

# 2004 STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

## PLATFORM COMMITTEE

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## **PREAMBLE**

The delegates of the 2004 Republican Party of Texas believe that our Party Platform expresses fundamental beliefs and truths that were recognized by our country's founders. The conservative principles of our Party are tested and proven. We believe that Republican officeholders of our representative republic do not truly represent their electorate unless this platform is the basis for their decision-making. We call on Texas Republicans to work diligently to expand our network of grassroots volunteers to elect representative Republicans. To accomplish this, we commend these core principles of the 2004 Texas Republican Platform:

1. We respect and cherish the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and our Founders' intent to restrict the power of the federal government over the states and the people. We believe self-government, based on personal integrity of a proper moral foundation, is the best government. This is best balanced with limited civil government, coupled with public trust, to provide collectively for the people those services not efficiently achieved individually.
2. We believe that human life is sacred, created in the image of God. Life begins at the moment of fertilization and ends at the point of natural death. All innocent human life must be protected.
3. We believe that good government is based on the individual, and each person's ability, dignity, freedom, and responsibility must be honored and recognized. We believe equal opportunity is a right and a privilege but equal outcome is not. We insist that no one's rights are negotiable and that individual freedom demands personal responsibility.
4. We believe that government spending is out of control and needs to be reduced. We support fundamental, immediate tax reform that is simple, fair, and fully disclosed. We commend President George W. Bush's principled stand to reduce taxes and stimulate the economy.
5. We believe that traditional marriage is a legal and moral commitment between a natural man and a natural woman. We recognize that the family is the foundational unit of a healthy society and consists of those related by blood, marriage, or adoption. The family is responsible for its own welfare, education, moral training, conduct, and property,
6. We believe that a well-educated population is fundamental to the continued success of our Republic; and that parents have the right, as well as the duty, to direct their children's education. This right should include choices among public, private, home and religious schools. Competition improves education.
7. We believe that the future of our country depends upon a strong and vibrant private sector unencumbered by excessive government regulation.
8. We believe that a strong America ensures a free America. While we recognize that our nation is the primary leader in the global community, we must also vigorously protect the sovereignty of the United States.

9. We believe in peace through strength. We take a principled stand to preemptively defend the citizens of the United States against all foes, foreign or domestic, whose goal is to destroy our American way of life. Freedom is never free, and we honor all those who have served our nation to protect our liberty, especially our men and women in uniform, who unselfishly and courageously defend our country.
10. We believe all Americans have the right to be safe in their homes, on their streets, and in their communities. We support enforcement of the laws through the Courts imposing swift and sure justice with stiff penalties, truth in sentencing, and respecting the rights of law-abiding citizens, while opposing judicial activism.

**“We pray God Bless Texas. God Bless the U.S.A. God bless us all!”**

## **Preserving American Freedom**

### **Limiting the Expanse of Government Power**

**Limited Federal Powers** – The Party supports state sovereignty under the Tenth Amendment, which reserves to the states or the people all powers not specifically delegated in the Constitution to the federal government, and opposes the institution of mandates that are beyond the scope of federal authority. We further support the abolition of federal agencies involved in activities not originally intended to be delegated to the federal government under a strict interpretation of the Constitution.

**Constitutional Citations on Legislation** – The Party urges that all bills presented in Congress include citations to the constitutional provision that authorizes Congress to act on the matter under consideration, the cost to implement, and the impact on the family.

**Law Enforcement** – The Party:

1. Supports the limitation of the criminal jurisdiction of federal law-enforcement agencies to the high seas, federal installations, and counterfeiting operations in accordance with Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
2. Understands most crime is local and the states, according to the Tenth Amendment, reserve law enforcement authority.
3. Supports elimination of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.
4. Opposes the expansion of federal law-enforcement authority and the use of military personnel and equipment against American citizens.

**Preserving National Security** – The Party believes terrorism is the greatest threat to international peace and to the safety of our own citizens. We also believe the current greatest threat to our individual liberties is overreaching government controls established under the guise of preventing terrorism. We therefore urge:

1. our national leadership, within the limits of protecting the Constitutional rights of American citizens, to wage war on terrorists who threaten the United States and its citizens swiftly, deliberately, and decisively wherever such terrorists are found.
2. Congress to immediately cut all foreign aid to any nation threatening our citizens and providing aid or comfort to terrorist organizations or providing arms to other nations hostile to the United States.
3. the Administration to set known standards of consequences and reprisals for terrorist activities and to publicly support other nations in their efforts to fight terrorists.
4. reasonable use of profiling as permitted by the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution to protect American lives and property.
5. full investigation and prosecution of any material breaches in national security.
6. review and revision of those portions of the USA Patriot Act, and related executive and military orders and directives that erode constitutional rights and essential liberties of citizens.

**Continuity of Government** – The Party opposes any mechanism to appoint members of the Congress if large numbers of vacancies in Congress occur and opposes any attempt to deprive the American people of their Constitutionally protected right to elect their own Representatives.

**Emergency War Powers** – A perpetual state of national emergency allows unrestricted growth of government. The Party charges the President to cancel the state of national emergency and charges Congress to repeal the War Powers Act and declare an end to the previously declared states of emergency.

**Elimination of Executive Orders** – The Party demands the elimination of presidential authority to issue executive orders, presidential decision directives, and other administrative mandates that do not have congressional approval. Further, we demand a repeal of all previous executive orders and administrative mandates.

**Inter-jurisdictional Agreements** – The Party opposes inter-jurisdictional agreements with any state that usurp or dilute the authority of the Governor to command and control the military, police, and emergency management personnel and resources of the State of Texas. The Party calls upon the Texas Legislature to repeal all such measures that have already been enacted, including but not limited to Section 778 of the Health and Safety Code.

**Addition of States** – The Party strongly opposes all efforts to make the District of Columbia a state in the United States of America.

**Census** – The Party opposes any attempt by the United States Census Bureau to obtain any information beyond the number of people residing in the dwelling at the time of the census in accordance with Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution. We strongly support counting each citizen and urge elected officials to resist taking a census by any other method.

**Preservation of Republican Form of Government** – The Party reaffirms our support for the provisions for a republican (representative) form of government, as set forth in the Texas Constitution and Texas Bill of Rights [Art. I, Sec. 2; Art. I, Sec. 29; Art. II, Sec. 1; and Art. XVII, Sec. 2(g)], and we oppose any attempt to introduce direct democracy (Initiative & Referendum) into our state constitution, thereby bypassing the legislative process and the checks and balances between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. We hereby reaffirm the principles espoused in the United States Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution.

**Germane Contents Requirement** – The Party supports a law that would require all sentences, paragraphs, sections, and any inclusion to legislation, continuing resolution, law or bill be germane to the title of the act.

**Constitutional Convention** – The Party opposes a Constitutional Convention or “Conference of the States” to rewrite the United States Constitution. Furthermore, we demand the Texas Legislature immediately rescind the State’s 1977 vote sent to the United States Congress calling for a Constitutional Convention. We also call upon other states to rescind their votes for a Constitutional Convention.

**Personal Confidentiality** – The Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution guarantees the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures. The Party directs that legislation be introduced in both the United States Congress and the Texas Legislature to repeal existing statutory requirements to end the ever increasing, incessant, recurring, and calculated gathering, accumulation, and dissemination of finger prints, Social Security numbers, financial and personal information of law-abiding citizens by business and governments, the use of which are contrary to and destructive of our individual and collective freedom. Such legislation shall provide remedy and redress to any individual denied service for refusing to provide the above-mentioned information.

**Preserving Personal Privacy** – The Party opposes any and all unauthorized access, accumulation, and distribution of an individual’s private records by a government agency or any agent working on behalf of a government agency. We oppose the creation of a federal identification card for United States citizens or the use of state driver licenses as a national identification card

**Affirmative Action** – The Party believes every form of government discrimination based on race, color, creed, or national origin should be eliminated. We oppose any form of blanket or general reparation based upon discriminatory criteria. We support affirmative action as originally defined by the Party as equal opportunity for all citizens.

**Annexation** – The Party supports legislation protecting the interests of all parties in annexation proceedings by guaranteeing two binding referenda:

1. The residents of the area to be annexed must vote in the affirmative to accept annexation, and
2. The residents of the jurisdiction proposing annexation must vote in the affirmative for the annexation.

**Property Forfeiture** – The Party supports legislation that strengthens the present restrictions on the use of civil forfeiture laws and assesses penalties and fines to reimburse injured parties for attorney fees and costs accrued if the property is returned to its original owner.

**Eminent Domain** – The Party urges the Legislature to amend the Texas Property Code to protect the rights of private property owners by notification of their rights under law with regard to condemnation and to require the condemner to show the just need for the action by petitioning a court of jurisdiction.

**Homestead Protection** - The Republican Party of Texas supports the continuance of Texas’ constitutional homestead protection.

**Environment, Property Ownership, and Natural Resources** – The Party affirms ownership of property is the cornerstone of individual freedom and understands government ownership of land to be the cornerstone of socialism. We reaffirm the belief in the fundamental constitutional concept of an individual's right to own and use property without governmental interference. Further:

1. We believe that the right to own and use property is the source of the nation's wealth, jobs, and individual economic security. We affirm that property rights and the free enterprise system form the foundation of our nation's collective wealth. In turn, it is our collective wealth that supports a strong environmental ethic. Economic security is the foundation for secure, healthy families and the future of our children.
2. We believe in maintaining American sovereignty over our natural resources.
3. We believe in building our tax base through local conservation of our natural resources.
4. We believe in local stewardship of our natural resources for our children's future freedom and use.
5. We believe that the taking of property should follow with immediate compensation to the property owner.
6. We believe that the taking of property includes the loss of proportionate value of property, loss of use, loss of access, and loss of marketability. We believe in sound science and not politically correct science.
7. We believe that groundwater is an absolute, vested ownership right of the landowner. As the capture of and the competition for groundwater increases, we support voter-approved county ground water districts to address inequitable issues.
8. We believe that the state should neither make nor enforce any law that abridges or denies the inalienable constitutional rights of the citizens of Texas with respect to minerals, water, or property rights.
9. We support state control of state resources and oppose nationalization and control of lands and watersheds of the United States.
10. We oppose conservation easements on our natural resources administered by organizations unaccountable to taxpayers and voters. For example, the efforts of the Caddo Lake Institute to act as a surrogate for the UN in gaining control of water rights of Caddo Lake.
11. We support repealing regulation and laws that prevent people from repairing and restoring their property, including riverfront, creek bank, and beachfront property, at their own expense.
12. We support regulations based on proven science and support congressional oversight over administrative edicts.
13. We oppose passage of any international treaty that overrides United States sovereignty, including the Kyoto Agreement and the Biodiversity Treaty.
14. We oppose the vast acquisition of Texas land by government agencies solely for the purpose of protecting endangered species.
15. We urge Congress to modify any environmental acts to allow the EPA to permit states to consider costs when comparing various emission control techniques.
16. We urge legislation providing for election of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) chairman.
17. We reaffirm belief in the fundamental constitutional right of a person to own property without governmental interference.
18. We oppose the Endangered Species Act.
19. We demand that government adhere to the Constitutions of the United States and Texas by immediately halting the seizure of private property without due process and just compensation.
20. We urge government management of public lands and resources be conducted based upon policies that prioritize human need over other considerations.

**Trans-Texas Corridor** – Because there are issues of confiscation of private land, State and National sovereignty and other similar concerns, the Party urges the repeal of HB 3588 authorizing the Trans-Texas Corridor. Further, we urge the removal of all authorization and powers granted the Texas Transportation Commission and the Texas Department of Transportation for the construction and operation of the Trans-Texas Corridor.

**Federal Reserve Audit** – The Party supports a congressional audit of the Federal Reserve System. The Party also believes the minutes of Federal Reserve Board meetings should be made public.

**Free Speech for the Clergy** – The Party calls for the Internal Revenue Code to be changed to allow a religious organization to address the vital issues of the day without fear of the organization losing its tax-exempt status. Further, we call for repeal of all provisions requiring religious organizations to send government any personal identification information about their contributors.

**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.

## **Reforming the Judicial System**

**Direct Election of State Judges** – The Party supports our right to select our judges by a direct vote of the people and opposes all attempts to impose an appointment/retention process.

**Visiting Judges** – The Party supports 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.

**Judicial Conduct** – The Party affirms that judges should not express bias or prejudice in the discharge of their duties. However, judges must retain their constitutional right to speak out about issues. We oppose the enforcement of and call for the repeal of Section 5(1) of the Judicial Code of Conduct that has been interpreted as calling for judges to refrain from exercising their freedom of speech, freedom of association, or freedom of religion.

**Jury Reform** – The Party supports legislation protecting the right to privacy and security of prospective jurors during the jury selection process. The courts must show the relevance of questions asked of jurors and perform a balancing test between the prospective juror's right to privacy and the relevance of the lawyer's need to know. We support legislation enabling either party in a criminal trial to inform the jurors of their right to determine the facts and to render a verdict according to conscience.

**Qualified Juror Service** – The Party urges the limitation of jury service to those who are registered voters.

**Administrative Justice** – The Party supports the right of citizens to full and open participation in the state's administrative law processes. We oppose any amendments to the Administrative Procedures and Texas Register Act or any other laws, regulations, and rules that unreasonably limit ordinary citizen input.

**Judicial Restraint** – The Party supports the principle of judicial restraint, which requires judges to interpret and apply rather than make the law. We encourage the support of judges who strictly interpret the law based on the law's original intent. We oppose judges abusing their constitutional authority by usurping jurisdiction organic to the States, assuming for themselves the legislative powers, or basing decisions on jurisprudence emanating from jurisdictions foreign to our Constitution and laws.

**Remedies to Activist Judiciary** – The Party calls on the Congress and the President to use their constitutional powers to restrain activist judges.

1. **Impeachment** - The Party calls on the Congress to exercise their authority to impeach and remove federal judges who abuse their constitutional authority or are no longer acting on good behavior.
2. **Appellate Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court** – Congress should be urged to exercise its authority under Article III, Sections 1 and 2 of the United States Constitution, and should withhold appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in such cases involving abortion, religious freedom, and all rights guaranteed under the Bill of Rights.
3. **Refusal to Enforce** –The Executive Branch is obligated to defend the Constitution by refusing to enforce judicial decisions that transgress the enumerated powers of the Article III Court. Congress should refuse allocating funding for the enforcement of any such unconstitutional decisions.

**Judicial Nominees** – We urge the Republican leadership in the Senate to take appropriate action to ensure that a record vote on the floor is taken on every judicial nominee.

**State Bar Requirements** - The Party calls upon the Texas Legislature and the Supreme Court of Texas to repeal the prohibition on out-of-state attorneys who obtain their law degree through distance learning (curriculum and coursework through electronic means or the mail) from taking the Texas Bar Exam.

**Statutory Authority for Regulation** – The Party believes defendants charged with violation of a governmental regulation have the right to demand to see, in court, the enabling legislative act upon which the regulation is based.

**Justice of the Peace Court Jurisdiction** – To increase access and affordability of the judicial system to all Texans, the party supports legislation to raise the jurisdictional limit of Justice of the Peace courts to \$10,000.

## **Restoring Integrity to Our Elections**

**Protecting Union Member's Dues** – The Party supports legislation requiring labor unions to obtain the consent of the individual union member before that member's dues can be used for political purposes.

**Candidate Eligibility** – The Party believes a candidate running for office should be required to actually reside within the geographical boundaries of the office sought.

**Voter Registration** – The Party supports needed legislation to restore integrity to the voter registration rolls and to reduce voter fraud. Furthermore, we support:

1. repeal of all Motor Voter laws;
2. re-registering voters every four years;
3. requiring first time registrants to produce photo identification;
4. proof of residency and citizenship, along with voter registration application;
5. retention of the 30-day registration deadline; and
6. provide a federal or state government issued photo ID at the time of in person voting.

**Voting Rights** – The Party supports equal suffrage for all citizens of voting age who are not felons. We oppose any identification of citizens by race, origin, or creed and oppose the use of any such identification for purposes of creating voting districts. The Party supports those provisions of the Voting Rights Act that achieve these essential ends and supports necessary renewal of those provisions.

**Felon Voting** – The Party affirms the Constitutional authority of state legislatures to regulate voting, including authorizing the disenfranchisement of convicted and incarcerated felons of the right to vote. The Legislature should not relax or dilute these laws in any way.

**Protecting Active Military Personnel's Right to Vote** – We urge the Texas Secretary of State and the U.S. Attorney General take necessary steps to ensure that the voting rights of our U.S. Armed Forces will never be denied or obstructed.

**Judicial Financing Reform** – The Party supports the establishment of consistent guidelines for contributions to campaigns of state judges in order to limit ability to unfairly influence the judicial process.

**Filing Date for Primary Election** – The Party urges Texas legislators to change the Election Code date of the filing for the March primary from January 2 to the second Monday in January.

**Fair Election Procedures** – The Party supports ongoing modifications and strengthening of election laws to assure ballot integrity and fair and impartial elections at all levels of government. Specifically, we support:

- 1) increased scrutiny and security in balloting by mail;
- 2) prohibition of internet voting and any touch screen voting or other electronic voting which lacks a paper trail;
- 3) prohibition of mobile voting;
- 4) vigorous criminal prosecution by district attorneys or county attorneys for election fraud, and use of jail sentences as a deterrent to violators;
- 5) repeal of the "Help America Vote Act" which unconstitutionally dictates to the states the manner of administering elections; and
- 6) efforts to ensure that each polling place has a distinctly marked and if possible separate location for Republican and Democratic primary voting so that in vulnerable precincts voter intimidation and coercion will be eliminated.

**Residency Requirements** - The Party supports legislation that would amend Article 1.015(b) of the Texas Election Code to read, "Residence shall be determined in accordance with the common-law rules, as enumerated by the courts of this state and of the United States, except as otherwise provided by this code."

**Mandatory Joint Elections** – The Party supports amendment of the Texas Election Code to provide for mandatory joint elections when more than one governing authority has elections on the same day covering the same geographical territory.

**Water Districts** – We call on the 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.

**Campaign Finance Reform** – The Party opposes any so-called "campaign finance reform" that restricts free speech, the right to publicize the voting records or positions of public officials, and the amount of individual or Political Action Committee campaign contributions. We support full disclosure of the amounts and sources of these funds. The Party calls for the immediate repeal of the McCain-Feingold Act. Until this act is repealed, the discriminatory ability of certain

entities to evade campaign finance restrictions through any method (including 207 organizations and private foundations) should be prohibited.

**Support of Platform** – Any candidate running as a Republican for any public or Party office in the State of Texas should be required to complete and return to the county Republican Party a signed Republican Party Platform Questionnaire indicating whether the candidate agrees, disagrees, or is undecided on each plank of the current platform. We strongly encourage the Executive Campaign Committee to consider candidates' support of the Party platform when granting financial or other support. We urge the Party to modify its rules to be consistent with our Party platform.

**Conflicts of Interest** – The Party promotes the passage and/or strengthening of local, state, and federal legislation prohibiting the influencing or voting of any publicly elected official or appointee in any matter for which a conflict of interest exists respecting a personal benefit or benefit to a member of that official's or appointee's family by blood or marriage. No elected state official should be allowed to represent paying clients before a state agency.

**Lobbying Limitation** – The Party supports legislation to prohibit former legislators, government employees, and officials from acting as lobbyists for a foreign government and/or any business for a period of five years immediately after leaving public service. We support legislation to prevent lobbying by any organization receiving federal grants except that relating to its tax status.

**Legislative Accountability** – We support permanent legislative rules requiring that all votes on bills cast in the Texas House and Texas Senate be record votes that are freely available to the electorate.

**AWOL Legislators** – If a group of legislators leave the state with the intent of blocking legislation by preventing quorum, those legislators will immediately lose all financial benefits of their positions. After five consecutive days of absence, or upon a second attempt at the same tactic, or within the final five days of any session, these legislators' absences will constitute letters of resignation, and their seats will immediately be declared vacant, making a quorum possible.

**Public Integrity Unit** – The Party calls upon the Texas Legislature to immediately secure the impartiality and probity of the Travis County Public Integrity Unit, by transferring its powers and funding to an impartial statewide elected judicial entity such as the Office of the State Prosecuting Attorney.

## **Honoring the Symbols of Our American Heritage**

**Ten Commandments** – The Party understands that the Ten Commandments are the basis of our basic freedoms and the cornerstone of our Western legal tradition. We therefore oppose any governmental action to restrict, prohibit, or remove public display of the Decalogue or other religious symbols.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – The Party decries any unconstitutional act of judicial tyranny that would demand removal of the words "One Nation Under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance. The Party also demands that the National Motto "In God We Trust" and National Anthem be protected from legislative and judicial attack.

**American English** – The Party supports the immediate adoption of American English as the official language of Texas and of the United States of America. While encouraging fluency in additional languages by all citizens, no governmental entity shall require any agency, contractor, business, or individual to publish public documents in a language other than English.

**Flag Desecration** – The Party views any form of desecration of the American flag as an outward act of disregard for our nation and its people and advocates penalties for such acts.

**Symbols of American Heritage** – We call upon governmental entities to protect monuments, national parks, waterways, cemeteries, and all other symbols of our American heritage from being altered, removed, or placed under international control. The Party calls for restoration of the plaques honoring the Confederate Widow's Pension Fund contribution that were illegally removed from the Texas Supreme Court and other state buildings.

## **Promoting Individual Freedom and Personal Safety**

### **Individual Freedom**

**Right to Keep and Bear Arms** – The Party calls upon the Texas Legislature and the United States Congress to repeal any and all laws that infringe upon the right of individual citizens to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment to the United States Constitution; and to reject the establishment of any mechanism to process, license, record, register or monitor the ownership of guns. We urge the Legislature to clearly declare that it has the exclusive authority to determine where firearms may or may not be legally carried in the State of Texas, and that no other state

governmental entity and no local governmental entity may regulate or prohibit the possession of firearms. We believe that crime committed by armed criminals should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. However, frivolous lawsuits against legitimate American firearm manufacturers for these same crimes are harassing, costly and should be dismissed promptly. We urge law enforcement and the legislature to enforce and improve current laws against criminals rather than create more laws against law-abiding citizens. We believe it is the responsibility of all gun owners to safely store and operate their firearms.

**Freedom of Access Act** – The Party urges repeal of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances law. We reaffirm our belief in our constitutional right to peaceful protest, and we insist that assaults on peaceful protesters be prosecuted vigorously. Many Texans have been arrested, or threatened with arrest incidental to peaceful picketing and/or literature distribution, and while peacefully picketing some have been assaulted by people opposed to such picketing. Picketing and literature distribution are not organized crimes and, therefore, should not be prosecuted under the RICO Act.

**Christian Nation** – The Republican Party of Texas affirms that the United States of America is a Christian nation, and the public acknowledgement of God is undeniable in our history. Our nation was founded on fundamental Judeo-Christian principles based on the Holy Bible. The Party affirms freedom of religion, and rejects efforts of courts and secular activists who seek to remove and deny such a rich heritage from our public lives.

**Free Exercise of Religion** – The Party believes all Americans have the right to practice their religious faith free from persecution, intimidation, and violence. While recognizing one's freedom from religion, this recognition should not limit others' free expression of their religious beliefs. Our Party pledges to exert its influence to restore the original intent of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and dispel the myth of the separation of Church and State. We support the right of individuals and state and local governments to display symbols of our faith and heritage. We call on Congress to sanction any country that is guilty of persecuting its citizens because of their religious beliefs.

**Religious Institutions** – The Party acknowledges that the church is a God-ordained institution with a sphere of authority separate from that of civil government; thus, churches, synagogues and other places of worship, including home Bible study groups, seminaries and similar institutions should not be regulated, controlled, or taxed by any level of civil government, including the Social Security Administration and the Internal Revenue Service. We reclaim freedom of religious expression in public on government property, and freedom from governmental interference.

**Texas Capitol Chapel** – We urge the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to release space to restore a chapel to the original Texas Capitol building, as provided by a HCR93 to “designate and furnish a suitable room in the Capitol building where nondenominational prayer and worship may be held.”

**Faith-Based Opportunities** – The Party encourages the Texas Legislature to identify and develop ways to increase the ability of faith-based institutions and community and business organizations to assist individuals and families in need. Until such time as such unconstitutional spending programs of our federal government are repealed, we believe that the faith-based initiatives as proposed by President George W. Bush, and currently implemented, should continue to be funded by federal monies.

**Electronic Privacy** – The Party believes that all law abiding citizens should be free from government surveillance of their electronic communications, including a government mandate for trap door encryption standards. The Party also opposes any government effort to create or implement a national ID utilizing a universal identifier or the federalization of state drivers licenses.

**Equality of All Citizens** – Believing all men are created equal, let all be reminded that the Republican Party of Texas is the party of Lincoln that deplores all forms of preferences and discrimination based upon religion, race, color, national origin, gender, age, or physically disabling condition. We also deplore forced sensitivity training and urge the repeal of laws and mandates requiring such training. We believe the Hate Crimes Law is unnecessary, and that it unconstitutionally creates a special class of victims. We urge that it be repealed immediately. The Party believes all federal laws shall apply equally to members of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of federal and state governments as they apply to all other citizens of the United States. Exemptions for members of Congress from current laws shall be repealed.

## **Protecting Citizens from Crime**

**Prison Reform** – The Party believes that the priority of our prison systems should be the protection of society and the punishment of offenders, ever mindful of their rights as human beings. The state should assist those offenders who evidence a desire for reform. Prisoners should be required to perform meaningful work. We oppose Texas prisoners having access to private or confidential information of any citizen of the State of Texas. We support alternative methods of prison administration. We also support legislation prohibiting prisoners from initiating frivolous lawsuits. No extraordinary



medical care, including organ transplants or body part replacement, shall be performed on prisoners at taxpayers' expense; nor shall convicted criminals be given preference over other people in medical care.

**Sentencing Reform** – The Party calls upon the parole system to administer punishment according to the intentions of the judges and juries who determine the sentences. We also call for disclosure:

- 1) to juries of their rights and powers as jurors,
- 2) of prior convictions of the defendant,
- 3) about “truth in sentencing” by instructing juries on the actual time likely to be served before parole.

We believe that punishment should be assessed in proportion to the crime, and not only be punitive but serve as a deterrent. We support requiring life imprisonment, without parole, for habitual felony offenders. We also support the principle that judges and juries should be able to set the minimum amount of time to be served in a sentence and that such minimum time should not be altered by parole procedures. We support the principle that those who commit crimes should pay restitution to their victims.

**Capital Punishment** – The Party believes that capital punishment, when properly applied, is a legitimate form of punishment and an effective deterrent for the most severe and heinous crimes. When applied, capital punishment should be swift and unencumbered.

**Juvenile Justice** – The Party encourages the continuation of juvenile justice reforms, including private sector programs, “boot” camps, trying juveniles as adults when appropriate, the consideration of a person’s juvenile conviction record in any prosecution of that individual as an adult, and the expansion of the determinate sentencing statute to include all aggravated offenses. The party condemns housing juveniles and adults in the same correctional facility.

**Child Abuse** – The Party recognizes that the family is a sovereign sphere of authority over which the state has no right to intervene unless a parent or legal guardian has committed criminal abuse. Child abusers should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law; however, we oppose actions of social agencies to classify traditional methods of discipline as child abuse. We support requiring private agencies receiving public funds to comply with state laws requiring the reporting of instances of suspected statutory rape as a condition of receiving those funds.

**Unborn Victims of Violence** - The Party believes that a person who injures or kills an unborn child should be subject to criminal charges or civil litigation for injury to the child, whether the child dies in the womb or is born alive. The Party opposes any legislation that recognizes only the mother as the victim of a criminal act when her unborn child was killed or injured during the commission of the same act.

**Sexual Assault** – The Party believes that forcible rape is a heinous crime for which the punishment options should include the death penalty. We insist that adults convicted of sexual molestation of a minor receive mandatory prison sentences without probation or parole. The Party supports increasing the penalty for failure to report child sexual assault cases and urges District Attorneys to vigorously prosecute failure to report child sexual assault cases. 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.

**Addictive Behaviors** – The Party recognizes that addictive drug, alcohol, and pornography use is dangerous and affects all sectors of society. We encourage the state and federal governments to prosecute illegal dealers and manufacturers of addictive substances to the fullest extent of the law. We call on Congress to use all means possible to discourage the foreign manufacture and export of such substances into our country. Because of their higher proven rate of success, faith-based rehabilitation programs should be utilized in place of incarceration whenever possible. We oppose the movement toward the legalization of illicit drugs. We support a strong abstinence-based educational program for children. We oppose the availability of entitlement benefits based on addictive behaviors. We oppose any “needle exchange” or “bleach kit” programs. The Party calls upon all law enforcement officials to vigorously enforce our DUI laws, whether the intoxication is by alcohol or other drugs, and calls for mandatory jail sentences for repeat offenders.

**Property Seizure Without Due Process** – The Party opposes the confiscation or seizure of private property without the benefit of due process. Furthermore, in order to discourage institutional greed and a false sense of fiscal independence from the citizenry, neither law enforcement agencies nor their parent organizations should be allowed to reap any financial benefit from such seizures.

**Speed Limits** - The Party opposes any regulation of highway speed limits based on environmental standards of any kind. The Party supports highway speed limits based on safety standards only.

**Homicide by Abuse** – The Republican Party of Texas supports the enactment of homicide by abuse statute for child victims that alters the intent requirement from “intent to cause the death of a child” to “intent to abuse a child where that

abuse results in the death of the child.” The Republican Party of Texas affirms the preciousness of our children and condemns those who abuse children to death as the murderers they are.

## **Strengthening Families and Promoting a Freer Society**

### **Celebrating Traditional Marriage**

**Family and Defense of Marriage** – The Party supports the traditional definition of marriage as a God–ordained, legal and moral commitment only between a natural man and a natural woman, which is the foundational unit of a healthy society, and the Party opposes the assault on marriage by judicial activists. We call on the President, Congress, and the Texas Legislature to take immediate action to defend the sanctity of traditional marriage. We urge Congress to exercise authority under the United States Constitution, and pass legislation withholding jurisdiction from the Federal Courts in cases involving family law, especially any changes in the traditional definition of marriage. We further call on Congress to pass and the state legislatures to ratify a marriage amendment declaring that marriage in the United States shall consist and be recognized only as the union of a natural man and a natural woman. Neither the United States nor any state shall recognize or grant to any unmarried person the legal rights or status of a spouse. We oppose the recognition of and granting of benefits to people who represent themselves as domestic partners without being legally married. Texas families will be stronger because of the passage by Governor Perry and the 78<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature of the “Defense of Marriage Act”, which denies recognition by Texas of homosexual “unions” legitimized by other states or nations.

We urge the repeal of laws that place an unfair tax burden on families. 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. The primary family unit consists of those related by blood, heterosexual marriage, or adoption. The family is responsible for its own welfare, education, moral training, conduct, and property.

**Marriage and Divorce** – The Party believes in the sanctity of marriage and that the integrity of this institution should be defended, protected, strengthened, and nurtured at all levels of government. No fault divorce laws have caused untold hardships on American families, by reducing their standard of living, and by harming the emotional and physical well–being of children. It has contributed to an increase in government assistance of all kinds. We call upon the Texas Legislature to rescind no–fault divorce laws. For these reasons we support Covenant Marriage, which has proven effective in stemming the tide of divorce in Louisiana and Arizona. We recommend the following provisions in line with this concept: 1) pre-marital counseling and, 2) a pre-nuptial agreement that when problems arise within the marriage, both parties will agree to marriage counseling with the intent of restoring the marriage to its proper balance and harmony.

**Marriage Licenses** – The Party supports legislation that would make it a felony to issue a marriage license to a same-sex couple and for any civil official to perform a marriage ceremony for a same-sex couple.

**Homosexuality** – The Party believes that the practice of sodomy tears at the fabric of society, contributes to the breakdown of the family unit, and leads to the spread of dangerous, communicable diseases. 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, recognition, or privileges including, but not limited to, marriage between persons of the same sex, custody of 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.

**Texas Sodomy Statutes** – The Party opposes the legalization of sodomy. The Party demands Congress exercise its authority granted by the U.S. Constitution to withhold jurisdiction from the federal courts from cases involving sodomy.

**Pornography** – The Party believes, as do the vast majority of Texans, that pornography is repulsive, addictive and contributes to deviant criminal behavior. It exploits men, women, and children and degrades society as a whole. We call upon our governmental bodies to enforce existing laws regarding all forms of pornography in our music, film, telephone, computer, video, cable, satellite, television, radio, Internet, and print industries. We must have more stringent legislation to prohibit access to and generation of pornography including virtual pornography and operation of sexually–oriented businesses. We support the efforts of Attorney General John Ashcroft in working with Congress on creating appropriate legislation and applaud his efforts at protecting our children and society. The Party demands Congress exercise its constitutional authority to withhold jurisdiction from the federal courts from cases involving sexually-oriented businesses including pornography. The Party believes that licensing through a state regulatory commission is a legitimate means of accountability to ensure that operators of sexually oriented businesses comply with the strictest possible regulations and

to ensure that operators do not allow their establishments to be used as places of crime and illegal sexual activity or solicitation.

**Ethics in Broadcasting** – We call upon the Federal Communications Commission to revoke the broadcast licenses of stations that continue to air programs and advertisements in violation of existing laws and FCC guidelines.

## Protecting Innocent Human Life

**Party Candidates and the Platform on Protecting Innocent Human Life** – We urge the Republican Party of Texas to support, financially or with in-kind contributions, only those candidates or nominees of this party who support the entire platform on protecting innocent human life. We urge the members of the State Republican Executive Committee to make such changes to the by-laws of that committee to make this action binding on the Republican Party of Texas.

**Partial Birth Abortion** – The Republican Party of Texas commends President Bush and Congress for passing the Partial Birth Abortion Ban in 2003. We support expedient judicial review of the legal challenges to the Partial Birth Abortion Ban and immediate implementation of this law.

**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. The Party affirms its support for a human life amendment to the Constitution and we endorse making clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protection applies to unborn children. We oppose the use of public revenues and/or facilities for abortion or abortion-related services. We support the elimination of public funding for organizations that advocate or support abortion. We urge 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 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 urge the Texas Legislature to enact laws that restrict and regulate abortion including:

- 1) parental and informed consent;
- 2) prohibition of abortion for sex selection;
- 3) licensing, liability, and malpractice insurance for abortionists and abortion facilities;
- 4) prohibition of financial kickbacks for abortion referrals;
- 5) prohibition of partial birth and late term abortions; and
- 6) enactment of any other laws which will advance the right to life for unborn children.

**Parental Notification** – The Party calls for the electoral defeat of all judges who through raw judicial activism seek to nullify the Parental Notification Law by wantonly granting bypasses to minor girls seeking abortions, and thereby thwart the will of the Texas Legislature and people. The Party supports the addition of a legislative requirement for the reporting of judicial bypasses to parental notification on an annual basis to the Texas Department of Health. The party calls on the Legislature to require parental notification for emergency contraception (referred to as the Morning After pill).

**Protection of Women's Health** – Because of the personal and social pain caused by abortions, the Party calls for the protection of both women and their unborn children from pressure for unwanted abortions. We commend the Texas Legislature for the passage of the Woman's Right to Know Act, a law requiring abortion providers, prior to an abortion, to provide women full knowledge of the physical and psychological risks of abortion, the characteristics of the unborn child, and abortion alternatives. We urge the state government and the Texas Department of Health 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 Texas Department of Health.

**Alternatives to Abortion** – The Party commends those who provide alternatives to abortion by meeting the needs of pregnant women and providing adoption services. In order that all pregnant women may be aware of the alternatives to abortion in their community, the Party urges the Texas Department of Health to provide an adequate quantity of *The Woman's Right to Know Resource Directory* to any organization or entity in the state that works with pregnant women.

**RU 486** – The Party urges the FDA to suspend approval of RU-486 because this abortifacient drug has proven to be physically dangerous to women.

**Fetal Tissue Harvesting** – The Party supports legislation prohibiting experimentation with human fetal tissue and prohibiting the use of human fetal tissue or organs for experimentation or commercial sale. Until such time that fetal tissue harvesting is illegal, any product containing fetal tissue shall be so labeled.

**Stem Cell Research** - We commend the President for banning the government funding of human embryo stem cell harvesting and call upon the US Congress to pass legislation supporting the President. The Party opposes any legislation that would allow for the destruction of human embryos for medical research. The Republican Party encourages stem cell research using cells from umbilical cords, from adults, and from any other means which does not destroy human embryos. The party opposes any state funding of research that destroys human embryos. The Party encourages the adoption of existing embryos.

**Gestational Contracts** – The Party believes that commercial surrogacy is a legal and ethical free-fall and the rental of a woman’s womb makes child bearing a mere commodity to the highest bidder. We call upon the Texas Legislature to rescind House Bill 724 as passed by the 78<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature.

**Unborn Child Pain Protection** – The party supports legislation that requires doctors to provide information to a woman who is twenty or more weeks pregnant about the nervous system development of her unborn child, information about the unborn child’s ability to feel pain, and to provide pain relief for her unborn child in the tragic circumstance that she wishes to continue with the abortion.

**Unborn Victims of Violence Legislation** – The Party commends the federal government and the Texas Legislature for the passage of laws that recognize unborn children as secondary victims in crimes committed against pregnant women. The Party urges the State to ensure that the Prenatal Protection Law is interpreted accurately.

**Abortion Clinics** - We call for legislation that holds abortion clinics to the same health and safety standards, regulations, and inspections as other medical facilities and that subjects the clinics to the same risks of malpractice.

**Abortion Requirements for Hospitals** - The federal government is hinting that private hospitals which accept patients receiving benefits from government assistance programs may be required to perform abortions; therefore, we, The Republican Party, ask that the Texas Legislature pass legislation giving hospitals in Texas authority to refuse to perform abortions and that all levels of government refrain from requiring any hospital to perform an abortion.

**Conscience Clause** – The Party believes that insurance companies, health care 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, the dispensing of drugs with abortifacient potential, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, eugenic screenings, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and the withdrawal of nutrition and hydration. The Party calls 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.

**Human Cloning** – Each human life, whether created naturally or through an artificial process, deserves protection. The Party confirms that somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) is the process by which a human being is cloned, and that SCNT creates a unique human being with the same properties of a human embryo created through the union of sperm and egg. The Party seeks a ban on human cloning for reproductive purposes (where a cloned human embryo, created through SCNT, is implanted in a womb and the human clone is birthed). The Party also seeks a ban on research cloning (where a cloned human embryo, created through SCNT, is created, grown in the laboratory, and then destroyed when its stem cells are extracted for research purposes). Furthermore, criminal penalties should be created and experimenters prosecuted who participate in the cloning of human beings. No government or state funding should be provided for any human cloning.

## **Protecting Our Children**

**Parental Rights and Responsibilities** – The Party believes 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 such rights in the rearing of both biological and adopted children, including: parental authority to discipline, choice of public or private education of children, parental right to observe their children’s public school classes, access to their children’s medical records, and parental notification or consent for any medical or surgical treatment including, but not limited to, contraception and abortion. 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.

**Support of Parental Authority** – The Party supports 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.

**Age of Consent** – The Party supports raising the age of consent for consensual sex for all children to 18 years of age.

**Child Care** – The Party opposes any government regulations that will adversely affect the availability, affordability, or the right of parents to choose childcare.

**Child Support and Visitation** – The Party supports improvement and equity between responsible parents in child support, custody, and visitation, 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. We also believe: that no homosexual or any 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 limited to supervised periods.

**Adoption** –The Party supports reducing the time, bureaucratic interference with and cost of adoption in Texas. The Party supports a law that assures the mother a choice of selecting a traditional home for her child at the time of terminating her rights for the purpose of adoption. We support private adoption agencies recruiting and training prospective adoptive parents and placing for adoption all children in the foster care system of Texas who are legally free for adoption. We oppose mandatory open adoption and adoption of children by homosexuals.

**Foster Care** – The Party supports eliminating bureaucratic prohibitions on corporal discipline and home schooling in foster homes to help alleviate the shortage of foster parents.

## **Assisting Families to Self Sufficiency**

**Welfare Reform** – The Party believes that the State of Texas should continue to take steps to reduce the number of people on welfare and state welfare spending by enacting tough welfare reforms. We believe the current welfare system encourages dependency on government and robs individuals of their motivation and self-esteem. We support welfare reforms designed to break the cycle of dependency by requiring welfare recipients to work, learn, or train in exchange for their benefits. We believe that welfare benefits to the able-bodied should be limited to a period not to exceed two years. We call for welfare rolls to be checked against all prison population rolls nationwide, and any prisoners should be removed from the welfare rolls while they are incarcerated. We urge the office of the Attorney General to continue its stepped up efforts to collect child support owed for children on welfare and to consider privatization of child support collection in Texas.

**TDPRS Accountability** – The Party supports the appointment of local elected officials to review charges of abuse of discretion by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory 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 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. TDPRS/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.

**Social Security** – The Party supports an 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. or invested in private or public corporate stock. The Party supports Americans being allowed to purchase directly, and hold directly as part of their tax-deferred retirement and educational savings plans, United States Treasury obligations, personally managed investment accounts, and tax-free equities. Those individuals who qualify for Social Security benefits, including school teachers, should receive all of the benefits for which they are eligible without penalty. To protect freedom and privacy, government and private institutions should not require Social Security numbers as ID. Application for Social Security numbers should not be required before the age of consent.

**Government-Sponsored Gambling** – The Party continues to oppose government-sponsored gambling as a means of financing state government. Government-sponsored gambling has had a devastating impact on many Texas families. Moreover, we oppose any further legalization, government facilitation, or financial guarantees relating to any type of gambling including casino, riverboat, video lottery terminals (VLTs), slot machine, video keno, eight-liners, multi-state lotteries, and other games of chance. The Party supports the repeal of the state lottery, and enforcement of existing laws and regulations related to gambling.

**Caring for our Citizens** - The Party urges the Texas State Legislature to:

1. not consider closing any of the existing Texas State Schools, for the mentally disabled;

2. not transfer school operations to a private firm;
3. increase training standards of current Texas State School employees; and,
4. maintain oversight to ensure efficient use of funding and quality of service.

## **Empowering Families to Direct their Health Care**

**Health Care Choice** –The Party supports market-based, private sector initiatives to improve the portability, quality and affordability of healthcare. We support consumer choice of providers. We encourage immediate expansion of medical savings accounts and other tax incentives that assist consumers.

**Health Care 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 Texas adults to have the unfettered choice to use nutritional and dietary supplement products. We strongly favor legislation recognizing legitimate alternative health care choices.

**AIDS / HIV** – The Party recognizes that the preventable diseases of AIDS and HIV infection represent a threat to human health. We view with compassion all people infected with HIV. We call for appropriate levels of research to find a cure for the disease and ask that the government give full disclosure of the causes. However, because AIDS represents such a severe threat to both the health and economic well-being of our citizens, we insist that the epidemic be de-politicized and that as a society, we take all appropriate steps to protect our citizens from this epidemic. All people, no matter what disease they may contract, are worthy of deep respect as humans. We should, however, love them enough to tell them the truth: Behavior has personal and social consequences. We call upon the United States Public Health Service and all states to declare HIV a “dangerous, yet preventable, infectious, communicable disease.” It should be legally reported in the same manner as any communicable disease. We oppose the needle exchange and bleach kit programs. We urge the return to the requirement of blood testing in order to obtain a marriage license with the previous reporting responsibilities to prevent the spread of dangerous, infectious, and communicable diseases.

**Americans with Disabilities Act** – The Party supports amendment of the Americans with Disabilities Act to exclude from its definition those persons with infectious diseases, substance addiction, learning disabilities, behavior disorders, homosexual practices and mental stress, thereby reducing abuse of the Act.

**Immunizations** – The Party believes all adult citizens should have the legally protected right to conscientiously choose which vaccines are administered to themselves or their minor children without penalty or discrimination for refusing a vaccine. We oppose any medical record computer database or registry that would store personal identifiable records on citizens without their written consent.

## **Educating our Children**

**Texas Family Rights** –The right of parents to raise their children and to implement their child-rearing philosophies and techniques is a precious fundamental right. To preserve this right, only law enforcement officers may remove a child from his 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 prior parental notification, without the parents’ representative present to observe the interview, and without video or audio recording of the interview. A family shall have the right to confront its accuser (no anonymous reporting). Only findings determined in open court and by jury trial may be retained by the State. The parents have the absolute right to appoint an adult to have possession of their child if the State removes the child from the family. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from a special education program or bilingual education at any time.

**Parental Rights in Education** – We urge the Legislature to enact penalties for violation of parental rights in Chapter 26 of the Texas Education Code.

**Local Control** – The Party supports the concept of choice in public education and believes that quality education is best achieved by encouraging of parental involvement, protecting of parental rights, and maximizing local control of public schools. We believe district superintendents and their employees should be made solely accountable to their locally elected boards, and we support amending the Education Code to permit recall of a school board member by a majority vote at an election required to be held when 10 percent of the registered voters of a school district have petitioned for such an election. We oppose consolidation of local school districts into “super districts.”

**State Board of Education** – The Party supports 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 governance of the Permanent School Fund.

We call on the legislature to abolish the State Board of Education Certification (SBEC) and to return its authority to the State Board Of Education.

We urge the state to 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.

**Textbooks and Curricula** – We believe the SBOE must have sole authority over textbook content and state adoption that the process must include public participation through public hearings. The Party urges the Legislature to act in 2005 to give the State Board of Education authority to establish textbook adoption standards that allow rejection of textbooks that undermine belief in America and our Constitutional Republic, promulgate anti-American propaganda, and contain unchallenged biased viewpoints.

The Party supports efforts to allow Independent School Districts (ISD) to use state funds to purchase books not on the state-approved list, so long as the ISD state test results remain satisfactory.

**Parental School Choice** – The Party encourages 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. This measure could only be considered upon passage of a state constitutional amendment that prohibits imposition of state regulations on private and parochial schools.

**Funding of Education** – The Party believes that our education system is experiencing a spending crisis, not a funding crisis, and demands that our Texas Legislators and school systems eliminate wasteful spending, fraud, and abuse of our tax dollars. The Party urges the Texas Legislature to:

1. give full control of local school districts to those districts,
2. repeal the “Robin Hood” school funding reallocation system by requiring local school taxes be utilized only within that school district,
3. provide adequate funding for those school districts without adequate funding,
4. direct expenditures to academics first (books, desks, and teachers), then to non-academic activities if there are funds remaining,
5. fund teacher salary increases with direct offsets of reductions in administrator salaries,
6. provide full funding for state imposed mandates on local school districts,
7. not increase taxes for funding of schools, and
8. increase accountability of education spending to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse.

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

**Private Education** – The Party believes that parents have the fundamental right and primary responsibility for educating their children, and the state should not have the power to force any parent or guardian to send their children to public school. We believe that parents or guardians may choose to educate their children in a private school without government interference of any type, be it through definition, regulation, accreditation, licensing or testing. Home education is legally recognized as private education. The courts of Texas have upheld the fundamental right of parents to teach their children at home (*Leeper v. Arlington*) without regulation, and the Party calls on Texas legislators to oppose any restriction or regulation of this parental right.

We call on the Texas Legislature to adopt legislation that will require cities and counties to exempt private school students from daytime curfew ordinances, as they are exempt from the Compulsory Attendance Laws.

We also call on the Texas Legislature to adopt legislation requiring University Interscholastic League (UIL) to open participation to private schools and move back to the original mission of the UIL to pursue those activities for the betterment of all the students of Texas.

**Sex Education** – The Party recognizes parental responsibility and authority regarding sex education. We support policies that mandate parental notification before any sex education course or program is implemented. Parents must be given an opportunity to review the material and give their consent. To build strong and lasting relationships, we support the requirement that schools teaching sex education must teach directive abstinence until heterosexual marriage with an uninfected person as the only safe and healthy means of preventing sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancies among unwed students. We believe programs should teach the physical and emotional risks of abortion specified in State law and rules. We oppose programs that advocate or legitimize pre-marital sexual activity, advocate condoms and birth

control use by unmarried minors, advocate abortions, and condone homosexual, bisexual, and transgender acts and/or lifestyles, and elevate minors' rights to make sexual and health care decisions equivalent to their parents.

Sex education classes, if conducted, should be separated by sex.

We oppose the use of any materials from Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S (SIECUS).

**Early Childhood Development** –The Party believes that parents are best suited to train their children in their early development years (ages 0 through 5) and opposes mandatory pre-school and Kindergarten. The Party urges Congress to repeal government-sponsored programs that deal with early childhood development, and phase them out as soon as possible.

**Children with Special Needs** – The Party supports legislation opposing the “minimal educational benefit” standard, as applied to children with special needs. This is defined by the federal statute promising a free appropriate public education to all children with special needs. The Party advocates equal educational opportunity for all students and the requirement that children with special needs be educated commensurate with their abilities.

**Classroom Discipline** – The Party recognizes that safety and order are prerequisites for an environment conducive to education for both the student and the teacher. We therefore recommend that local school boards and classroom teachers be given more authority to deal with disciplinary problems. Corporal punishment should be used when appropriate, and we encourage the legislature to strengthen existing immunity laws respecting corporal punishment. We urge the Texas Legislature, Governor, Commissioner of Education and State Board of Education to remind administrators and school boards that corporal punishment is effective and legal in Texas.

**Support for Classroom Teachers** – The Party commends the many excellent teachers in Texas and continues to support quality education by:

- 1) recognizing the need to maintain and attract competent professional teachers in the classrooms of Texas public schools so that every student receives the best possible education;
- 2) recognizing the need for teacher involvement in educational planning and program development for the betterment of education at the local level;
- 3) recognizing the need to minimize administrative reports and excessive paperwork;
- 4) supporting teacher incentives through monetary and recognition rewards; and
- 5) empowering teachers and administrators to remove disruptive students from a classroom or campus for a first-time offense.

**Traditional Principles in Education** – The Party supports school subjects with emphasis on the Judeo-Christian principles upon which America was founded and which form the basis of America's legal and its political and economic systems.

**Multiculturalism** – The Party supports the voluntary comparative study of all cultures that have created the heritage of the American culture. We oppose ideologically enforced political correctness in the institutions of American society that eliminate the free expression of ideas. We favor strengthening our common American identity and loyalty over the ideology of multiculturalism that emphasizes differences between racial and ethnic groups.

**Basic Standards** – The Party believes the educational system should return to the basic standards which include a curriculum of reading (with an emphasis on phonics), spelling, writing, penmanship, literature (including at least one-year historical surveys in high school of American literature and of British literature), mathematics, geography, history (including a high school United States history course that includes all of United States history), science, English, citizenship and federal, state, and local government including personal responsibility and financial freedom. The Party urges that the requirement for High School graduation is to include instructing students of the sacrifice of our founding fathers and an in depth study of the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, and Washington's Farewell Address all in their unedited form. Further, we call upon the Governor and Texas Legislature to oppose the implementation of curricula which center on subjective feelings and attitudes that neglects students' academic skills. We deplore the inordinate amount of time being forced upon teachers and students for state-mandated standardized test preparation to the detriment of basic academic instruction.

**Social Promotion** – The Party supports the effort to end social promotion in Texas' public schools. We believe the school children of Texas should master basic, minimum skills before advancing to the next grade level.

**Knowledge-Based Education** – We believe the primary purpose of public schools is knowledge-based education not job training. The Party supports knowledge-based curriculum standards and tests. We support continuing current successful career and technology programs, such as those established by the Perkins Act that include youth leadership organizations. We oppose mandatory career training.



**School Surveys and Testing** – The Party believes that 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, religion, political persuasion or other areas of morality. Public schools should be required to allow prior parental viewing of any test or materials to which their children are exposed.

**Bilingual Education** – The Party supports the termination of bilingual education programs to allow individuals to more quickly assimilate into and succeed in American society.

**Religious Freedom in Public Schools** – Our Founding Fathers based the premise of this nation on God-given rights endowed by our Creator. The Party affirms President Lincoln’s quote: “It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.” The Party urges 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 support and strongly urge Congress to pass a Religious Freedom Amendment, which provides: “Neither the United States nor any State shall prohibit student-sponsored prayer in public schools, nor compose any official student prayer or compel joining therein.” We urge the Texas Legislature to pass legislation similar to the American Heritage Education Acts passed in Kentucky, Indiana, and other states, which end censorship of the discussion of the role of religion in our founding documents, and encourage reading and discussing those documents in our public schools. We support the return of Bibles and other religious books to the shelves of all public schools and libraries.

**Scientific Theories** – The Party supports the objective teaching and equal treatment of scientific strengths and weaknesses of all scientific theories, including Intelligent Design – as Texas law now requires but has yet to enforce. The Party believes theories of life origins and environmental theories should be taught only as theories not fact; that social studies and other curriculum should not be based on any one theory.

**Pledge of Allegiance in Public Schools** – The Party believes that students should be taught flag etiquette and should be led in the Pledge of Allegiance, the Texas pledge, the national anthem and patriotic songs on a daily basis to ensure that the loyal and patriotic spirit of Texas’ and of America’s heritage is preserved and passed on to our children.

**Higher Education** – The Party reaffirms its support of local and regional institutions of higher learning (public, private and parochial). We recognize their commitment to the education of our students and their research leading to breakthroughs that benefit Texas directly and indirectly. We advocate a single standard for college admission for all students based on merit and ability without regard to the school from which they graduated or class standing. Texas students should be given acceptance priority over out-of-state or foreign students. We call upon all state colleges and universities to adopt strong core curricula that include rigorous, broad-based courses on American history, and America’s continuing struggle to extend and defend the principles on which it was founded.

We call on the Legislature to end all state funding of higher education grants and scholarships. Until such action has occurred, we call on the Texas Legislature to adopt legislation that will ensure the state-supported grants and scholarships be made available to all Texas high school students, including privately educated students.

**Adult Literacy** – The Party believes that the best defense of a free society is an educated public and encourages all efforts in adult education and literacy.

**Gambling and Education** – We strongly oppose gambling, in any form, as a means to fund education.

**School Health Care** – The Party calls upon Texas legislators to prohibit reproduction 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, including psychotropic and Ritalin, are administered to their minor children. We oppose medical clinics located on school property and their provision of healthcare to students without parental consent.

## **Strengthening The Economy Of Texas And America**

### **Tax Burden**

**Federal Tax Reform** – Federal tax reform is required and any reform should support free enterprise, economic growth, be simple and fair and support job retention in the United States. The Internal Revenue Service is unacceptable to U. S. taxpayers! The Party urges that the IRS be abolished and the Sixteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution be repealed. We further urge that the personal income tax, inheritance (death) tax, gift tax, capital gains, corporate income tax, and payroll tax be eliminated. We recommend the implementation of a national retail sales tax, with the provision that a two-thirds majority of the U.S. House and U.S. Senate is required to raise the rate. Such reforms will encourage investment

and economic growth. Such a sales tax plan must ensure that no one in America pays taxes of any kind on the necessities of life, ensuring opportunity and quality of life for low- and fixed-income Americans. We believe every tax at every level should be a separate and clearly visible billing to the taxpayer, regardless of type of tax, and of calculation method, so we support tax visibility in all forms.

**State Tax Reform** –The Party believes that Texans are overtaxed and strongly urges the legislature to resist the temptation to create any new tax or to increase any current taxes or fees. Specifically, the Party strongly opposes the creation of a state income tax or a state property tax – even to pay for education. We support a constitutional amendment providing a two thirds (2/3) super majority of both houses before any taxes or fees could be increased.

**Tax Rollback Election** – The Party supports a change in state law to allow rollback petitions to force a property tax rate rollback election such that, if passed, a successful rollback election results in the tax effective rate being used to assess and to collect property taxes for the budget year in question, and to remove the requirement that the proposed rate be more than 8% above the neutral rate.

**State Sales Tax Rate Reduction** – The State Legislature has consistently spent surplus revenues on new programs and services rather than returning excess tax revenues back to the taxpayers. The Party supports a reduction of the state sales tax rate in order to avoid the temptation to spend the excess funds.

**Franchise Tax** – The Party urges the repeal of the Texas Franchise Tax, which is nothing more than a state income tax.

**Hidden Telecom Taxes** – The Republican Party of Texas directs the Texas Congressional delegation to demand full accountability on the use of Universal Service and portability fees. We further call for a repeal of these taxes.

**Hidden Taxes and Tax Visibility** – The Party believes every tax at every level should be a separate and clearly visible billing to the taxpayer regardless of the tax type or calculation method.

**Property Taxes** – The Republican Party of Texas is in favor of abolishing property taxes. Until ad valorem taxes are abolished, we recommend that property valuations be fixed for a period of not less than three years following each revaluation.

**Appraisal Cap** – The Party supports the Governor’s proposal to cap the annual increase in property appraisals at 3%.

**Internet Taxation** – The Party opposes any taxation of the internet or internet services.

**Tort/Civil Justice Reform** – The Party strongly supports continuation of common sense tort reform that puts justice back into our civil justice system. We support abolishing joint and several liabilities that forces people to pay for damages they did not cause. We support a loser pay rule, thereby discouraging frivolous lawsuits. We oppose the abusive use of class action lawsuits. We oppose lawsuits against manufacturers and dealers whose products or property have been misused. The Party salutes the 78th legislature for having passed meaningful tort reform entitled HB4. The Party strongly supports meaningful legislation to bring fairness and common sense to the growing crisis of asbestos and related litigation. We support legislation that allows an individual exposed to asbestos, to pursue a legal claim only if and when that person meets objective medical criteria, demonstrating impairment caused by that exposure, without statute of limitation.

**Right-to-Work** – An individual should have the freedom to work in the job he/she desires without being forced to join or pay dues to any organization. The Texas Right-to-Work Law, while providing this freedom, also has provided a good climate for industrial expansion, higher employment, and a stable management-labor relationship. To this end, the Party applauds the Texas Right-to-Work Law and encourages our legislators to call for a referendum to make this law a constitutional amendment. We encourage the adoption of a National Right-to-Work Act providing the same kind of protection from labor unions as is enjoyed by Texans under the State Right-to-Work laws.

**Small Business** – The Party urges Texas legislators to find ways to mitigate the impact of governmental regulations on small businesses and to ensure that small businesses are adequately represented in the regulatory process.

**Workers’ Compensation** – The Party calls on our Texas legislators to resist any efforts to make Workers’ Compensation mandatory for all Texas employers.

**Minimum Wage** – The Party believes the Minimum Wage Law should be repealed and that wages should be determined by the free market conditions prevalent in each individual market.

**Prevailing Wage Law** – The Party urges our Texas legislators to repeal the Prevailing Wage Law.

**Rural and Volunteer Fire Departments** – The Party calls upon the Texas Commission on Fire Protection to recognize the need for, and contributions of, rural fire departments, and to refrain from limiting their effectiveness by imposing unreasonable and unfunded mandates upon them. We also call upon Congress to overturn the rules of the U. S. Department of Labor restricting volunteerism by paid firefighters and emergency medical technician personnel.

**Permanent Tax Cuts** – The Party urges Congress to make permanent the recent tax reductions, which are scheduled to expire in 2004.

## **Government Spending**

**Fiscal Responsibility** – The Party urges our state and federal legislators to exercise fiscal responsibility by reducing spending and cutting taxes. We endorse the appointment of a commission comprised of Texas citizens and business owners to identify cost savings and reductions in state government. The Party also supports a “cap” on government spending at all levels (local, state, and federal), adjustable based only on average family income and population growth or decreases.

**Government Services** – The Party supports privatization of most government services. Public funds should not be used to fund or implement any private projects such as high-speed rail, sports stadiums or space exploration.

**Faith-Based Charities** – The Party opposes any restrictions by the IRS or any other government rules on taxpayer contributions to faith-based charities. The Party supports new incentives to encourage more faith-based charitable contributions from all U.S. taxpayers, corporate and individual.

**Balanced Budget** – The Party supports full disclosure of all “on” and “off” budget spending. We demand that our federal legislators vote only for balanced budgets, and that the Social Security Fund never be used to balance the budget. In case of a budget surplus, it should never be used to increase spending. We also support zero-based budgeting.

**Waste and Fraud in Government Contracts** – The Party is opposed to waste and fraud in government contracts and recommends the Attorney General of the United States investigate fraud and misuse of government funds in government contracts prosecuting those found to be responsible. We also believe that all government contracts should be awarded only on the merits of the bidders’ ability to produce the quality of the product or service performed at a reasonable cost. We also support the repeal of the Davis Bacon Act. We encourage the government to follow fair business practices.

**Aid to Foreign Nations** – The party opposes aid to any foreign nation that denies its citizens’ religious freedoms.

**Corporate Welfare/Business Subsidies** – The Party does not support governmental subsidies, tariffs, bailouts, or other forms of corporate welfare that are used to protect and preserve businesses or industries that have failed to remain relevant, competitive, and efficient over time. The cost of such corporate welfare becomes the burden of the tax-paying public. The Party encourages our government to allow a free market economy to prevail both domestically and internationally.

**Downsizing the Federal Government** – The Party supports the downsizing of the federal government in order to re-establish states’ rights guaranteed by the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. We further support the abolition of federal agencies involved in activities not delegated to the federal government under the original intent of the Constitution including, but not limited to, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; the position of Surgeon General; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Departments of Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Education, Commerce, and Labor. These authorities should be eliminated or, where needed, transferred to the state or local governments. We also call for the de-funding and abolition of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Public Broadcasting System.

**Sunset Laws** – The Party supports a mandatory sunset law for the State of Texas that would automatically terminate all agencies or programs if they are not re-enacted by the Legislature every ten years. We also support the establishment of a sunset policy for federal agencies patterned after the Texas Sunset Law.

**Unfunded Mandates** –The Party opposes all unfunded mandates by the federal and state governments. The effect of mandating services without funding is a tax increase for local government.

**Teacher Insurance Funding** – The Party opposes the state’s taking over the responsibility of providing insurance for public school employees. These employees are not employees of the state, but of the local school districts. The benefits and the costs of providing those benefits should be determined and paid for by the employer of those employees, the local school district, which ultimately is responsible to the local community for its actions.

**Congressional Retirement System** – The Party recommends that the Congressional retirement system be abolished.

**Congressional Pay Raises** – The Party supports the elimination of the independent pay raise committee and recommends that all pay raises must be passed like all other bills. The Party supports the separation of congressional pay raises from the pay raises of all other government officials in order that they be voted on as separate bills with a recorded roll call vote.

**Government Lobbying** – The Party supports legislation that opposes the hiring of lobbyists paid for by any tax dollars.

**Presidential Retirement** – The Party recommends that all past Presidents, the current President, and future Presidents accept the same retirement that the top ranking Armed Forces person receives upon retirement, and that they not be provided with full salary or full staff after a period of six months.

**Budget And Appropriations Process** – The Party believes that much of the tax and spend problem in our country is the unethical manner in which the budgeting and appropriations processes are mismanaged. We demand that Congress institute reforms that eliminate the unethical politicization of appropriations. We are opposed to the trading of votes based on pork sharing and promises of financial and other help during reelection campaigns. The Party opposes the awarding of funds by state government departments to programs of their choice without legislative approval and calls for the Public Health Committee of the Texas Legislature to reevaluate and closely monitor the state and federal funds awarded by the Texas Department of Health.

## **Domestic Energy**

**Support of the Domestic Energy Industry** – Recognizing the importance of energy to the national security of the United States of America, the foundation of our National Energy Strategy must be a competitive domestic oil and gas industry. Federal tax and regulatory policies are destroying the independent sector of this industry. Regulation and rulemaking must be done on a cooperative, rather than an adversarial basis, preserving jobs and the economy while promoting environmental preservation. The Party encourages the Congress to:

1. repeal all provisions of the alternative minimum tax that treat intangible drilling costs as a tax preference item;
2. repeal the crude oil and gas severance and production taxes to help stimulate the Texas economy and enhance Texas production;
3. stop the promulgation of unnecessary environmental legislation or regulation that causes domestic oil production to be economically not feasible or disrespects private property rights;
4. support technological development of environmentally safe uses of coal and biomass for our national energy needs; and
5. promote all forms of domestic energy production including ANWAR, offshore California, and the East Coast, while minimizing environmental impact.

**Alternative Energy Sources** – The Party recognizes the value of alternative energy sources and supports continued private research and development of such sources, including space-based solar power.

**Energy vs. Radical Environmentalism** – The Party supports cooperative regulation and rulemaking that preserves jobs and the economy while promoting responsible conservation of our natural resources. We support policies that will clean the air and water of Texas, using technology that provides smarter and cheaper pollution control.

## **Restoring American Sovereignty and Leadership**

### **Domestic**

**Border Protection** – The Party believes that Congress should adequately staff and fund the United States Border Patrol to protect our borders and our Border Patrol personnel. The Party urges the President to deploy our military forces if needed to secure our international borders, and that the United States Border Patrol be deployed within the U.S. to locate and secure all illegal aliens who have previously entered our country and expedite their return to their source country.

**Civil Defense** – In World War I, America had a strong grassroots civil defense system comprised of and administered by volunteers from each county's citizenry. The Party supports the restoration of our civil defense system. A non-partisan effort should be made to organize communication and emergency response training for citizens to assist in times of emergency, and the local county government should appoint a civilian defense coordinator. Elected county officials should be in charge of decisions affecting the local community. The Party urges Congress to remove any and all gun laws that infringe upon the U.S. constitutional rights of the citizens to protect their homes and communities.

**Federalization of Police** – The Party applauds the efforts of peace officers who maintain public order with minimal use of force. We oppose the federalization and militarization of local police forces.

**Foreign Military Bases on American Soil** – The Party opposes any foreign or international military base on American soil. We oppose relinquishing United States supremacy to any foreign powers on United States soil. We encourage Congress to prohibit all foreign or international military bases from the United States.

**Foreign Purchase of Public Property** – The Party opposes any sale or transfer of public properties to foreign or international entities.

**Homeland Security** – The Party urges the - Homeland Security Department to:

1. Revitalize and adequately fund our national intelligence gathering capabilities;
2. continue to enhance the coordination of information and intelligence between various local, state, and federal agencies;
3. pass the information on to the local or state agency(s) to prepare to deter and defend against a risk once identified;
4. not violate the constitutional rights of the citizens of the United States;
5. provide for the adequate protection of high profile targets, such as refineries, nuclear power plants and national monuments;
6. enhance the security in use at our airports, navigable ports of entry, and other transportation terminals to prevent the use of transportation vehicles as a weapon against the United States;
7. use random selection and terrorist profiling as a criteria for determining persons to be searched at U.S. airports; and
8. establish and maintain the presence of armed guards and armed pilots on all commercial aircraft and the immediate authorization of the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard to board and search all vessels entering U.S. waters from foreign ports. We urge Congress to order the immediate training of airline pilots by qualified firearms instructors at reasonable fees for the protection of their aircraft against terrorist attack.

**National Defense** – The Party continues to encourage and support:

1. funding for a strong national defense, which guarantees maintaining a military which stands ready to defend our nation and increases combat readiness;
2. continued funding and development of the Strategic Defense Initiative;
3. disengagement from countries in which we have no clear national defense interest;
4. “America First” priority in protecting the citizens and borders of the United States;
5. not entering into any new arms control agreements with any nation that is not currently complying with previous agreements;
6. the military never being deployed except to defend against an invasion or in protection of the United States’ direct, vital interests; and
7. maintaining our military’s effective combat strength sufficient to defend our nation’s borders and its strategic interests.

**Legal Immigration** – The Party believes that America has greatly benefited from immigrants who have legally come to this country to work and begin a new life reflecting American values and traditions.

We support:

1. the assimilation of immigrants into the American culture;
2. setting immigration quotas to levels sufficient to meet the needs of the country;
3. screening potential immigrants for communicable diseases;
4. Congressional oversight of federal agencies to follow up over-stayed visas;
5. Congress providing for an end to the practice of “chain migration”;
6. background checks on foreign students before issuing a student visa;
7. cutting funding to state universities that give lower in-state tuition rates to immigrants on student visas, or that refuse to cooperate with the foreign student tracking system;
8. firm and consistent enforcement of all existing immigration laws; and
9. marking of all state driver’s licenses issued to non-citizens as “Non-Citizens”, to avoid voter fraud.

**Illegal Immigration** – The Party believes that security of our borders is an urgent national interest.

The Party opposes illegal immigration and all forms of amnesty, or legal status for illegal immigrants irrespective of program name or race.

We support:

1. expeditious hearings on deporting non-violent illegal immigrants held in prisons or jails;
2. suspending automatic U.S. citizenship to children born to illegal immigrant parents;
3. elimination of federal funding to cities that have “sanctuary” laws prohibiting local police from identifying and reporting illegal immigrants to federal authorities;

4. empowering state and local law enforcement agencies with the authority, responsibility and resources needed to detain illegal immigrants within the course of their regular duties;
5. the rejection of non-verifiable foreign-issued cards, such as *matricula consular* as valid identification for official documentation purposes;
6. investigation and strict prosecution of agencies, businesses or persons involved in the production, distribution or acceptance of phony identification documents;
7. elimination of day labor work centers;
8. elimination of all laws requiring hospitals to give non-emergency medical care to illegal immigrants;
9. elimination of government funding to illegal immigrants for education, housing and business loans;
10. pass legislation which prevents China, Chinese citizens, and any other foreign country and/or its citizens from using the judicial system and courts of the United States to file and try lawsuits that grant entrance of the foreign people to the U.S. or become missing persons; and
11. strong document verification prior to the issuance of a Texas drivers license to anyone.

**NASA** – The party supports appropriate funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Texas Aerospace Commission. The party strongly urges the utilization of private research and design for the purpose of replacing or supplementing the current “shuttle system” with a “completely reusable vehicle”, which would be more cost effective in getting to and from space; for the purpose of maintaining and establishing space stations, communications and surveillance satellites, solar-generating systems, and enhancing national defense.

**Support of Our Armed Forces** – The Party salutes those who serve in all branches of our armed forces, in particular those who have and are serving in Afghanistan and Iraq and encourages all Americans to support these brave and patriotic men and women. Our armed forces should be paid a sufficient wage to prevent them from ever being eligible for, or in need of, food stamp assistance. Our armed forces should be paid a reasonable wage that encourages retention of these highly trained personnel. In support of our armed forces, we recommend:

1. that all United States forces remain under the command and control of only the Commander-in-Chief and American officers and commanders;
2. the disqualification of homosexuals from military service;
3. the immediate discharge of HIV positive individuals from service;
4. the exclusion of women from combat roles;
5. members of our armed forces retain their freedom to refuse vaccines not certified as safe by the FDA and the Surgeon General;
6. the open admission to the military of citizens with a General Equivalency Diploma (GED);
7. restoration of full military honors for the burial of deceased veterans;
8. restoration of all veteran benefits including retirement pay and disability pay, without an offset for disability pay, as well as, appropriate medical and dental care;
9. restoration of promised full lifetime medical health benefits to retired military personnel and their families;
10. separation of men and women in basic training, as is the practice of the Marine Corps;
11. not requiring members of United States forces to wear any item of uniform, other than that of the United States, or being required to serve in any capacity under an officer of the United Nations or other foreign state;
12. upgrading, modernizing and maintaining the equipment, weapons and vehicles for the safety, efficiency and effectiveness of our armed forces;
13. military and civilian citizens displaced by service to our country be afforded the opportunity and given special consideration and ample time for their vote to be counted in the election day results;
14. the continuation of the all volunteer armed forces, the recruitment and advancement of military personnel based on the needs of the military and the qualifications of the person, and not for the purpose of social engineering; and
15. the expeditious construction of a Veterans Museum in Texas.

## **International Relations**

**Foreign Policy** – The Party supports the spread of a representative form of government and a free market enterprise. We also support and encourage private humanitarian aid to developing countries. The Party supports the continued favorable treatment of proven allies, and the censure of adversaries like the “Axis of Evil” countries and groups that seek the destruction of other countries and/or harbor terrorists. We oppose the unrestrained use of foreign aid.

**MIA’s and POW’s** – The Party urges the President and Congress to continue all measures necessary to seek and act upon all information concerning our service personnel and citizens Missing in Action and Prisoners of War.

**China** – The Party strongly recommends the removal of Permanent Normal Trade Relations with Communist China (formerly “Most Favored Nation” status) until such time when:

- 1) there is a formal peace treaty between North and South Korea;
- 2) there is significant improvement in their government policies on human rights;
- 3) there is freedom of religion;
- 4) China ceases its aggressive behavior toward its neighbors, particularly Taiwan; and
- 5) China ceases transferring nuclear, biological, and chemical technology to Iran, Pakistan, North Korea, etc.

We further urge the imposition of trade sanctions against communist China for interfering in United States political campaigns.

**Cuba** – The Party supports strengthening the Cuban embargo. We urge Congress to continue to defend human rights for Cubans and to not prop up Dictator Fidel Castro.

**Taiwan** – The Party recognizes Taiwan as a long-time ally of the United States and as an independent and sovereign nation. In order to support its self-defense, we call upon Congress to support the “Taiwan Security Enhancement Act.”

**Israel** – The Party believes 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. Our foreign policy with Israel should reflect the special nature of this relationship through continued military and economic assistance and recognition that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and should remain an undivided city accessible to people of all faiths. In our diplomatic dealings with Israel, we encourage the continuation of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, but oppose pressuring Israel to make concessions it believes would jeopardize its security, including the trading of land for the recognition of its right to exist. We call on the U.S. to continue non-recognition of terrorist Yassar Arafat as a Palestinian authority in our Middle East dealings.

**Iraq** – The Party commends President George W. Bush, his administration, and the U.S. Armed Forces in their strategy and execution of the War in Iraq. We support the establishment of a representative form of government for the people of Iraq to protect them from the tyranny of dictatorial regimes and as a stabilizing force in the Middle East in the greater war against terrorism. We support the continuation of economic and security assistance to Iraq as it rebuilds its country, establishes its government, secures its country from terrorism, and solidifies its new found economic and individual freedoms.

**Pakistan** – The Party supports giving Pakistan Permanent Normal Trade Relations status in all its trade with the United States for all products. We believe that economic partnership will strengthen the moderate leaders in the country who are American allies.

**One World Government Organizations** – The Party opposes a one world government which is in direct opposition to the basic principles of the United States of America eroding our sovereignty and our goals for leadership in world affairs.

**International Monetary Fund (IMF)** – The Party urges Congress to stop funding the IMF and any other international financing agencies, because such agencies give American taxpayers’ money to international bankers. We believe these funding agencies should be eliminated. We demand full disclosure concerning members of their respective tribunals and bureaucracies, including their allegiances, backgrounds, goals, and the companies/organizations they represent.

**International Trade** – The Party favors fair and reciprocal trade and competition in the international market place. The party opposes excessive regulation of American industry which makes American products uncompetitive in world markets. The Party opposes the expansion of free trade at the expense of national security and national sovereignty of the United States, and calls for the immediate withdrawal of the United States from any agreements that compromise national sovereignty, independence, self-sufficiency, and national security. Likewise, we urge sanctions against nations that:

- 1) disrupt free trade by subsidizing agricultural exports or other goods to the United States;
- 2) bar or excessively tax American products or services;
- 3) enslave their own citizens, or violate human rights; and
- 4) engage in technological espionage.

We urge the repeal of any international trade agreements that do not promote free trade, withdrawal from membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO), and cessation of further negotiations of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) agreement.

We urge Congress to authorize fund expenditures and audit measures on research and development of alternative fuels to reduce the United States dependency on foreign oil producers and ensure no financial support of terrorist sponsoring nations.

We urge the use and purchase of finished goods and materials with parts made and assembled in the United States.

We urge Congress to investigate the issue of outsourcing jobs overseas and U.S. corporations moving their corporate headquarters overseas to avoid taxation, and make corrections to address any identified issues. Additionally, we demand that all government entities be banned from overseas job outsourcing, and that all personal information pertaining to U.S. citizens only be handled by U.S. citizens.

**Agricultural Import Restrictions** – The Party urges Congress to establish policies, systems, and measures to regulate imported agricultural products and their by-products to conform to the same standards imposed on the United States agricultural industry by the United States Department of Agricultural, Environmental Protection Agency and any other government agency.

**American Patent Rights** – The Party supports protecting our inventors, maintaining and enforcing our current patent laws, and strengthening penalties for violations of patent laws by foreign entities.

**Puerto Rico** – We urge the U.S. Congress to call for a clear vote of the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico to decide between statehood or independence, for the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico.

**United Nations** – The Party believes 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 contributions to, the United Nations. We will:

1. support legislation similar to “The American Sovereignty Preservation Act”, which would remove the United States entirely from the control of the UN;
2. demand that Congress ratify no more, and rescind any existing treaties that compromise the United States Constitution;
3. 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;
4. 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”;
5. urge our Texas Senators to unalterably 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
6. demand a full audit and disclosure of the Iraqi Food for Oil program.

We oppose:

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

The Party urges Congress to evict the United Nations from the United States and eliminate any further participation.