervene in the writing of any contract between any private entities, no matter what level of so called "systemic risk" they pose; we further oppose any effort by any governmental or semi-governmental entity to intervene in the execution of any existing contract between any private parties; we also urge governments at all levels to recognize contracts between private entities as legitimate.

8. **Water Rights:** For over one hundred years of Texas history, the water under a person's land has been considered to be part of his property. In recent years, the State of Texas has sought to regulate the quantity of water that a land owner may pump

from his own land, and has proposed fines and penalties for violating its regulations. We support the rights of all land owners to be free from regulation of the water under their own land, and urge the Legislature of the State of Texas to take measures to recognize these rights.

9. **Water Restrictions for Landowners:** There has been an impartial research study by faculties at the Department on Agricultural and Applied Economics, Texas Tech University and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service which demonstrates equal or better conservation results relying on market based practices. Market Based practices would save some 120 million dollars in unnecessary metering and other related administrative costs. We propose that legislation regarding diminution percentage in a regulatory taking by a state agency be strengthened to 5% diminution of private property and specifically groundwater.

10. **Eliminating and Limiting Water Districts:** We call for the elimination of water districts. In the interim, we support a limit on the voting and taxing authority of water districts in Texas pertain only to water issues within that district. 11.

11. **Modify Federal Rules of Attribution:** We advocate that the rules of attribution be modified to encourage current successful small business owners to participate in the start-up of new corporate businesses or to separate different existing corporate businesses by permitting the new or different business to not be deemed as one, if they are indeed fundamentally different.

12. **Abolish OSHA:** We urge Congress to repeal the Occupational Safety and Health Act and to abolish the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

13. **Freedom to Raise Livestock:** We urge our Federal and State legislators to support the freedom and not interfere with the rights of our farmers, ranchers, and producers to grow, raise, and promote all animals, including protected species, which should be considered private property.

14. **Elimination of the Department of Labor:** We call for the elimination of the Department of Labor.

15. **Right to Refuse Service:** We support the right of individual business owners/operators to conduct or refuse service to anyone of their choosing.

16. **Smoking Ban:** We support a business owner's right to conduct their business as they see fit which includes but is not limited to allowing or not allowing smoking and/or vaporizing tobacco products.

17. **Industrial Hemp Farming:** We support the private cultivation and study of industrial hemp unfettered by government intrusion, and solely regulated by the free market system.

18. **Abolish Event Trust Funds**: We urge the Texas legislature to abolish the Event Trust Funds.

19. **Abolish Texas Enterprise Fund:** We urge the Texas legislature to abolish the Texas Enterprise Fund.

20. **Ending State Occupational Licensing**: We believe that occupational licensing prevents free market competition that is based on experience, knowledge and skill. We also believe professional societies will create adequate private certification programs without state requirements in order to remain viable within the free market system. Therefore, we urge occupational licensing, the state licensing board, and all laws authorizing state occupational licensing be abolished.

ARTICLE VI: RESTORING AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY AND LEADERSHIP

SECTION I: DOMESTIC

1. **Border Security:** Any sovereign country must have defined borders and the ability to secure those borders and ports of entry using reasonable means.

2. **Federalization of Police:** We support having only local control over our police forces, and we oppose the constant erosion of *posse comitatus*. We oppose the federal government's attempts to control our local and state law enforcement by using the incentive of federal appropriations.

3. **Foreign Military Bases on American Soil:** We oppose relinquishing United States sovereignty and/or supremacy to any foreign powers on our soil. We urge Congress to prohibit all foreign or international military bases within the United States.

4. **Department of Homeland Security:** We acknowledge that national security is of utmost importance but we do not believe that it is best served through the department of homeland security. The department as it stands today has become a bureaucracy that has egregiously overstepped its original intent while impeding on various civil liberties and rights protected by our constitution. DHS should not be allowed to override local law enforcement. The answer to failed bureaucracy is not more powerful bureaucracy. We support eliminating the DHS. We support inter-agency communication protocol to streamline the delivery of the intelligence.

5. **National Defense**: We believe that national defense is a primary Constitutional responsibility of our government. We continue to encourage and support funding for a string national defense,; continued development and funding of ballistic missile and space based weapons systems maintaining our military's effective combat strength sufficient to defend our nation's borders and its strategic interests; avoiding new arms control agreements with any nation not complying with previous agreements; never deploying the military except against invasion or threat to our vital interests; and expiration of special emergency war powers.

6. **Legal Immigration:** We respect legal immigration, the act of seeking permanent residency and the right to seek citizenship. The essential reforming of our naturalization system must include a viable pathway to naturalization, which includes a reduction in cost and shortening of time for qualified persons.

7. **Illegal Immigration:** We support the rule of law and oppose illegal immigration.

8. **Enforcement of Immigration Law:** We support strict and immediate enforcement of all immigration laws. All peace officers are sworn to uphold the constitution and we support their right to do so. We support states' rights to enforce Constitutional immigration laws. Furthermore, we oppose amnesty, sanctuary cities, tax payer funded subsidies, and other economic incentives.

9. **Sanctuary Cities**: We urge the Texas legislature and the US Congress to eliminate funding to any municipality that has policies of being a sanctuary city.

10. **Birthright Citizenship:** We call for a Constitutional Amendment to amend Section1 of the 14th Amendment regarding birthrights and citizenship. We believe the Amendment should confer the most favorable status of either parent in order to limit citizenship by birth to those born to a citizen of the United States with no exceptions.

11. **NASA:** We call for the elimination of NASA and the Texas Aerospace and Aviation Office. We encourage greater private sector investment in research and development of space technology.

12. **Support of Our Armed Forces:** We encourage all Americans to support the brave and patriotic men and women of our armed forces.
    We believe and support:
    - That the entry level pay scale should be sufficient to prevent the need for government assistance and enough to encourage recruitment;
    - The government should provide proper mission specific equipment to all U.S. forces;
    - The continuation an all-volunteer armed forces;
    - The exclusion of women from ground and submarine combat roles; as well as excluding women from the draft.
    - In the assurance that military and civilian voters displaced by their service are afforded the opportunity for their votes to be counted;
    - The provision of full military honors for burial of veterans. We oppose:
    - any reduction in military healthcare;

- our armed forced being commanded by anyone other than our Commander-in-Chief;

SECTION II: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. **Foreign Policy:** We support the spread of a representative form of government and free market enterprise. We support continued favorable treatment of our allies, and censure of adversarial entities that seek destruction of other countries or harbor terrorists. No United States treaty shall permit any foreign entity to control our citizenry. No foreign entity that consistently voters against our interests or is openly hostile to our nation shall receive U.S. aid.

2. **Foreign Aid:** We strongly support private aid as opposed to redistribution of tax payer wealth. In principle, we are opposed to foreign aid as state sponsored international welfare for reasons of economic efficiency and morality. We believe we should not continue to borrow money to then in turn give it away because future generations will then inherit this debt.
3. **MIAs and POWs:** We urge our government to continue to seek and act diligently upon all information concerning our military personnel and other citizens carried as Missing in Action or Prisoners of War.

4. **China:** We recognize that China is an emerging Superpower and therefore we support free market competition through reduced domestic regulations. We also encourage Congress to require all imported Chinese manufactured products and bi-products to conform to all U.S. standards and patents.

5. **Cuba:** We support the repeal of trade restrictions on Cuba to encourage free market principles in that nation.

6. **Taiwan**: We urge full recognition and support of Taiwan with a "One China, One Taiwan Policy."

7. **"War on Terror":** We commend the efforts of our military forces and intelligence agencies in seeking out those that were responsible for the planning and carrying out of the attacks on September 11th, 2001. We supported going after those who were deemed responsible for these attacks. However, we did not intend an open-ended series of military actions with global ramifications.

8. **National Defense & Military Intervention:** We support strong national defense capabilities with a restrained foreign policy to avoid pre-emptive military strikes and intervention in perpetual foreign entanglements. We strongly discourage nation building and regime change. We oppose isolationism to encourage free trade and peaceful diplomacy among foreign countries willing to participate.

9. **Israel:** We believe that the United States and Israel share a special long-standing relationship based on shared values, a mutual commitment to a republican form of government, and a strategic alliance that benefits both nations.

10. **Iraq:** We support the complete withdrawal of U.S. forces and tax payer funded contracting companies.

11. **Iran:** We oppose Iran acquiring and/or manufacturing nuclear weapons. We oppose the Iran Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

12. **Afghanistan:** We support the complete withdrawal of U.S. forces and tax payer funded contracting companies.

13. **Pakistan:** We support the immediate release of Shakil Afridi who was the informant to the CIA who led to the discovery and demise of terrorist Usama Bin Laden.

14. **One World Government Organizations:** We oppose a one-world government in direct opposition to our basic principles and eroding our sovereignty. We call on legislators to oppose all plans that could lead to a North American Union similar to that of the European Union.

15. **International Monetary Fund:** We demand Congress stop funding the IMF, World Bank, and any other international financing agencies.

16. **International Trade:** We favor fair international trade. We oppose taxation and regulation of American industry that makes American products uncompetitive. We oppose trade expansion at the expense of national security and sovereignty.

We call for withdrawal from agreements that compromise our sovereignty and security. We urge repeal of international trade agreements that do not promote free trade.

17. **Import Restrictions:** We urge Congress to require all imported products and by-products to conform to all U.S. standard and patent laws.

18. **United Nations:** We believe it is in the best interest of the citizens of the United States that we immediately rescind our membership in, as well as all financial and military contribution to, the United Nations. We will:
    - Support legislation similar to "The American Sovereignty Preservation Act", which would remove the United State entirely from the control of the UN;
    - Demand that Congress ratify no more, and rescind any existing treaties that compromise the United States Constitution;
    - Support immediate recall of our military forces from UN initiated engagements, and restore them to their traditional mission of defending the liberty and freedom of the people of the United States of America;
    - Support an amendment to the United States Constitution stating, "a treaty that conflicts with any provisions of the Constitution shall not be of any force or effect";
    - Urge our Texas Senators to oppose any agreement or treaty that seeks to establish an International Criminal Court (ICC), make the United States a participatory party to such a court, recognize the jurisdiction of such a court within the United States or upon any native-born or naturalized citizen of the United States; and

    We oppose:
    - UN Control of any United States land or natural resources;
    - The use of Presidential Executive Orders to implement UN treaties, thereby circumventing our elected Congress;
    - Any attempt by the federal government, or the UN, to directly or indirectly tax United States citizens for UN support;
    - A UN resolution that would force the United States to adopt gun control measures by treaty;
    - The placement of the UN flag and emblem on public property or in government facilities;
    - Payment of any debt allegedly owed to the UN;
    - Any attempt to grant veto power over the sovereignty of the United Sates to set national defense priorities, wage effective war, and negotiate peace in terms favorable to our vital interests; and
    - Ratification of the Law of the Sea Treaty (LOST).

    We urge Congress to evict the United Nations form the United States and eliminate any further participation.

19. **United Nations Agenda 21:** We oppose, on all levels of government, the UN Agenda 21 efforts and its destructive and insidious strategies for "sustainable development" and what is falsely characterized as "smart growth."

20. **Ratification of Treaties**: We oppose the United States Senate being able to suspend the required two thirds vote to ratify a treaty as specified in the United States Constitution.

21. **Puerto Rican Statehood:** We oppose admitting Puerto Rico to the Union as a state. We also oppose any assumption of the Puerto Rican government debt.

22. **Suspend Contacts with CAIR:** We hereby call on all law enforcement and governmental agencies in Texas to avoid and suspend all outreach activities with the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR).

ARTICLE VII: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SECTION I: GENERALLY

1. **Reduction of Property Taxes**: We urge our locally elected officials to work diligently to reduce the property tax burden, including hidden taxes, on the citizens of Lubbock County, with the goal of reducing total taxes.

2. **Major Expenditure Planning**: We urge our locally elected officials to plan well in advance for major expenditures in order to prevent unnecessary, last minute spending increase.

3. **Evening Meetings**: We support changing meeting times for school boards, city councils, the Lubbock County Commissioner's Court, and other local boards and commissions to evenings so that citizens who work during the day will be able to attend.

4. **Public Comments**: We urge our local government officials to allow public comments, after the discussion time but prior to taking any votes, at all regular meetings.

5. **Annexation**: We oppose forced annexation into cities and special purpose districts.

6. **Pay Off Debt**: We urge our local governments to avoid incurring new debt while steadily paying off existing debt.

7. **Extraterritorial Jurisdiction**: We call for the elimination of Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) for all cities. We propose that any necessary functions of the ETJ be transferred to the elected county government.

8. **Zero-based budgeting**: We call for the institution of zero-based budgeting at all levels of local government to determine actual costs to deliver services.