

PLATFORM OF THE KANSAS REPUBLICAN PARTY

Adopted March 12, 2022

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.

THE KANSAS REPUBLICAN PARTY BELIEVES THAT

OUR COUNTRY AND CONSTITUTION are honored as exceptional and upheld.

OUR JUDICIARY must respect the separation of powers, not make laws.

OUR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES are the bedrock strength of our nation.

OUR RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS must be protected.

OUR CULTURE should respect and protect life.

OUR MILITARY must be prepared to defend us and receive our best care.

OUR LEGAL IMMIGRATION is a blessing to this country.

OUR HEALTHCARE DECISIONS should be made by us and our doctors.

OUR ECONOMY WILL GROW when government is smaller and efficient.

OUR CHILDREN should be taught to build upon their skills and knowledge.

OUR SAFER COMMUNITIES should be free of violent and non-violent crime.

OUR INSTITUTION OF TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE is the foundation of society.

OUR ENERGY SUPPLY should be independent, affordable and reliable.

OUR PROPERTY RIGHTS are preserved in America.

Understanding the rapid nature of changing needs, we recognize that specific legislative proposals will come and go. We believe the merit of future legislation, policy and candidates should be judged against the philosophy of the Republican Party as expressed by this Platform.

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, especially in their respective Bills of Rights. 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 our best effort; our willingness to believe in ourselves and to believe in our capacity to accomplish great things; and our great faith that together, with God's guidance, we can and will resolve the problems that now confront us.

II. 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. We believe judges should be arbiters of conflict and not public policy makers. The judiciary should be held accountable for its mission by a thorough examination of its members by the people whose rights they are to protect. The most efficient mechanism of accountability, and one envisioned by both the state and federal constitutions, is a vigilant legislature. Kansas should change its judicial selection process to reflect the federal model of legislative confirmation or by adopting direct election of judges statewide.

We support the use of American law for American courts and believe strongly that only American laws and the Constitutions of the United States and Kansas should be used for legal decisions in our courts when foreign law violates these fundamental liberties, rights and privileges granted under the United States and Kansas constitutions.

III. 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.

IV. UPHOLDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

Because the Second Amendment is essential to protecting all of 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 antedates the Constitution and is solemnly confirmed by the Second Amendment.

We call upon the President to appoint, and for the Senate to confirm, judges who respect the Constitution and the right of individual citizens to keep and bear arms.

We affirm that firearm ownership is an exercise of responsible citizenship that enables Americans to defend themselves and 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 public schools to defend our children.

V. 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.

All unborn children, regardless of ability, have a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. Kansas Republicans, therefore, 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.

In the interest of guarding the inalienable right to life of all Americans, we support the prohibition of euthanasia and overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. We encourage providing 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.

VI. SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY

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

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

A strong national defense requires a great relationship with our allies. As Republicans, we stand in solidarity behind our key ally, the nation of Israel, and oppose any Boycott, Divest and Sanction campaign directed against it. We recognize its vital importance to the Middle East region and encourage our leaders and leaders around the country to fully support Israel.

VII. IMMIGRATION

Legal immigration is a blessing to this country, and with the promises of America, a blessing to all. Preserving that promise for future generations requires that we protect the sovereignty of our country and secure our borders. Illegal immigration is not compatible with this goal. Immigration and citizenship with all of its privileges, executed pursuant to the law, are an essential component of that promise. It is, therefore, the duty of all who seek the promise of America to respect the laws of our land.

Illegal immigration is unacceptable within the State of Kansas. Employers hoping to take advantage of cheap labor resources using illegal aliens in their work force will not be tolerated. Every effort must be used to ensure that all employees working within the state of Kansas are legal.

Law enforcement agencies must use all available resources to remove from the state all illegal aliens involved in crimes in the most expeditious manner. Maximum cooperation should be the norm between all law enforcement agencies within the state when dealing with enforcement of laws affecting illegal immigrants.

Sanctuary jurisdictions, which are cities or counties that limit communication between their law enforcement officers and other law enforcement or refuse to honor detainer requests, should be prohibited in Kansas as posing unnecessary risk of harm to the people of Kansas. Incentive programs to entice illegal immigrants to Kansas must be terminated.

English is the official language of the state of Kansas, and unless contrary to federal law, all published state documents, resources, advertisements, media and online material should be made available only in our official language.

VIII. HEALTHCARE

True health care reform gives individuals control over their health care and health insurance decisions. Regulators and legislators should promote an environment that fosters competition and choice in both insurance and providers, including primary care physicians, telemedicine, and free clinics.

Kansas should support enlarging health savings accounts. This will equalize the tax treatment of individual and group plans, promote personal ownership of health insurance, and empower citizens in making health care choices for themselves and their families.

Imperative to lowering the cost of health care is the implementation of meaningful tort reform for medical malpractice. We encourage the Governor, Attorney General, and legislators to refrain from expanding Medicaid and other federal health care programs.

IX. GROWING THE ECONOMY

The keys to economic success and personal financial security are opportunity and entrepreneurship. Federal, state, and local governments must recognize that prosperity can only be achieved when economic resources remain in the hands of the people. Tax policy at all governmental levels should foster economic growth as this is the path to job creation and technological growth.

Government should always seek first to constrain its expenditures to the least possible. Increasing the tax burden on its citizens should be a last resort, and any effort to do so beyond the rate of economic growth should be submitted to a vote of the citizenry. To promote economic growth, state tax policy must be simple and fair to Kansas businesses. Further, there must be a property tax system that is fair and accountable to the people.

The Legislature should periodically re-examine all sales and income tax exemptions, credits, and deductions to determine whether the goal of the exemption is being achieved. Governments should not compete with private enterprise.

To ensure the efficacy of government, we must support zero-based budgeting, auditing each program individually to determine the necessity of the program. This process will enable us to recognize and eliminate the duplication of inspections and services while realizing cost savings.

Understanding that business, and not government, drives job creation, growth, and innovation,

we must work toward a consistent regulation system where such regulations are clear, expected, and user-friendly. This reform will encourage businesses to settle in Kansas.

Equally important, we must create a tax policy to encourage businesses and industries already here to stay. This tax base must be competitive with neighboring states and should include a level of consistency, allowing industries to plan on staying in our state long term.

We expect our government to create a budget much like Kansas families create their own budgets, by spending within its means. The Kansas budget increase should not exceed inflation or population growth.

Welfare programs are a temporary last resort and should never be allowed to be used to sustain a way of life. Assistance programs should function as work support not work replacement. Every effort must be made to eliminate improper use and abuse of welfare programs to guarantee every taxpayer dollar goes to lifting individuals and families out of poverty, not supporting a habit or lifestyle choice.

X. BUILDING THE KNOWLEDGE OF STUDENTS

The Kansas Republican Party believes that the primary goal of education should be to prepare Kansas students for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness through rigorous, academic instruction according to each student's God given gifts and talents. We want Kansas schools to be the best in the nation and to reach that goal we believe that our children come first in all policy making.

Kansas statute guarantees parents have the fundamental right to exercise primary control for their child's education. We believe a broad range of education opportunities, including home schooling, should be available for families to choose. Student outcomes should be based upon their needs and abilities, instead of mandates by the US Dept. of Education and Non-Governmental Organizations. Kansas students should no longer be subject to Social Emotional Learning curriculum and its accompanying critical race theory, behavioral screening, sex education, and school-based physical and mental health clinics. SEL instruction to collect data on students' attitudes, values, and beliefs must be shown to the parent and written informed consent given. Storage of any data must be done with top security standards.

We believe teachers are most valuable for the student learning and they are being burdened with paperwork and regulations caused by federal standards codified by Every Student Succeeds Act. Kansas Constitution guarantees local control of schools by elected boards, held accountable to their constituents, and these federal mandates are costly to the state and should be stopped. Nor should accreditation of our Kansas schools be based upon these federal mandates. Educational standards established and adopted by the Kansas State Board of Education, accountable to Kansas voters, should be Kansas' own. Included in these standards should be the study of civics, financial literacy, and the US and Kansas Constitutions and history by sourcing the original documents of our Founding Fathers. We call for prohibiting biological males at birth from playing in female sports.

We support public school audits and transparent use of state funds. Furthermore, it is an abuse of the public trust for public schools to use Kansas taxpayer dollars, allocated to local districts to hire lobbyists and to fund lawsuits against the state. We support base state funding following the student to assure meeting the educational needs of students.

Our students, upon high school graduation, should be fully prepared without the need of costly remediation, to advance into their adult lives, be it at home, work, community college, technical school, or the university. Higher education should seek ways to reduce tuition costs and be places of learning and impartial instruction.

XI. BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES

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 to create safe neighborhoods, to protect us from sex offenders, and to provide freedom from abuse. 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. Government oversight of gambling enterprises is compromised when government itself is in the gambling business.

XII. 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. We believe 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, and we must support the institution of marriage if our society is to survive.

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, so that judges and legislatures cannot 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.

As the family is our basic unit of society, 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 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.

XIII. ENERGY

We support an energy policy which creates a strong State economy with affordable and reliable energy. Kansas residents must be considered first when developing new, potentially expensive technology.

We encourage the development of alternative energy supplies, while continuing to support the oil and gas industry within the state. Ever increasing energy prices are creating new avenues for entrepreneurs and existing companies to develop new sources of energy. New developments in wind, solar, biofuels, and geothermal energy sources show real promise for clean, inexpensive, renewable energy for future generations. Increasing energy sources will inevitably create a more market-based system which ultimately lowers utility prices for consumers.

Kansas leaders should not be allowed to arbitrarily deny permits to build new power and energy-producing plants. Carbon dioxide, one of the most common gases on earth, should not be declared a pollutant nor used as an excuse to deny the construction of new power plants. We oppose so-called Cap and Trade legislation. We oppose efforts to force communities to engage in sustainable development under guidance from the federal government or the United Nations.

XIV. PRESERVING THE HEARTLAND

We gratefully acknowledge the gift of abundant natural resources in our state and especially recognize the importance of these resources in the agricultural economy. Agriculture is the largest economic driver in Kansas. Maintaining the rich heritage of our state for the future depends on the protection and wise use of all natural resources. We recognize that stewardship requires the wise conservation of our God-given natural resources. The balance between the conservation of natural resources and private enterprise can be accomplished.

We support the protection of water rights and natural mineral resources of private landowners and federally recognized American Indian tribes as well as encourage the conservation of all natural resources through economic and tax incentives rather than government regulations. Private property rights and ownership are foundational to a free society and to individual prosperity and should not be encumbered by excessive, burdensome state and federal regulations, such as the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule and the 'America the Beautiful' (30x30) Initiative. Government should be prohibited from seizing private property for economic development purposes or National Heritage Areas. Eminent domain is intended for essential public purposes only.

We encourage the Governor, Attorney General, and legislature of Kansas to join all lawsuits that seek to restrain any federal environmental actions that infringe on the powers reserved to the states under the 10th Amendment, or that exceed the federal government's enumerated powers.