



## **2018 Platform**

Platform Committee:

Chair: Katherine Bruegel

Members: Jim Brown \* Sara (Sally) Brown  
Brandon Helton \* Todd Key \* Amanda Smith

### **Principles**

1. We believe in the sanctity of human life, created in the image of God, which should be protected from fertilization until natural death.
2. We believe in self-sufficient families, founded on the traditional marriage of a natural man and a natural woman.
3. We believe in having an educated population, with parents having the freedom of choice for the education of their children.
4. We believe that Americans have the right to be armed in their homes, in their streets, and in their communities.
5. We believe in a free enterprise society unencumbered by government interference or subsidies.
6. We believe in the responsibility of persons for their choices and outcomes.
7. We believe in strict adherence to the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Texas.
8. We believe in the preserving of personal freedom and of Texas sovereignty as guaranteed by the 9th and 10th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

### **Priorities**

#### **Section 1**

#### **Local Government**

- 1. 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.
- 2. Public Comments:** We urge our local government officials to allow public comments at all open meetings.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.

- 5. 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.
- 6. Pay Off Debt:** We urge our local governments to avoid incurring new debt while steadily paying off existing debt and allowing voters to approve major projects that require tax increases.
- 7. Annexation:** We oppose forced annexation of land and persons into cities and special purpose districts.

## **Section 2**

### **State Government**

- 1. Party Registration For Voting-** we urge the legislators of Texas to enact a law that provides for the registration of voters by the political party of their choice on or before the voting registration deadline in order to participate in the primary election of that party.
- 2. School Security:** We support that those teachers who are capable and qualified with fire arms and have a license to carry and have passed an active shooter training should be allowed to have a fire arm on body on school property.
- 3. 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.
- 4. Active Protection of the Second Amendment:** We affirm the lawful ownership and carrying of firearms by the people, thereby protecting Texans from those who wish to do them harm, including tyranny by our own government; and call upon our elected officials to resist the narrative that the solution to every problem is less freedom and more regulation and to instead pursue policies that respect freedom while also increasing safety. The Republican party of Lubbock opposes, and urges our legislators to work to repeal, laws and governmental policies that omit due process, or that mandate monitoring of gun ownership or carry, or that limit or hinder the ability of non-felons to purchase, own, or carry any type of gun, ammunition, accessory, knife, or other weapon; while supporting all laws and governmental policies that reduce restrictions on the same. Specifically the Lubbock County Republican Party calls upon the Texas Legislature to take the following actionable steps during the next convening of session to protect the freedoms of Texans:
- a) to repeal the government mandated gun-free zones in the Texas penal code sections 46.03 and 46.035;
  - b) to pass constitutional carry legislation by repealing the Texas penal code section 46.02 so law abiding citizens may carry any legally owned guns openly or concealed while maintaining the option of a permit for reciprocity purposes only;
  - c) to pass an interstate protection act to clarify that guns made and sold in Texas are not subject to the interstate commerce clause of the US constitution;
  - d) to improve the 2017 Knife Law Reform Act by eliminating the newly created class of location restricted knives and allowance for local prohibitions regarding the same;
  - e) to pass legislation denying state funding to any state or local agencies who enforce federal weapons laws not also affirmed by the laws of the state of Texas; and
  - f) to propose to the people of Texas a constitutional amendment to strike “; but the legislature shall have power, by law, to regulate the wearing of arms, with view to prevent crime” from Article I, Section 23 of the Texas Constitution.
- 5. Murder of an Unborn Child:** We assert that unborn children should always and without exception be considered alive and a living entity, one that should be legally protected from conception through natural death. We call upon the Texas legislature to legally extend this status to all unborn children under the law regardless of circumstances.
- 6. Occupational Licensing:** We propose that free market competition based on experience, knowledge, and skill will create more job opportunities and spur a rise in prestigious private certifications; therefore the state of Texas should take action to remove occupational licensing, abolish the licensing board, and repeal all the rules and laws regarding occupational licensing.

**7. Asset Forfeiture:** We propose that 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.

**8. Roll Back Election For State Property Taxes:** We assert that a state property tax increases of 3% or higher should trigger a roll back election without petition in which the people of Texas have the right to voice their opinion.

**9. Appraisal Creep** – We urge the state legislature to prohibit practice of appraisal districts including the realtors commissions on sales of properties when reappraising adjacent properties leading to unwarranted appraisal hikes.

**10. Protecting Children and Families:** We believe that a CPS investigation of a family should be done only upon probable cause of harm to a child; that the removal of a child from his or her home should be done only as a last resort to protect the child from clear and imminent physical or psychological harm; and that children should be returned to their parents as soon as their home has been deemed to be a safe environment.

### Section 3

#### Federal Government

**1. Congressional Omnibus Spending:** We demand that all Republican members of Congress refuse to support any further omnibus spending bills and instead reinstate their responsibility for the national purse strings by voting for each line item on which America shall spend it's funds.

**2. Entitlement Reform:** We believe that the individual is the primary party responsible for their financial welfare within a system that should treat all equally under the law; with this in mind we urge congress to address the pending entitlement crisis by reducing total expenditures, and promoting eligibility requirements that are consistent with Republican principles.

**3. National Health:** We call for our legislators to propose legislation that requires all vaccines to undergo long-term effects studies and reaction/interaction studies before being included on the CDC recommended schedule, and that all recommendations that do not currently meet this requirement be removed from the schedule immediately. Additionally legislation should be passed that requires that the parent of a minor be fully informed, responsible, and in complete approval of any vaccine given to their child before any such vaccinations are administered, this should be accomplished by having full access to the vaccine insert provided by the manufacture as well as the CDC studies proposed above in addition to any other material deemed necessary by the parent. This information should be supplied no latter than one appointment before the schedule suggests the vaccination.

**4. Germane Content:** We support a congressional rule that all language in any bill must be germane to the title of the act.

**5. Federal Reserve:** We urge Congress to audit the Federal Reserve and report to the Congress and the American people the results of that audit, to sever the ties between the national treasury and the Federal Reserve, and to resume their constitutional responsibility for the regulation and valuation of the money supply.

**6. Personal Protection:** We call upon congress to repeal the gun free school zones act of 1990, the Federal Switch Blades act, and the National Firearms act (which imposes a tax on the making and transfer of certain firearms and accessories); and to oppose any new legislation that increases background checks for gun owners or that bans or hinders non-felons to purchase, own, or carry any type of gun, ammunition, accessory or knife.