

# **Kansas Republican Party Platform**

**Adopted January 28, 2006**

## **Preamble**

The Kansas Republican Party believes the strength of our nation lies with the individual, and that each person's dignity, freedom, ability and responsibility must be honored. We believe in equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, gender, age or disability. We believe in free enterprise and that encouraging individual initiative has brought this nation opportunity, economic growth and prosperity. We believe government must practice fiscal responsibility and allow individuals to keep more of the money they earn. We believe the proper role of government is to provide for the people only those critical functions that cannot be performed by individuals or private organizations, and that the best government is that which governs least. We believe the most effective, responsible and responsive government is government closest to the people. We believe Americans must retain the principles that have made us strong while developing new and innovative ideas to meet the challenges of changing times. We believe Americans value and should preserve our national strength and pride while working to extend peace, freedom and human rights around the world. We believe the Republican Party is the best vehicle for translating these ideals into positive and successful principles of government.

As the Party of the open door, while steadfast in our commitment to our ideals, we respect and accept that members of our Party can have deeply held and sometimes differing views. This diversity is a source of strength, not a sign of weakness, and so we welcome into our ranks all who may hold differing positions. We commit to resolve our differences with civility, trust, and mutual respect, and to affirm the common goals and beliefs that unite us.

Understanding the rapid nature of changing needs, we recognize that specific legislative proposals will come and go. We believe the merit of future legislation and policy should be judged against the philosophy of the Republican Party as outlined in the above paragraph.

## **Building Safer Communities**

We believe the rights of society and the rights of the individual are both important and must be protected. We support the work of law enforcement across the state, to create safe neighborhoods, protection from sex offenders, and freedom from abuse inside the home. The judicial system must impose swift and fair punishment for all crimes, violent and non-violent.

We oppose pornography in all forms. Because of the increasing prevalence of pornography in our society from modern technologies, we urge our elected officials to routinely examine the laws of our state to ensure the protection of our citizens, especially our children.

We support the judicious use of capital punishment and we urge the passage of laws that will limit endless appeals in capital cases.

Parents have the right to raise their children consistent with their religious and moral values, as they bear the final responsibility before God in the rearing of their children. Parents must be free to discipline their children in love and direct their education without government intrusion.

The benefits and privileges of marriage shall be between one man and one woman. Happy and healthy marriages are the foundation of our society and we should encourage the institution of marriage to thrive.

## **Building the Knowledge of Students**

The Republican Party believes that the primary focus of education should be on expanding academic knowledge from a core education. In a global economy, our students must be proficient in math and science. In order for our nation to survive and prosper, our students must have a thorough understanding of history and the philosophical concepts upon which our government is based.

Public Education is an essential service provided by local government and is key to our children's success. We support the Kansas legislature's continued commitment to fund Kansas public schools. Public schools, while serving the diverse communities of our state, must recognize and be responsive to the input of school children's parents, and to the standards of character and values prevalent in the communities they serve. The role of parents as the primary decision makers in the lives of their children should be embraced. Parents should have academic choice through options such as public schools, charter schools and private schools, both accredited and non-accredited, including home schools. Public policy should support parental choice.

Kansas students should be allowed and encouraged to fully discuss and critique all science-based theories for the origin of life in science curricula.

**We support the current system of an elected State Board of Education that is accountable to the people.**

## **Embracing Our Heritage**

The Kansas Republican Party believes that the fundamental principles of the Republican Party are rooted in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Bill of Rights. The Party supports the preservation of our Republic, its ideals and institutions for the good of all Americans and adamantly opposes the erosion of these cherished freedoms.

Preserving these freedoms requires our best effort; our willingness to believe in ourselves and to believe in our capacity to accomplish great things; to believe that together, with God's guidance, we can and will resolve the problems which now confront us.

## **Growing the Economy**

The keys to economic success and personal financial security are opportunity and entrepreneurship. Federal, State, and Local governments must recognize that prosperity can only be achieved when the majority of economic resources remain in the hands of the people. Tax policy at all governmental levels should be geared toward fostering an environment of economic growth, creation of jobs, and the nurturing of new technologies. Government should always seek first to meet its financial needs through the creation of economic activity. Increasing the tax burden on its citizens should be a last resort, and any effort to do so beyond the rate of economic growth should be submitted to a vote of the citizenry. To promote economic growth, state tax policy should be simple and fair to Kansas businesses. Tax mechanisms such as the destination sales tax are unfair burdens on small business and should be repealed. Further, confusion and complexity in the current property tax system mandates a reappraisal system that is fair and accountable to the people.

Governments should not compete with private enterprise through ventures such as hotel resorts and gambling. Gambling should not be expanded to include state-owned facilities.

## **Preserving the Heartland**

As Kansas Republicans, we gratefully acknowledge the gift of abundant natural resources in our nation, and especially recognize the importance of these resources in the agriculturally-driven economy of our state. Maintaining the rich heritage of our state in the future depends on the protection and wise usage of all natural resources.

We recognize that stewardship requires the wise use and conservation of our God-given natural resources. The balance between the conservation of natural resources and progressive enterprise can be accomplished.

Private property rights are essential to individual liberty. Government should be prohibited from seizing private property for economic development. Eminent domain is intended for essential public purposes.

We support the protection of water rights and natural minerals resources of private land owners, and encourage the conservation of all natural resources through economic/tax incentives rather than government regulations.

## Protecting a Culture of Life

Every innocent life is sacred, every human being, born and unborn, has an inalienable right to life which can not be infringed. The Kansas Republican Party will lead our nation toward a culture that values life – the life of the elderly and the sick, the life of the young and the life of the unborn.

We support:

- ★ The overturning of Roe v Wade
- ★ Providing positive alternatives to abortion by meeting the physical, emotional, and financial needs of pregnant women and offering adoption services where needed
- ★ Full disclosure of possible short- and long-term effects of abortion to women seeking abortion
- ★ The right to civil and criminal redress for matters involving malpractice, malfeasance, or ethical violations to post-abortive women.
- ★ Licensure and regulation by the State to ensure the health of pregnant women and infants born alive during abortion.
- ★ Collecting extensive pre- and post-abortion data to improve public health policy-making.
- ★ The protection of unborn disabled individuals by informing expectant mothers about related community support systems as an alternative to coerced therapeutic abortions.
- ★ The role of parents as the primary decision makers in the medical care of their minor children.
- ★ The use of scientifically proven and successful adult stem cells and umbilical cord blood without destroying human life; prohibition of all human cloning, also known as somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT), which manufactures human life; prohibition of destructive embryonic research, including the extraction of stem cells from embryos which destroys human life.

## Respecting Individual Freedoms

The strength of our nation lies in our heritage of respecting the individual, and in the belief that each person's dignity, freedom, ability and responsibility must be honored.

We affirm the Declaration of Independence, which states that we are endowed by our Creator with the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We affirm the rights granted by the Bill of Rights as originally intended by the founding fathers, including the rights to freely practice religion, to keep and bear arms and to be protected from unreasonable seizure of property, including the seizure of private property by government for the use of private enterprise.

We welcome Kansans of every ethnicity into our Party as we work together to preserve our heritage of equality, religious freedom and strong moral values. We strive to eliminate racism and condemn all racist acts and groups.

The Republican Party supports the right of all individuals and groups of individuals to freely and openly express their political views without government regulation or interference.

## **Respecting the Constitution**

The judicial branch of our Federal government, and that of our state, must recognize that it is a co-equal branch of government - not a "super-legislative body." The core mission of the judiciary is to protect the historically recognized constitutional rights of the people. We believe judges should be arbiters of conflict and not make public policy. The judiciary should be held accountable for its mission by a thorough examination of its members by the people whose rights they are to protect. The most efficient mechanism of accountability, and one envisioned by both the state and federal constitutions, is a vigilant legislature. The Kansas legislature must engage more fully its mission as a check and balance on the state judiciary by implementing a system of examination and confirmation of judicial members, or direct election of judicial members by the people.

## **Securing the Homeland**

A strong national defense infrastructure requires a modernized, fully equipped and trained armed force. Their noble mission and the sacrifices they have made, mandate that the men and women of these all-volunteer forces be given the greatest honor and respect.

Legal immigration is a blessing to this country, and with the promise of America, a blessing to those who come here. Preserving that promise for future generations mandates that we must protect the sovereignty of our country and secure our borders. Legal immigration is not incompatible with this goal. Immigration and citizenship with all of its privileges, when executed pursuant to law, are an historically proven and inseparable component of that promise. It is, therefore, the duty of all who seek the promise of America to respect the laws of our country.