

# PLATFORM OF THE KANSAS REPUBLICAN PARTY

Adopted by the 2024 Platform Committee on December 9, 2023, offered for consideration at the KS GOP Convention on January 26 & 27, 2024

## PREAMBLE

The Kansas Republican Party affirms the Kansas Constitution in stating that “We the people of Kansas [are] grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious privileges.” Since man is created in God’s image, each person’s dignity, freedom, ability, and responsibility must be honored.

We believe the merit of future legislation, policy and political candidates should be judged against the philosophy of the Kansas Republican Party as expressed by this Platform.

## THE KANSAS REPUBLICAN PARTY BELIEVES THAT

- I. Our heritage of honoring the United States of America and the Constitution is exceptional and central to our nation’s longstanding success.
- II. God’s institution of traditional marriage is the bedrock of our families, local communities, state, and nation.
- III. Human life must be respected and protected. Life begins at conception and ends at natural death.
- IV. The right to keep and bear arms must not be infringed.
- V. Individual freedoms and liberties must be protected as guaranteed by our Constitutions.
- VI. Property rights must be preserved.
- VII. The three branches of government must adhere to separation of powers.
- VIII. Healthcare decisions shall be made by individuals and their families.
- IX. A well prepared and well-armed military is foundational to our nation’s sovereignty.
- X. We strongly support law enforcement in their duty to protect our communities.
- XI. The borders of our nation must be secure.
- XII. We should strive for Kansas students to be the best educated in the nation with an emphasis on the core academic subjects and school choice.
- XIII. The economy will grow when government is smaller and bureaucracy is minimized.
- XIV. Our energy supply must be independent, affordable and reliable.

## I. EMBRACING OUR HERITAGE

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

Preserving these freedoms requires God’s guidance and our commitment to the rule of law and adherence to the Constitution as written.

## II. PRESERVING TRADITIONAL FAMILIES

Families and communities are not abstract constructs, but rather, natural and intrinsic to human existence. As Republicans, we believe that strong societies rest on strong, stable families. Families provide important value in attaining leadership skills, moral fiber, work ethic and other traits necessary to be successful in society. God created man and woman. Therefore, as defined

by the Kansas Constitution, the benefits and privileges of marriage exist only between one man and one woman. Happy and healthy marriages are the foundation of our society. We must support the institution of marriage if our society is to survive and thrive.

Because our children's future is best preserved within the traditional understanding of marriage, we call for a federal constitutional amendment that fully protects marriage as a union of a man and a woman. Judges and legislatures shall not make other arrangements equivalent to it. We support the courageous efforts of single-parent families to provide a stable home for their children. We also salute and support the efforts of foster and adoptive families.

Most of our societal ills are the result of godlessness and the resultant broken family structure. Government cannot replace God or the traditional family.

We oppose initiatives that erode parental rights, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Parents bear the final responsibility before God in the rearing of their children and have the right to raise their children consistent with their religious and moral values. Parents must be free to train and discipline their children in love and direct their education and health care according to their beliefs and values without government intrusion.

### **III. PROMOTING A CULTURE OF LIFE**

Every innocent human life is sacred. Every human being, born or unborn, has an inalienable right to life which cannot be infringed. We believe life begins at conception and does not end until natural death. The Kansas Republican Party will lead our nation toward a culture that values life—the life of the elderly and sick, the life of the young, and the life of the unborn.

Kansas Republicans affirm our support for a Human Life Amendment to the U. S. Constitution (as stated in the Republican National Platform), and we endorse legislation to make clear the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children. We oppose using public revenues for abortion and funding organizations which advocate it. Abortion is not healthcare; every abortion kills an innocent child.

In the interest of guarding the inalienable right to life of all Americans, we support the prohibition of euthanasia and assisted suicide and the recent overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. We encourage efforts to end abortion. We encourage efforts to provide positive alternatives to abortion by meeting the physical, emotional, and financial needs of pregnant women and offering adoption services where needed and promoting abstinence-only educational programs in our schools. To protect women considering abortion, we support full disclosure of possible short and long-term effects of abortion and licensure and regulation of abortion clinics by the State. The State of Kansas needs to enforce its laws regarding abortion, especially the strict prohibition against late-term abortions, and to ensure the right to civil and criminal redress for matters involving malpractice, malfeasance, or ethical violations, including the illegal sale of baby parts. We support the prohibition of all human cloning, whether therapeutic or reproductive. We support the use of scientifically proven and successful adult stem cell and umbilical cord blood cell research and other innovations that do not involve destroying human life.

### **IV. THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS**

Because the Second Amendment is essential to protecting all the other rights endowed by God and guaranteed by the Constitution, we uphold the right of Americans to keep and bear arms as an individual right that is inviolate.

We affirm that firearm ownership is an exercise of responsible citizenship that enables Americans to defend themselves, their families, property, and communities.

We recognize that gun control, in all its forms, only penalizes law-abiding citizens. Such proposals are ineffective at reducing violent crime.

We oppose the licensing of law-abiding gun and ammunition owners, gun registration, limitations on ammunition purchases, and calls to confiscate firearms and magazines as violations of the Second Amendment.

We affirm the preeminent role of state government to establish laws regarding firearms.

We oppose all efforts to stigmatize gun ownership in housing, healthcare, and access to financial services.

We support allowing teachers who volunteer and go through training and certification to be armed in our schools to defend our children.

## **V. RESPECTING INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS AND LIBERTY**

Respect for each person's dignity, freedom, ability, and responsibility is a bedrock strength of our nation. We believe that each individual is unique and oppose group-identity based politics and policies.

We affirm the Declaration of Independence and the Kansas Constitution, which state that we are endowed by our Creator with inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We affirm the rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights as originally intended by the founding fathers including the rights to practice religion freely, to keep and bear arms, to be protected from unreasonable searches and seizures, and to not have property taken by government for private use.

Local control should be preferred and considered when enacting laws and regulations, larger government units should not interfere with local, more efficient and responsive solutions.

The Republican Party supports the right of all individuals and groups to express their political views freely and openly without government regulation or interference. We cherish the opportunity to engage with others and to advance our philosophy of freedom and responsibility in a free and vibrant political debate, secure in the knowledge that the logic of freedom and responsibility will always prevail in a free and educated electorate.

The Republican plan empowers people with a renewed commitment to Almighty God, as we continue to focus on each individual's unique value, dignity, and duty to serve our State, Nation and fellow man. As Republicans we believe in equal political rights and equal justice for all.

Voting is an essential individual right and, to ensure election integrity, we support requiring Kansans to show a government-issued photo ID to vote in any election in our state. We encourage the purging of the Kansas voter rolls of ineligible voters to ensure the integrity of our elections.

We welcome Kansans of every ethnicity into our Party as we work together to preserve our heritage of political equality, religious freedom, and strong moral values. We strive to eliminate racism and we condemn all racist acts and groups. The Kansas Republican Party is proud to support and honored to have as its affiliates: the Kansas Black Republican Council, the

Republican National Hispanic Assembly of Kansas, the Kansas Federation of Republican Women, the Heartland Republican Jewish Coalition, the Kansas Young Republicans and the Kansas Federation of College Republicans.

## **VI. PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR PRESERVING THE HEARTLAND**

We gratefully acknowledge the gift of abundant natural resources in our state and recognize the importance of these resources in our agricultural economy. Agriculture continues to serve as one of the largest economic drivers in Kansas.

Maintaining the rich heritage of our state for the future depends on the protection and wise use of these natural resources. The balance between the conservation of natural resources and private enterprise can and is accomplished by our farmers, our energy sector, and our private landowners.

We support the protection of the water rights and natural mineral resources rights of private landowners and federally recognized American Indian tribes. We encourage the conservation of our natural resources through economic incentives rather than government regulations.

Private property ownership and the associated rights are foundational to a free society and individual prosperity. Private property ownership shall not be encumbered by excessive and burdensome state and federal regulations such as the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule and the “America the Beautiful” (30 x30) Initiative.

Eminent domain shall be limited to the strictest of essential public purposes only. Government should be prohibited from seizing private property for economic development purposes, National Heritage Areas, or recreational purposes.

Government should not directly compete against private business. Government should not partner with private enterprise. These conditions are mandatory in order to preserve the integrity of our Republic.

We encourage the Governor, Attorney General, and Legislature to join all lawsuits that seek to block infringement on the powers reserved to the states under the 10th Amendment, or that exceed the government’s enumerated powers.

## **VII. RESPECTING THE CONSTITUTIONAL SEPARATION OF POWERS**

The judicial branch of our government must recognize that it is not a super-legislative body. The core mission of the Judiciary is to protect the historically recognized constitutional rights of the people. Judges must not function as public policy makers. This is beyond their role clearly stated by the Constitution. The Judiciary shall be held accountable for its mission by a thorough examination of its members by the people. The selection process for Kansas Supreme Court justices is currently flawed by its lack of input from the Kansas citizenry. This flaw must be corrected.

The judicial and executive branch must stay out of all spending decisions constitutionally outside of their purview. The legislative branch must exercise its constitutional responsibility to establish their independence from judicial and executive overreach.

We support the use of American law for American courts exclusively. And, we believe that only American laws and the Constitutions of the United States and Kansas should be used for legal decisions in our courts. Foreign law or international treaties shall not violate these fundamental

liberties, rights and privileges granted under the United States and Kansas Constitutions. The most efficient mechanism of accountability as envisioned by our Constitutions is a vigilant Legislature.

The Founding Fathers never intended the federal government to have the expansive powers it does today. The Constitution assigned to Congress responsibility for organizing the executive and judicial branches, raising revenue, declaring war, and making all laws necessary for executing these powers.

Kansas should lead the charge for the states to reassert their constitutional powers and curb the bloated and wasteful federal government.

## **VIII. HEALTHCARE**

True healthcare reform gives individuals control over their healthcare and health insurance decisions. Legislators and regulators should promote an environment that fosters competition and choice in providers, facilities, and insurance. Health Savings Accounts are a crucial piece in making health insurance affordable. Kansas should support expanding health savings accounts. This will equalize the tax treatment of individual and group plans, promote personal ownership of healthcare expenses, and empower citizens in making health care choices for themselves and their families.

It is never acceptable to force a medical procedure on an unwilling or unwitting individual. Gender surgery and gender hormone therapy are not health care and are dangerous, unproven, and contrary to our God given natural law. Patients' rights in the hospital or nursing home should be respected and pre-eminent.

Medicaid should be available only to our most needy. Medicaid expansion is fiscally unsustainable and will only increase waiting lists and delay delivery of medical services. There is no evidence that government involvement improves health care management. Therefore, we encourage the Governor, Attorney General and Legislature to refrain from expanding Medicaid and other federal health care programs.

## **IX. SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY**

We support modernized, fully equipped, and trained armed forces. Their noble mission and the sacrifices they have made mandate that the men and women of these all-volunteer forces be given the greatest honor and respect.

The Veterans Administration needs to provide adequate and timely support for our veterans. We encourage actions and policies that will help employers and communities support National Guard members, veterans, and their families as they serve our state and nation. We support choice in health care options for veterans, including the ability to seek private health care reimbursed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A strong national defense requires a strong relationship with our allies. As Republicans, we stand in solidarity behind our key ally, the nation of Israel. Israel's importance to the Middle East region is vital as the lone democracy.

## **X. BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES AND SUPPORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

We believe the rights of society and the rights of the individual must be protected. We support the full funding of law enforcement across the state with the mission to protect the rights of

individuals and to create safe neighborhoods. The judicial system must impose swift and fair punishment for all crimes, violent and non-violent.

We oppose pornography in all forms as an indignity to the human person. Because of the increasing prevalence of pornography and its harmful effects in our society, we call for the Government to enact and enforce appropriate laws addressing its public health effects.

Human trafficking is contrary to the principles of freedom and dignity. The exploitation of human beings dehumanizes the individuals who are trafficked and weakens the moral and social fabric of society at large.

Any law or constitutional provisions allowing the state of Kansas to own and operate gambling facilities must be repealed. Gambling is addictive, destructive, and beyond the constitutional scope of any level of our government.

## **XI. THE BORDERS OF OUR NATION MUST BE SECURE**

Open borders destabilize our nation's security and the health and well-being of our citizens. Organized crime, drug trafficking, and human trafficking have exponentially increased recently as our borders have been willfully neglected. This has allowed millions of illegal aliens, including many from nations that are known foreign adversaries, to enter our country and overwhelm our cities and states.

Legal immigrants have been a vital part of our state since its inception. Immigration and citizenship with all its privileges must be pursuant to the law. Therefore, it is the duty of all who seek access to our state and nation to respect the laws of our land.

Employers hoping to take advantage of cheap labor via illegal immigrants should not be tolerated. Law enforcement agencies should cooperate to enforce immigration law. Sanctuary jurisdictions are dangerous and unacceptable.

English is the official language of the State of Kansas.

## **XII. BUILDING THE KNOWLEDGE OF KANSAS STUDENTS**

The Kansas Republican Party believes that the primary goal of education is to prepare Kansas students for success through rigorous academic instruction in accordance with each student's God given gifts and talents. This rigorous academic instruction must focus on the fundamental mastery of reading, writing, and arithmetic. Study of the U.S. and Kansas Constitutions, and history sourced from the original documents of our Founding Fathers, civics and financial literacy is essential.

Kansas law guarantees parents have the inalienable right to exercise primary control of their child's education. School choice (public, private, home) belongs to the parents. At a minimum, we support base state funding following the child with minimal government regulation as the best means of encouraging competition and innovation and promoting school choice. Our children's best interest must always come first in all policy making.

Teaching Methodologies should be based on students' needs and abilities rather than on mandates by the U.S. Department of Education and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Kansas students should no longer be subject to Social Emotional Learning (SEL), Critical Race Theory (CRT), Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI), or any variant thereof. These programs are

designed to create divisiveness within our society. As such, they are antithetical to our Republican values. The Common Core curriculum should be eliminated.

Accreditation of our Kansas schools should be based on educational standards established and adopted by the Kansas State Board of Education, accountable to Kansas voters.

### **XIII. GROWING THE ECONOMY**

The keys to economic success and security are opportunity and entrepreneurship. Federal, state, and local governments must recognize that prosperity can only be achieved when economic resources remain in the hands of the people. Low taxation is the key driver of economic development.

Any increase in the Kansas budget should not exceed inflation or population growth. Any proposed tax increase beyond these parameters should be submitted to a popular vote. Increasing the tax burden on citizens should be a last resort and with the consent of the governed.

State tax policy must be simple and fair to both individuals and businesses. Our taxation system must be level and accountable across all sectors. Special-interest tax exemptions and credits invariably create unlevel playing fields in the business world and in their relationship to the individual citizen.

To ensure the efficiency of government departments and programs, we support zero-based budgeting and annual audits.

We must work towards a consistent regulation system where such regulations are clear, expected, and minimal. The coupling of minimal regulation to low taxation will drive job creation, growth, and innovation in Kansas.

While the Kansas Republican Party believes in a strong social safety net, welfare programs are a temporary last resort. Assistance programs should be a “hand up” not a handout. Every effort must be made to eliminate improper abuse of welfare programs to guarantee each taxpayer dollar goes to lifting individuals and families out of poverty, not supporting a habit or lifestyle choice of dependence.

### **XIV. ENERGY**

The Kansas Republican Party supports an energy policy that ensures affordable and reliable energy for our Kansas citizens and their businesses. We fully support our oil and gas industry and recognize their past and present contributions to society.

Alternative energy sources should have every opportunity to compete but only on a level taxation playing field. New energy technologies are best developed in our private and public research centers, only being brought into public use when they can compete in a cost-effective manner free of taxpayer subsidies.

The misinformation surrounding climate change and the cleanliness of alternative energy must be temporized with the facts. Kansas leaders must not be allowed to arbitrarily deny permits to build new power plants or to grant authorization to shutter existing ones. Our Kansas electrical grid should be fortified and maintained for the safety and well-being of Kansas citizens as a vital part of our societal well-being and requires management in the best interest of the citizens of Kansas first and foremost rather than the region and nation.

It remains our responsibility to act in accordance with factual data that unequivocally refutes the suggestions that have dominated legislation that irresponsibly subsidizes renewable sources such as wind and solar.

The United States and Kansas must change course as it relates to policymaking in the energy sector. This “change of course” needs to recognize the inherent value of private property rights. It also needs to recognize irresponsible attempts to “fast-track” movement away from the historically stable, market-tested, and technologically superior energy delivery methods. These schemes are expensive and destabilizing to our economy.