

## Our Mission:



Promote our Platform and elect candidates who will support it!

## Our Fundamental Principles

- \* The Right to Life
- \* Religious Liberty
- \* Private Property
- \* Personal Responsibility
- \* Traditional Values
- \* Limited, Constitutional Government
- \* State Sovereignty
- \* Low Taxes
- \* Personal Right to Keep and Bear Arms
- \* Strong National Defense & Secure Borders



# The Platform of the South Carolina Republican Party

## PREAMBLE AND DEDICATION

We believe that God ordained three institutions in our lives; *family, government and religion*. We further believe that severe restraints must be observed to *keep government from encroaching on family and religion*.

For these reasons, we have chosen to *highlight the Constitution of the United States* by emphasizing the role it can play, when carefully and knowledgeably followed, in *securing for our State and our Nation the liberties we hold dear*.



In like manner, this platform of the South Carolina Republican Party is intended to *identify and clearly establish those principles for which our Party stands*. Similar to the original intent of the Constitution of the United States, this Platform, when its principles are followed, *should lead to an appropriate resolution of specific issues*.

*Realizing that the governance of this great land will one day rest in the hands of the children we now raise, We, the South Carolina Republican Party, dedicate this platform to the children of South Carolina in the hope and sincere belief that the blessings of liberty will be maintained, provided the price of eternal vigilance is paid in full.*



- I -  
**To Form A  
More Perfect Union**

We the People of the South Carolina Republican Party recognize that the effort “To Form a More Perfect Union” is best realized when constitutional rights and responsibilities are clearly embraced, and the allocation of power is unquestionably seen as derived from the people.

### **GOVERNMENT REFORM**

- We call for continued efforts to reform state government, knowing that prudent restructuring and rightsizing will save taxpayer dollars, improve public services, and lead to the appropriate balance of power.
- We recognize that privatization is an important alternative to higher taxes and reduced government services. If private enterprise can perform better and more efficiently than government, then it should be afforded the opportunity to do so.

### **THE JUDICIARY**

- We believe the United States Supreme Court should return to its historic role of interpreting and applying the Constitution as understood and intended by its Framers.
- We believe the method of electing judges in our state by the General Assembly is flawed and lacks accountability and should be reformed to inspire the confidence of the people.

### **TAX POLICY**

- We *are* the party of opportunity and support a tax policy designed to help the economy grow, not stunt the taxpayer or punish achievement.
- We believe high taxation of both income and capital growth slows economic growth and job creation and call for both lower and less progressive taxation.
- We believe high car taxes are an impediment to car ownership which negatively impacts access to jobs and encourages older and less safe automobiles on our state’s highways. We urge the General Assembly and county governments to both lower and make fair all car taxes.
- We believe the General Assembly should correct with inflationary adjustments the Homestead Exemption for the elderly.
- We believe in the original intent of Home Rule and support autonomy but recognize without any restraint this can lead to taxation without limitation. We believe local governments should only be able to lay and collect taxes as authorized by the General Assembly.



- II -  
**To Establish Justice**

We the People of the South Carolina Republican Party readily acknowledge one of the chief functions of civil government is the establishment of justice for the purpose of securing the inalienable rights endowed to the governed by their Creator. We understand the establishment of justice to be first a moral task, discerning good from evil; right from wrong. This Party anchors itself to the immovable rock of traditional values and moral absolutes, rejecting political correctness and moral relativism.

### **DISCRIMINATION AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

- We believe the dignity and intrinsic worth of all human beings is self-evident.
- We believe discrimination and preferential treatment (now called Affirmative Action) are in direct conflict with the principles of the nation's founding documents and that attempts to create preferential treatment for citizens based upon race or gender, violate the Fourteenth Amendment.
- We believe the Party should seek membership and leadership from all citizens of South Carolina, who, regardless of race or gender, are committed to the principles of conservative government.

### **ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT**

- We believe our constitutional republic is built upon faith and confidence in the goodness and capacity of our citizens.
- We believe elected officials must live within the confines of principle, virtue and law.
- We believe legislators must continue establishing ethical boundaries to safeguard against abuse.

### **PROPERTY RIGHTS**

- We believe the constitutional guarantee provided in the Fifth Amendment is one of the pillars of a free society; no attempt should be made to weaken or encumber this guaranteed protection.
- We believe that the Eminent Domain Statutes of South Carolina must ensure that "takings" of any kind, physical or regulatory, comply with due process and just compensation.
- We believe property rights should never be violated by the misuse or overuse of government regulations.
- We believe in the original intent of Home Rule and support autonomy but recognize without any restraint this can lead to taxation without limitation. We believe local governments should only be able to lay and collect taxes as authorized by the General Assembly.



## THE RIGHT TO LIFE

- We believe that the right to life is the first inalienable right, without which there can be no other rights. We believe that all human life has intrinsic worth and therefore support vigorous legal protection at all stages of life, from the unborn child to the elderly to the infirmed and disabled.
- We believe the Fourteenth Amendment's protection applies to unborn children. Unborn children should be classified as legal persons not as legal property.
- We believe Roe v. Wade should be reversed through judicial action or through passage of a Constitutional Human Life Amendment.
- We oppose the use of public funds to pay for abortions or to fund organizations which advocate for abortion.
- We believe adoption is a loving and a viable alternative to abortion. We extend compassion to women who have experienced abortion and support pregnancy centers across the state that help women in need.
- We believe any pursuit of medical advances should be pro-life. We therefore oppose research on fetal tissue obtained from induced abortions, human embryonic stem cell research, as well as trafficking in the organs and body parts of aborted babies.
- We believe public or private efforts to "create" a human being via cloning should be opposed, as well as the appropriation of federal or state funds for any such research.
- We believe human trafficking is morally reprehensible and should be condemned. Rigorous efforts should be made to eradicate the practice, and perpetrators and enablers should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. We extend compassion to the victims and survivors of human trafficking, and encourage efforts to help them rebuild their lives and protect them from potential re-victimization.

## THE RIGHT TO WORK

- We believe working men and women of South Carolina are the primary economic resource of this great state; and further that the free enterprise system is the best way to provide jobs for hardworking South Carolinians.
- We believe the Right to Work law of South Carolina should be supported, and mandatory union membership dues should be opposed.



## ENSURE THE INTEGRITY OF THE ELECTION PROCESS

- We support efforts to promote the integrity of the election process in South Carolina.
- We support requiring a photo identification card, issued by the State of South Carolina, to be shown to vote.
- We support allowing voters to designate a political party on their voter registration application.
- We believe political parties have the right to choose their nominees; therefore, we support primaries that are open only to registered voters of that political party.

- III -

## To Insure Domestic Tranquility

We the People of the South Carolina Republican Party believe domestic tranquility is achieved through commitments from both civil government and its citizenry. Government is created to protect its citizens and the citizens will adhere to civil law as it represents a moral guide for society. We also believe that the “pursuit of happiness” does not provide freedom for hedonism, violence, or absolution of responsibility, as individual choices often present public consequences.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- We believe a lack of moral values, personal accountability, and a breakdown of the family unit is the primary cause of crime.
- We believe justice requires penalties that match the crime, truth in sentencing and restitution to the victims.
- We believe victims of crime deserve greater protection through a state constitutional amendment to establish a Victim’s Bill of Rights.
- We support firm enforcement of existing laws against the abuse and distribution of controlled substances, and we oppose any effort to legalize the use of controlled substances.
- We believe drug dealers should be prosecuted as adults. We call for increased penalties on distributors and users of controlled substances to serve as a deterrent amid the drug and opioid crisis we see across our state and country.
- We believe all law enforcement serve a vital role in our state and appreciate the sacrifices they make to protect citizens and enforce civil law.
- We support capital punishment and hold that it serves as a deterrent to crime.



- We lament the increase in juvenile crime and believe that parents must also bear the responsibility of their minor children's decisions. We further believe incarcerated juveniles ought not be privileged with unsupervised furloughs and that violent felons ought not receive parole to ensure public safety.

## GAMBLING

- We believe government should not capitalize on the foolish risks of its citizens. Therefore, we oppose highly addictive state-owned, private and unregulated gambling; including internet and offshore gambling; casinos; and gambling technologies yet to be developed.

## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

- We believe the sacred institution of marriage is the foundational unit of our society.
- We believe in the traditional definition of marriage as between one man and one woman. Further, there should be no attempts to redefine marriage by any legislation or by any curriculum offered by the State Department of Education. We also believe the traditional definition of marriage should be used when placing children who are under the care of the state.
- We believe private child service organizations should be able to set standards for who qualifies as an adoptive parent. We believe that they have the right to set these standards based on their religious beliefs.
- We believe divorce negatively impacts the physical, mental, emotional, and economic well-being of children and therefore seek tightened, not relaxed, laws pertaining to divorce, which will increase the stability of the traditional family unit.
- We believe that single parents deserve support, compassion, and admiration for carrying out their parental duties in the face of great obstacles. We call on legislators to protect single parents, who have already suffered abuse or abandonment of a spouse or partner, from further economic abuse by strengthening laws related to collection of child or spousal support.
- We believe tax relief for parents of young children as well as the elimination of the marriage penalty tax will further strengthen the family unit.
- We believe physical, sexual, child, and spousal abuse as well as familial abandonment should be condemned.





## **PORNOGRAPHY AND OBSCENITY**

- We believe the publication and consumption of obscene, pornographic and sexually violent material should be condemned, as it is a major contributor to the moral decay of our country and state.
- We believe that obscenity and pornography, as defined by state law, are not protected under the First Amendment, and call for the prohibition of its distribution.
- We call upon the state of South Carolina and all of its municipalities to strictly enforce all existing laws against obscenity and pornography. We also call upon publicly funded institutions to discard obscene materials in their libraries.

## **RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

- We affirm our founding father's belief that government should not regulate churches or religious institutions, neither shall it infringe upon individual's personal religious freedoms.
- We believe every citizen has the Constitutional right to pray, read the Bible or any religious literature, and discuss his or her faith in private and in public, including the public schools of this State as well as have prayer as part of official public meetings.
- We believe that individuals and organizations should not be coerced to violate their religious beliefs.
- We believe in the constitutionality of expressions of religion as part of public meetings, functions and monuments.
- We recognize the Judeo-Christian ethic embraced by our founding fathers and call upon our State and Nation to return to the values that made America and her people great.

## **TEEN PREGNANCY AND CONTRACEPTION**

- We believe that we must actively work to reduce the rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases in our state.
- We believe in compassionate initiatives, through public and private partnerships to teach our children that sexual chastity prior to marriage is the only proper and safe course.
- We believe that birth control devices, medication, and implants must not be administered to minors without full explanation of the risks and with written permission from parent(s) or guardian(s). Further, we believe contraceptives should not be distributed in our public schools.
- We denounce criminal sexual conduct, especially on minors, and urge our justice system to swiftly prosecute such perpetrators to the fullest extent of the law.



- IV -  
**To Provide for  
the Common Defense**

The South Carolina Republican Party believes that the role of the federal government should be to ensure domestic tranquility, to provide for the common defense and to promote the general welfare. And we believe that the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution grants all other duties to the states.

#### **PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH**

- We support a military force of sufficient strength and readiness to deter any threat to our national sovereignty or to the safety and freedom of our citizens.
- We support the Constitutional mandate to protect and secure our national borders.
- We oppose placement of United States troops under any foreign command, including the United Nations.
- We honor all South Carolinians who honorably served in the military and we appreciate and honor the service of all veterans of all wars, foreign and domestic.
- We support lawful efforts of local law enforcement agencies to protect citizens in their homes and in their communities.

#### **THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS**

- We believe in the individual, constitutionally-protected right of the people to keep and bear arms for security and defense of self, family, others, property, or the state, as well as for other lawful purposes.
- We encourage personal responsibility for the care and use of these firearms.

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA SOVERIGNTY**

- We believe that the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States defines Federal powers as those enumerated in the Constitution and reserves all other powers to the States and to the People.
- We believe that the South Carolina Republican Party and elected party members as well as our elected officials should take any and all steps necessary to ensure that Federal powers exercised within the Great State of South Carolina not exceed those granted by the Constitution of the United States, and that those usurpations of State Sovereign Powers already violated by the Federal Government be corrected by the State Legislature and enforced by the Governor's office.



- V -  
**To Promote  
the General Welfare**

We the people of the South Carolina Republican Party bring our time, our talents and our conservative ideals to the public square for the betterment of our state, our nation and our citizens. We strongly affirm that the great Preamble of our nation's Constitution does not call for the establishment of government for the provision of the general welfare, but for its promotion.

### **THE BUDGET, THE DEFICIT, THE DEBT**

- We call on every level of government to exhibit sound fiscal management, and live within its means, providing effective and efficient government with minimum taxation.
- We believe in supporting transparency and full disclosure of all government budgeting and expenditures.
- We support a balanced-budget amendment to the United States Constitution, and oppose unfunded mandates.
- We believe that revenue raised for a specific purpose should be used solely for that purpose.
- We recognize the dire consequences of years of unbalanced budgets and the possibility of national bankruptcy. We disapprove of continuing to raise the national debt ceiling.

### **THE ECONOMY**

- We recognize that the general welfare is promoted by dynamic economic growth, and that freedom and opportunity are the foundation for economic growth. Further, such growth depends on a political climate that encourages investment and the creation of new jobs.
- We believe government at all levels should regularly assess the economic and entrepreneurial impact of all proposed and current regulations and eliminate those found to create such burdens.
- We recognize the crucial roles that agriculture, textiles, manufacturing and tourism play in our economy and we support efforts to strengthen those industries and create a climate for all of these elements of our economy to flourish.
- We support economic incentives which make it financially feasible for companies to retool and update plants with American made machinery for lower corporate taxes.
- We believe in an enlightened regulatory policy that partners with industry to accomplish needed environmental controls.
- We support the state/private partnership to re-nourish our state's beaches and to preserve our natural beauty through our state and county public parks.
- We believe in fair trade policies that work to protect U.S. jobs, workers and exports from unfair competition and insure a fair and level playing field.



## EDUCATION

- We believe all children in the state should be provided the opportunity to receive a quality education, according to their individual abilities.
- We believe in school choice for all students in the state.
- We believe that children have different learning abilities, and should not all be taught by the same curriculum levels.
- We oppose federal intrusions into local schooling, especially in the area of extensive testing.
- We believe in rewarding teacher performance.
- We believe in adequate funding for public schooling that should be used in classrooms and for building needs.
- We believe in academic learning standards, limited assessments, ability achievement grouping, sequential instruction, and firm, caring discipline.
- We believe every child should receive comprehensive civics instruction.
- We support the arts, sports, and leadership activities.
- We believe in the right of children to attend safe, drug-free schools.
- We believe in family-oriented, parent-approved and age-appropriate sex education in public schools.
- We believe in the right to voluntary prayer and standing to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

## THE ENVIRONMENT

- We believe South Carolina's abundant natural resources must be protected and preserved for posterity.
- We believe true environmental concerns must be based on analysis of hard data.
- We believe energy is both an economic and national security issue, and we encourage the free market development of all forms of energy.
- We believe our environmental decisions should never be made by any authority beyond the United States.
- We believe the Department of Health and Environmental Control should continue to streamline permitting and encourage local solutions when enacting regulatory authority.
- We believe in reasonable policies to efficiently promote waste minimization, containment, and reuse.
- We believe that the Department of Energy should fulfill all its nuclear waste cleanup commitments to the state of South Carolina. All states should honor their interstate commitments to properly dispose of low-level nuclear waste.



## HEALTH CARE

- We believe that free market principles and individual choice ensure the highest quality of Health Care.
- We call for any reform legislation to safeguard patient choice so that Health Care remains in the hands of citizens and not government bureaucrats. We oppose government benefit mandates that deprive consumers of the freedom to buy the type of insurance they want at a price they can afford.
- We believe in restoring competition and market forces to health care, using tools such as high-risk pools, reinsurance, or other mechanisms, thus providing access for those with pre-existing conditions, but not unduly burdening all consumers.
- We believe that Federal control of Health Care should be limited by converting Medicaid and premium assistance programs to block grants that provide states flexibility to better meet the unique needs of their citizens.

## TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AND SAFETY

- We believe transportation policy requires a focus on maintenance and financial wherewithal for major projects across the State.
- We believe our congressional delegation should support enabling legislation at the federal level to end the inequitable treatment of South Carolina and other donor states in the distribution of federal fuel tax revenues.
- We believe states should have broader flexibility in the use of federal transportation funds.
- We believe private enterprise should be encouraged to help solve age-old transportation financial problems with new and innovative solutions.
- We call for policies that encourage coordination between land use and transportation planning while serving the needs of our citizens and promoting economic development, as well as protecting the state's natural beauty.

## SENIOR CITIZENS

- We recognize that senior citizens are a growing segment of the population of our State. Their vitality and energy, combined with ability, honed over a lifetime, contribute to the betterment of our State.
- We believe in providing re- entry of able retired persons into secondary employment programs.
- We believe in supporting cost effective methods of keeping the elderly in their homes and providing institutionalization as a last resort.
- We support education, research, and training in geriatrics and gerontology.
- We believe in establishing tax credits to allow family members to lovingly care for their own elderly.



## WELFARE REFORM

- We believe that personal responsibility, hard work, and diligence, not excessive government intrusion or a lifeline of government dependency, encourages citizens to reach their maximum fulfillment as individuals.
- We believe that a secure, stable and loving family is the most successful factor in assuring success and avoiding reliance on governmental welfare programs.
- We believe penalties that work against savings and the establishment of two- parent homes must be eliminated.
- We believe in tax credits for working families with young children to help afford child care and encourage parents to work.
- We believe the federal government should shift all social service programs to the states in the form of block grants as local governments can best solve the problems of local citizens.
- We believe that true freedom and self- sufficiency for the poor can only be achieved through employment.
- We believe job tax credits and public-private partnerships are effective in moving people off welfare and into self-sufficiency.
- We believe non-custodial parents should be vigorously encouraged or persuaded to support their family both financially and emotionally where appropriate.
- We believe the replacement of subsidies and welfare projects with a voucher system aimed at returning public housing to the free market will encourage pride of ownership.



- VI -  
**To Secure the  
Blessings of Liberty**

We the People of the South Carolina Republican Party recognize that there are very real threats to the liberty of the people of the United States from beyond our borders. Nevertheless, the greatest threats to the blessings of liberty arise from within our nation.

- We enjoy a government of the people, by the people and for the people such that “the people” must not abrogate their responsibilities to government officials.
- We believe that the people must be cognizant of our individual liberties and the efforts that are being made, often in the name of greater security, to abridge those liberties.
- We believe that securing our liberties begins with limiting the national government to its specified constitutional functions.
- We believe that sound fiscal policies at all levels of government must be coupled with sound moral principles to ensure that our nation thrives.

It is our firm, God-inspired belief that the full implementation and application of the foundational principles set forth by the South Carolina Republican Party in this Platform will truly permit us to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and to our posterity. Join us!

