

2016 County Platform

Yakima County Republican Central Committee

PREAMBLE

The Yakima County Republican Party recognizes the dignity and value of every individual and believes that a just government is based on the people's fundamental right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

SECTION 1: PERSONAL LIBERTY

We believe all people are rightfully self-governing over their own affairs which do not infringe upon the rights of others. We have the obligation to defend and preserve all fundamental rights and freedoms granted to us by our Creator and a duty and obligation to teach our children the profound meaning behind the ideals that our nation was founded upon and for which so many have sacrificed their lives. We believe the primary authority and responsibility for educating children resides with parents.

We believe families shall be self-determining over all family affairs that do not infringe upon the rights of others or present an imminent, physical threat to the life of others. We also support the protection of innocent human life, pre-born or born, through all stages of life, sickness and disability.

We believe that decisions about health care are personal issues and should rest with the individual and parents of minors. We support free-market choices for health care without government regulations.

SECTION 2: SOVEREIGNTY

We believe government must be strictly limited in its powers and preserve the original understanding of principles found in the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the constitutions of Washington State and the United States of America. We believe our government should uphold and defend the sovereignty of this nation against all foreign and domestic enemies to preserve our freedoms.

We believe a strong America is a free America. Our freedom depends on a strong national defense against foreign governments and hostile entities and in controlling and enforcing our borders and immigration laws.

We believe in preventing the subjugation of the national sovereignty of the United States to any foreign or international body and ensuring that U.S. military personnel remain only under U.S. command. That honoring all past and current obligations to our troops, veterans, and their families, and improving pay and allowances to surviving military dependents is required.

We believe that English should be the official language of the United States.

SECTION 3: PROPERTY RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We believe the right to own property and freedom from unreasonable government regulation and intrusion must be protected. In accordance with the Fifth Amendment, we advocate for fair compensation for any property loss or devaluation brought about by government action.

We believe in granting local governments, with citizen participation, the authority to update and implement their own growth management plans – with local control over critical area ordinances, environmental regulations and resource management. We believe in supporting sustainable forest management practices on public timberland, balanced salmon recovery programs, protecting private and corporate water rights, the development of additional water resources, including increased storage capacity for the Yakima Valley. We oppose removal of dams used for hydroelectricity, irrigation and transportation. We recognize hydroelectric power as a renewable energy source and believe it should be considered so by the state of Washington.

SECTION 4: ECONOMY

We believe capitalism and free enterprise provide individuals the most freedom and opportunity for success. Government must protect those principles as the economic foundation of a free society. Government itself must practice fiscal responsibility, allowing citizens to be unfettered by burdensome government regulation.

We support principles that promote a conservative fiscal policy, create jobs, strengthen the free-enterprise system, encourage entrepreneurship and protect our economic base while lowering taxes.

Believing we cannot tax ourselves into prosperity, we support a super-majority vote of the Legislature or a simple majority vote of the people to impose new taxes or to increase existing ones.

We must establish a strong and secure domestic food supply that is not dependent on foreign products, and require imported food to meet all federal and state standards. We support tax policies that recognize fluctuations in farm income and assist farmers during low-income years through tax deferments.

SECTION 5: CRIME AND JUSTICE

We support constitutional protections that safeguard our individual liberty, due process and equal protection under the law, the right of individuals to provide for the defense of themselves, their families, and their communities within the bounds of Common Law and the U.S. Constitution.

We support a strong judiciary applying the law in a manner faithful to the U.S. Constitution.

■ Approved April 16, 2016