

## **2016 ISLAND COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM**

### **PREAMBLE:**

As Republicans and citizens of both our constitutional republic and the state of Washington, we believe all political power originates **from the collective will of all United States citizens**, that governments derive their just powers by consent of the governed, and that governments are established to protect and maintain individual unalienable and natural rights; further

To preserve our cherished freedom, we stand for the principles of: constitutionally limited governments that minimize spending, taxes, and inflation; voluntary meeting of charitable needs; a robust civil society free from government interference; a strong military force; free and competitive markets; equal opportunity with advancement for merit; individual liberty with personal responsibility; the rule of law; and private property.

Therefore, be it resolved that the following, in so far as the items listed below are consistent with the United States and Washington constitutions, be adopted as planks in the Island County Republican Party's 2016 Platform.

### **1.0 ECONOMY/TAXES**

Republicans support principles that create non-government jobs, strengthen the free enterprise system, encourage entrepreneurs, lower taxes, and promote a conservative fiscal policy.

- 1.1 We support reduction of Federal income taxes.
- 1.2 We support removal of all direct and indirect Marriage Penalties from the Federal tax code.
- 1.3 We support a two-thirds supermajority for approval of levies and bond issues.
- 1.4 We support the right to join a union and oppose compulsory union membership.
- 1.5 We support reducing regulation of existing and new businesses and encourage competitive free enterprise.
- 1.6 We support lower real property taxes.
- 1.7 We support reduction of all Washington State fees, sales, and excise taxes.
- 1.8 We support legislation that would penalize businesses and government agencies that hire illegal aliens.
- 1.9 We support 'Country of Origin' labeling for all agricultural products.
- 1.10 We support balanced budgets at all levels of government.
- 1.11 We support a constitutional amendment allowing a Presidential line item veto.
- 1.12 We support Social Security reforms including privatization by allowing 0-100% of FICA withholdings to be placed in individually owned private investments, while still protecting all Social Security benefits for individuals currently receiving them.
- 1.13 We oppose all inheritance/death, and capital gains taxes.
- 1.14 We oppose a Washington State income tax.

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- 1.15 We oppose unfunded mandates at all levels of government.
- 1.16 We oppose use of union dues and retirement trust fund income for political purposes without a union members consent.
- 1.17 We oppose personal property taxes.
- 1.18 We oppose taxation of communication means including the Internet.
- 1.19 We oppose additional utility taxes, assessments and fees levied against property owners without their consent.
- 1.20 We oppose taxation of Social Security benefits.
- 1.21 We urge Congress to make the existing Federal tax cuts permanent.
- 1.22 We support the enactment of Fundamental Tax Reform legislation.
- 1.23 We support efforts to return Fiscal Responsibility to Federal, Washington State, and local government - live within your means equates to NO DEFICIT SPENDING.
- 1.24 We support and encourage return of Federal Government activities to those responsibilities specifically delegated by the States.

### **2.0 IMMIGRATION/HOMELAND SECURITY**

- 2.1 We support enforcing current immigration laws.
- 2.2 We support hiring sufficient numbers of Border Patrol and immigration enforcement personnel to effectively secure our borders.
- 2.3 We support using the most effective methods available to secure our borders, ports, all means of mass transportation and other vital infrastructure.
- 2.4 As a matter of security and continuity, we support English as the language of official communications both verbal and written.
- 2.5 We support laws that require proof of citizenship to receive a driver's license. Temporary licenses for visa holders and guest workers should be clearly different from normal licenses.
- 2.6 We support deportation of illegal aliens convicted of crimes, but only after they have served appropriate sentences.
- 2.7 We oppose illegal immigration and oppose blanket amnesty for those who have entered our country by illegal means.
- 2.8 We oppose undocumented or illegal aliens gaining advantage over legal immigrants who are seeking U.S. citizenship.

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### **3.0 MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE**

Republicans support all efforts to make quality health care available to every American at reasonable cost.

3.1 We support reforming Medicaid/Medicare programs to eliminate fraud and waste.

3.2 We support legislation giving individuals the right to purchase healthcare insurance across state lines.

3.3 We support measures to protect innocent human life from conception to natural death. Abortion and other invasive non-emergency medical procedures should not be available to minors without parental approval. Partial-birth abortion is infanticide and should be outlawed.

3.4 We support treating HIV as a public health concern, and treat AIDS as we do any other deadly communicable disease.

3.5 We support reform of tort statutes to prevent frivolous legal action.

3.5 We support Medical malpractice control boards that remove doctors from the profession, and public notification of such removal, for doctors deemed incompetent or medically dangerous.

3.7 We support federal and state programs that encourage physicians and hospitals to utilize Electronic Medical Record systems.

3.8 We oppose government takeover of our healthcare systems at any level.

3.9 We call for a ban in human cloning and embryonic stem cell research, while applauding the research being done with adult stem cells.

3.10 We support defunding, repealing, and replacing current Federal Health Care Program (Obamacare).

3.11 We oppose any government funding of Planned Parenthood.

### **4.0 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE**

We believe one of the fundamental roles of government is the security and defense of its people.

4.1 We support strengthening the U.S. military.

4.2 We support modernization of our military infrastructure to meet present and future security needs.

4.3 We support maintenance of U.S. sovereignty by requiring that our armed forces always be under the command of the U.S. military.

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- 4.4 We oppose relations with the United Nations or any multi-national group that would strike or nullify any part of our Constitution or the Bill of Rights or our body of laws.
- 4.5 We believe all national governments supporting and participating in terrorism should be treated as enemies of the United States.
- 4.6 We strongly support efforts to assert the sovereign authority of the United States over U.S. territorial waters.

### **5.0 EDUCATION**

Republicans support reforms that strengthen public, private, home-based, and faith-based education.

- 5.1 We support the return of public education to local and community control, and oppose Common Core.
- 5.2 We support legislation that encourages the development of charter schools.
- 5.3 We support using all revenue from the Washington State Lottery system for education funding, as was the Lottery's original function.
- 5.4 We support education scholarships and tax credits for tuition.
- 5.5 We support the right of parents to home-school their children without government interference, providing said schooling meets minimum state standards.
- 5.6 We support English as the primary and first language that should be taught in American schools.
- 5.7 We support full disclosure concerning taxpayer-paid educational funding at all levels of the educational system.
- 5.8 We support displaying and teaching the Declaration of independence and both Washington and United States' Constitutions in public schools.
- 5.9 We support displaying the Declaration of Independence and both Washington and United States' Constitutions in government buildings.
- 5.10 We support holding educators and administrators accountable for the quality of education provided to their students.
- 5.11 We support the inclusion of abstinence in all public school curriculums covering AIDS/HIV or sexual activity.
- 5.12 We support the right of teachers to enforce disciplinary standards in their classrooms, including the removal of habitually disruptive students.
- 5.13 We support the right of trained teachers and other personnel to carry firearms on school grounds in order to protect our children.

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### **6.0 GOVERNMENT/POLITICS**

Believing that 'Government is best which governs least', Republicans support policies that make government at all levels accountable and efficient. We also support restricting the size, scope and regulatory power of government over the lives of citizens. We support Washington's state sovereignty, as reserved under the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as a necessary and proper means to protect the rights of Washington Citizens as stated in Article 1 of the Washington State Constitution.

- 6.1 We support reducing the size and scope of government at all levels, and the elimination of nonessential laws, regulations and unnecessary administration.
- 6.2 We support independent performance and efficiency audits for all Washington State, county and city government operations and agencies, including the ferry and other transportation systems.
- 6.3 We support adoption of 'zero-based' budgeting for state government and agencies.
- 6.4 We support the Initiative process provided by Washington State law, and oppose attempts to restrict or eliminate the voice of the people through the Initiative process.
- 6.5 We support public access to government decision making and oppose closed legislative sessions.
- 6.6 We support the right of every eligible American citizen to vote.
- 6.7 We support a Constitutional Amendment requiring a balanced budget by the Federal Government.
- 6.8 We support requiring proof of United States citizenship and residency when registering to vote and believe the option of Motor Voter registration should be eliminated.
- 6.9 We support the caucus system of government 'by the people' and believe it should be preserved.
- 6.10 We support the elimination of "earmarks" in appropriation funding.
- 6.11 We support State legislation that requires legislative approval of all Washington Administrative Codes (WACs).
- 6.12 Island County government building and land use application fee structures should be limited to reflect no more than the actual cost of processing an application.
- 6.13 We call on the Governor and all government officials to abide in strict accordance with the R.C.W. (Revised Code of Washington) to balance our budget, and adhere to legislation that restricts spending.

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6,15 To ensure our election process is not compromised by fraud, every citizen must be required in person to provide documentary proof of citizenship and residency when applying for voter registration.

6.16 All military votes must be counted. When necessary, timelines for deployed military personnel may be extended, but all military ballots must be postmarked no later than the state cutoff date.

6.17 We support the nomination or election of judges, Federal, Washington State, and local that that will support and protect our Constitution and Bill of Rights by refraining from legislating from the bench.

5.18 We oppose US Senate ratification of Cap and Trade Treaties.

6,19 We oppose US Senate ratification of any United Nations Treaty that supersedes, modifies or nullifies any actions by US citizens permitted by our Constitution.

### **7.0 ENVIRONMENT/GROWTH MANAGEMENT/PROPERTY RIGHTS/ ENERGY**

7.1 We support policies that foster the emergence of clean, environmentally efficient, technology driven business.

7.2 For the determining of public policies concerning climate and energy, we support objective, peer reviewed scientific studies.

7.3 We support amending the State Growth Management Act and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and other environmental statutes to protect the rights of property owners and allow local communities to control their own zoning and land use issues.

7.4 We support the amending of the State Growth Management Act to eliminate all state appointed Growth Hearing Boards. These boards have been used to usurp control of land use from local governments and property owners. Any future Growth Hearing Boards must be elected by and be accountable to those they serve.

7.5 We support protection of private property rights and just compensation to property owners in the event of governmental or regulatory taking or use of any individual's property.

7.6 We support energy policies that include drilling offshore and in Alaska, development of alternate fuels, increased use of nuclear energy, and use of all other cost effective means to make our nation energy independent.

7.7 We oppose the seizure and transfer by government of private property to another private party.

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### **8.0 LAW AND JUSTICE**

Republicans understand the role of law enforcement is to protect persons and property.

8.1 We support swift and appropriate sentencing for anyone found guilty of a crime. We also support victims' rights, and truth in sentencing.

8.2 We support the death penalty and the use of forensic science to determine the guilt or innocence of a person facing a life sentence or the death penalty.

8.3 We support rigorous enforcement of state child pornography laws.

8.4 We support Tort Reform.

8.5 We support adequate numbers of trained officers for local police, state police and sheriff's departments.

8.6 We support laws that target criminals who use guns, but oppose government intrusion into the lives of private, law-abiding citizens through increased gun registration, regulation and restriction.

8.7 We support prosecuting juveniles as adults when they are repeat offenders charged with a violent crime.

8.8 We support laws that prevent early release of dangerous criminals.

8.9 We support the mandatory collection of DNA identification from all persons convicted for felony offenses.

### **9.0 SOCIAL ISSUES**

9.1 We support a law which requires a 24-hour waiting period for abortions.

9.2 We support the protection of the "family unit."

9.3 We support the equal enforcement of civil rights laws, and oppose measures to create special "protected classes" of people based on sexual orientation, preferences, or lifestyle choices.

9.4 We support the elimination of "Affirmative Action programs."

9.5 We strongly believe in equal opportunity for each individual citizen.

9.6 We support the accountability and responsibility of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and related departments.

9.7 We encourage and support clubs, groups, civic organizations, churches, and faith-based ministries as they serve to meet social and humanitarian needs within local communities.

9.8 We oppose taxpayer funding of abortion.

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9.9 We oppose taxpayer funding of cloning and embryonic stem cell research.

9.10 We support the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, without reservation, as a right of individuals to keep and bear arms.

9.11 We as Americans are one people regardless of our race and country of origin and as such should be treated equally, especially as regards how our children should be educated in public schools. Therefore, we oppose the collection of data associated with the race and ethnic background of the student population in any of our public schools.

### **10.0 COMMERCE AND TRADE**

A strong economy depends upon thriving commerce and trade. We believe that Washington and Island County need to become known as "business friendly", We encourage economic development in Island County to promote local opportunities for employment.

10.1 We support reduced regulation along with lower business and property taxes to allow companies to thrive and remain in our county, state and nation.

10.2 We support policies which attract non-government jobs which have been outsourced.

10.3 We support the elimination of Washington State's Business and Occupation tax.

10.4 We support Worker's Comp reform.

10.5 We oppose arbitrary minimum wage increases.

10.6 We support and encourage foreign investment that creates non-government jobs in our county, state and nation.

10.7 We support legislation eliminating State and local government personal property tax upon businesses.

10.8 We support adequate funding of Washington state infrastructure including highways and ferries. Our ferries are State Highways and must not be allowed to close. Further, we demand accountability from those in charge of our ferries.

#### Platform Committee:

Marc Hennemann, Chairman

Bill Carruthers

Joseph Kleinman

Wayne Morrison

Jim Spoltman