

Preamble

We, the Republicans of Linn County, Iowa, meeting in Convention March 6, 2010, share these common ideals and believe they provide the best framework for guiding this State and Nation into the future. And we encourage Local, State and Federal Republican candidates for public office and office holders read and review this platform to inform their decision making on issues of policy and administration before them.

Agriculture

1. Agricultural production meeting the demands of the market is preferable to subsidy driven production. Agricultural regulation should not be excessive.

Defense, Homeland Security, Immigration and Foreign Policy

2. We support the proliferation of democratic principles around the world and continued existence of freely and fairly elected governments.
3. Stop nuclear proliferation – if necessary by force.
4. As a nation of immigrants we know and prize the diversity newcomers bring to our nation we support and welcome those who legally join us. Those failing to follow proper immigration procedure should be returned to their homeland.
5. We call for military tribunals to try terrorist suspects and not to try them in our civilian courts.
6. Realizing the world is not always a friendly place we must maintain a strong defense the integrity of our borders and protecting domestic security
7. We urge the repeal of NAFTA and GATT.
8. We oppose the ratification of *United Nations Treaty on the Rights of the Child*.
9. Foreign citizens working as agents of terror organizations should be treated as enemy combatants. They are not citizens of our nation which they seek to destroy. They are not entitled to the rights of American citizens.
10. We believe in principle in the role of the United Nations but recognize the value of continued national sovereignty over domestic rights and actions abroad.
11. A strong intelligence community with proper oversight protecting citizens' rights is necessary to preserve our rights as well the safety and security of our nation.
12. We call for increased resources for human intelligence capabilities.
13. We call for the keeping open of GITMO for the detaining of terrorists.
14. We Support the men and women of the US Armed Forces
15. We support that Israel's right to exist.
16. We support enforcing visa rules. Tracking visa holders and deporting anyone who overstays his/her visa or otherwise violates US law.
17. We support *Don't Ask Don't Tell*.
18. We call for the continued deployment of the anti ballistic missile defense system and for the updating, retraining, expansion and reequipping of our nuclear strategic forces.

Economy Spending and Taxes

19. We support only the use of free market solutions pertaining to the economy of the USA. Not allowing government to own any part of previously private businesses.
20. We believe the *Federal Reserve Act* should be revised to focus on the price stability of the dollar and to audit the *Federal Reserve Bank*.
21. No person shall be coerced into selling the fruits of their labor through a 3rd party. We support every individual's *Right to Work*. We support every workers right to a secret ballot when choosing an agent to represent them *Card Check* ballots in such elections should not be permitted to deny that right.
22. We support responsibly reducing regulations to encourage business growth.
23. Taxation and government debt are currently excessive. Taxes and debt should be reduced as much as possible to prevent resource diversion from the private sector and promote economic growth. Taxation should not be used as a command and control mechanism in our economy. We support flatter rules of taxation as less detrimental to free enterprise.
24. We support the principle of international tax competition as a means to lower corporate income tax.
25. We urge congress to make the *Bush Tax Cuts* permanent.
26. In an effort to support fiscal discipline and responsibility on all levels of government we strongly encourage a balanced budget to be both a principle of government and a law of the land.
27. We believe support of the arts should be an individual decision. Taxes should not be used to support the National Endowment for the Arts.
28. We oppose Congress use of Social Security Trust funds for budget deficit use or for illegal aliens.
29. We believe federal income taxes paid should remain deductible on Iowa's state income tax
30. We believe that Social Security benefits should not be taxed

31. Resolve to not allow the Iowa budget to be more than 99% of revenues for a fiscal year. If the legislature passes a budget above this legal threshold and the governor and legislature will be subject to an automatic statewide recall
32. We believe we can make Iowa a business friendly state and encourage job creation by reducing taxes and regulation.
33. Remove If a tax can be retroactive then so will a vote. Not a vote of confidence.
34. We call for Congress to balance the budget.
35. We believe in an end to the government subsidized entities of *Fannie Mae* and *Freddie Mac* and dissolve all government connections with the companies.
36. We call for the repeal of Alternative Minimum Tax(AMT).
37. We oppose the concept of *hate crimes*. We find it redundant and believe the criminalization of thought, no matter how offensive, is a threat to individual rights.
38. We believe that the *Free Market* not the government should set the employee compensation.
39. International trade is important to our economy. We support and encourage fair mutually agreed upon trade with other friendly nations.
40. We support the repeal of the 16th Amendment
41. We support the use of *E-Verify* for all new hires.
42. We only consider the budget balanced when the amount of debt does not increase.

Education

43. We believe parents and local school boards should have the greatest say in education. We support removing the federal government from education and reducing the role of the Iowa Department of education.
44. We call for the teaching of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the truth about the founding of this country to all our students from grammar school through college.
45. The primary criteria of where a child is open enrolled in an Iowa School should be that of a parent/guardian of that child. Should a child open enroll the tax dollars for that child should immediately go to the school attended.
46. Where there are efficiencies to be realized through school district consolidation. We believe the decision to consolidate be solely that of the districts involved.
47. We support performance based compensation for all public education professionals, we support programs that reward superior teachers and outline procedures to remove ineffective educators.
48. We demand that the Board of Regents and the state government end the practice of allowing some of our state universities to offering instate tuition to illegal aliens
49. Because homeschooling saves taxpayers a lot of money and gives children high quality education (as proven by test scores) we ask that the State of Iowa continue to allow freedom to homeschool and continue to support homeschool assistance programs that already exist.
50. The purpose of our educational system is to teach the skills, techniques and basic knowledge necessary for critical thinking and the courage to do so.
51. We support the teaching of the following subjects American History, the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, economics, business, reading, writing, math and science.
52. We believe college students should be able to attend college of their choice for a reasonable cost.
53. Federally funded student loans should only be issued to people attending an accredited school.
54. We believe the debt burden on accompanying post secondary education to be damaging to individual financial welfare. We wish to remedy the position of recent graduates by curtailing predatory lending strategies and offering greater support mechanisms for those wishing to pursue higher education funded via federal loans and other offered reasonable funding options.
55. We call for full support of home schoolers and home school associations including bringing funding from 30% to 100%.

Energy, Natural Resources and Transportation

56. The *facts* supporting *Global Warming* have been called into serious question. Draconian regulations and restrictions should not be imposed upon us without full and honest evaluation of evidence cited in support of doing so.
57. We urge increased exploration and production of domestic oil off our coasts and on our land as well as extending use of natural gas and nuclear power to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy.
58. We believe regulatory and tort barriers to the construction of new refineries, power plants and nuclear facilities must be eased.
59. Energy distribution infrastructure should be modernized and expanded.

Family Values

60. We support a vote on amendment to the Iowa Constitution stating that “to secure and preserve the benefits of marriage for our society and for future generations of children, marriage between *one man and one woman* is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this state.”

Government

61. Free and fair elections are vital to the health and stability of government. To that end we support all reasonable, fair and effective efforts to combat voter fraud.
62. We support the principle of limited government at all levels.
63. Replace with We support the principle of a balanced budget and reducing government spending.
64. We support compensating public employees in line with comparable work in the private sector.
65. We support the elimination of congressional earmarks.
66. We support the Bill of Rights in its entirety. The 2nd Amendment protecting our right to bear arms and the 10th amendment granting powers to the individual states are not obsolete.
67. We strongly believe in the Second Amendment which guarantees individuals the right to keep and bear arms without government intervention and support the repeal of current laws that infringe upon our Constitutional right to keep and bear arms. We support the right to carry laws and a *shall issue* permit system for concealed weapons in Iowa with national reciprocity among the states to all legal qualified permit holders.
68. The worth of an individual should be based on quality of character. It is not race, religion national origin, etc. nor such criteria fulfilling a quota.
69. We support the use of secure ID for voting (check ID)
70. We strongly oppose judicial legislation and call upon judges at all levels to adhere strictly to the original intent of the United States Constitution and their respective state constitutions.
71. Where there are efficiencies to be realized through county consolidation. We believe the decision to consolidate be solely that of the counties involved
72. We support a state parental notification law to protect parental rights and responsibility for their children.
73. We support a law to make English our official national language
74. We support repealing smoking ban. We believe this to be an issue of liberty.
75. We call for a full investigation of the organization formally known as ACORN and its allied organizations and full prosecution of any illegalities as discovered. And to cease government funding of such organization.
76. We call for an investigation of the cooking of data by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and those who did.
77. We oppose taking of land by *eminent domain* for private use.
78. We call for an end to same day voter registration changes on primary voting days.
79. We believe the U.S. Constitution should be amended to prohibit the signing of any treaty that violates the Bill of Rights. (i.e. The Copenhagen treaty or the U.N.'s Children's Bill of Rights)

Health and Human Services

80. We believe parents should be held accountable for payments of child support.
81. We oppose any law, ordinance or policy that recognizes or protects sexual orientation as a special class.
82. We support opening the purchasing of Health care across state lines.
83. We support healthcare that promotes preventive maintenance.
84. We believe the father of a child, born or unborn, has the same rights and responsibilities as the mother in all matters regarding the child.
85. We support the expansion of Health Savings accounts to help the consumer to become price and quality sensitive regarding their healthcare.

Law and Justice

86. We support reinstating the death penalty in the state of Iowa for heinous crimes.
87. We support tort reform. Specifically legislation to control or eliminate *Junk* lawsuits with reasonable caps on damages.
88. We support legislation that would allow juries to be informed of their common law right and duty to consider both the facts and the law in reaching just verdicts.
89. We have no tolerance for judicial power that exceeds its authority.
90. In support of the 10th amendment we believe that all federal legislative bodies must cite the constitutional article that would support any bill before consideration.
91. We affirm that U.S. citizens should be entitled rights, privileges and protections of U.S. law and not subject to the limitations of precedent or penalty asserted by international legal bodies.

Right to Life

92. We believe human life is a sacred gift from our creator and is an inalienable right as outlined in the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence whereby its value cannot be decided by a legislative body or a judicial branch. This right is innately valuable from conception. This includes the unborn, the elderly, the terminally or chronically ill and the mentally or physically

handicapped. No human life should ever be diminished or arbitrarily taken. Therefore the government and its people must restore this right to life which was intended to protect all its citizens.

93. We believe human life is a sacred gift from our Creator. We believe the unborn child has a fundamental right to life, which cannot be infringed. We therefore reaffirm our support for a Human Life Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Iowa. We oppose using public funds for abortion or funding organizations that advocate it. We commend those who provide alternatives to abortion by meeting the needs of mothers and offering adoption services.
94. We oppose assisted suicides and killing of those who are unwanted. No human life should ever be diminished or arbitrarily taken.
95. We oppose partial birth abortions and the use of fetal tissue from abortions for commercial or experimental purposes.
96. We support *conscience clause* legislation so that no physician, pharmacist or other health care provider can be penalized for refusing to prescribe, dispense or participate in the procurement of abortion or anything contrary to the conscience of the health care provider.

Republican Party

97. We affirm that no duly nominated Republican candidate in good standing shall be denied party support based on issue litmus testing.