

California Republican Party Platform

PREAMBLE

The California Republican Party envisions a vibrant, prosperous and safe California defined by a robust and growing world-class economy, strong and healthy families, and reformed and responsive state and local governments that serve all people while protecting individual liberty. We are boldly confident about California's future and hold dearly all that is good about California's people.

AGING CALIFORNIANS

We are committed to protecting the lives and resources of aging Californians.

Californians who have retired, or are close to retirement, should be free from worry that the resources they have built through their own work will be siphoned off by inflation or government action. We support laws that would prevent state or local governments from increasing property taxes on personal residences after owners reach 65. We oppose state taxes on Social Security income.

The California Republican Party is committed to promoting opportunity for aging citizens to enjoy their retirement with the means they have accumulated throughout their working lives.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture, California's leading industry, exemplifies the free market at work.

The California Republican Party recognizes that agriculture is one of California's leading industries and is, therefore, essential to the future of California's economy and the health and well-being of its citizens.

Government should create a favorable policy environment supportive of California's farmers and ranchers, maximizing their ability to receive the reward for the risks they take year after year while strengthening their ability to provide quality products at reasonable costs to consumers. California's approach, rather, has been one beset by over-regulation, environmental extremism, and restricted access to water, the agricultural sector's lifeblood.

The California Republican Party supports current efforts to increase the amount of water available for agriculture, and we support the construction of water delivery systems to bring water to the Bay Area, Central Valley and Southern California in an environmentally responsible manner, while protecting water rights in, and supporting the agriculture and communities of, Northern California and the Delta.

We support making cuts in wasteful state government spending in order to support state infrastructure investment in above-ground storage using general fund dollars.

We oppose additional bonded indebtedness.

CRIME AND JUSTICE

The California Republican Party believes one of the most fundamental duties of government is to enhance public safety and welfare by crafting and enforcing laws in a fair, just and efficient manner.

We believe the state, not the federal government, should govern and dictate criminal statutes and maintain the quality of life.

The California Republican Party believes that the rights of crime victims are paramount in a just criminal process. We support the rights of crime victims to give statements and be heard by the court, to collect restitution from defendants as enumerated by law, and be given notification upon release of prisoners.

Legislation backed by the California Republican Party such as “Three Strikes and your Out,” “One Strike and your Out,” “10-20-Life,” “Jessica’s Law,” “Sexually Violent Predators Law,” and ‘Juvenile (Gang) Crime Initiative,” has kept the most dangerous and recidivist criminals off our streets and in prisons where they belong.

We support the section of the California Penal Code which states that the primary purpose of incarceration is punishment; therefore, prisoners should not be allowed gratuitous perks as outlined in the “Prisoners’ Bill of Rights.” We support prisoner work programs which help prisons become self-supporting.

We believe that in order to keep dangerous criminals off our streets we must build more prisons. We support the immediate construction of new prisons and sufficient utilization of private prisons in order to eliminate prison over crowding and avoid early release.

We support the death penalty for special circumstances murders as more than an effective deterrent. These are murders are so heinous and depraved that the only just punishment is death. These special circumstances include murdering for financial gain; multiple murders; murder with the use of a bomb; murdering a peace officer, a witness, a judge, a prosecutor or a juror; murder while lying in wait; murder during kidnapping, torture, or sexual assault; and, murder to enhance gang activity.

In the larger War on Terror, the California Republican Party supports the criminalization of activities which advocate acts of terrorism, violent conduct, or the killing of innocent people in the United States. We further support the death penalty for anyone convicted of carrying out a terrorist attack on the United States.

The California Republican Party decries the early release of prisoners who have been sentenced under the law. Citizens have the right to expect the state and the judiciary to protect them from criminals who impugn their core freedoms and prey on their ability to live safe and secure lives.

THE ECONOMY

We believe that people make better decisions than does government. Free enterprise should be the guiding force, not government regulation.

Freedom and free enterprise are fundamental to the American way of life; indeed, they are the backbone of our nation. Economic freedom leads to opportunity; opportunity leads to growth; growth leads to progress. This is the story of America.

Economic growth is dependent upon individual liberty and enables all citizens to maximize the opportunity to retain the rewards of their labor. Californians are some of the hardest working and most industrious people in the world. Unfortunately, Californians also face a daunting burden of government over-regulation and micro-management.

We believe that people make better decisions than does government. We believe that the embodiment of people making decisions is the operation of the free market. The government should work to ensure that markets are free and that there is genuine competition. Government should protect our citizens from international cartels and piracy of their intellectual property. In all of these, free enterprise, not government regulation, should be the guiding force.

We support the elimination of regulatory barriers and subsidies where possible on the businesses and workers of California. We support right-to-work laws and reject mandatory closed union shops where workers are forced to join unions against their will. We also reject union workers being forced to make political contributions to candidates or causes that they oppose.

For California's businesses to grow, thrive, and create wealth, a first-class physical infrastructure is necessary. California's politicians have instead elected to spend California's income on unnecessary social programs and have given little money for critical infrastructure. These same politicians then insist that the only way to fund infrastructure is bonded indebtedness. We reject that and call for reductions in unnecessary government spending so that more money is available for the infrastructure that our economy needs. Infrastructure should be "pay-as-you-go" as soon as possible.

EDUCATION

Every child in California is entitled to a first-class education.

Education is the great leveler in American society. It provides the opportunity for any child to be raised up in our society based upon hard work and achievement.

Unfortunately, this leveling effect is getting lost as California's schools have deteriorated due to domination by union bosses, which contribute to the degradation of the curriculum and the marginalization of involvement by parents. We support all reasonable measures to strengthen academic standards and maximize the influence and involvement of parents in the schools.

We believe that parents will make better choices than government in almost every case. Consequently, we support school choice programs, school voucher programs, magnet schools, charter schools, homeschooling, educational savings accounts, and the right of parents to abolish bi-lingual education in their school district, if they so choose. We support the abolition of all regulatory barriers and relations that get in the way of parents availing themselves of these options.

Our schools should be places where learning basic competencies dominate and social engineering is disfavored. We oppose social promotion and support basic competency, including exit exams. We call for local schools to be controlled by parents and local school boards. We reject the current domination of schools by the union bosses to the detriment of parents, students and teachers.

Schools cannot function unless they are safe. After the provision of a rigorous course of study, safety in schools at all grade levels should be the highest priority.

Admission and programs to all schools should be based solely on merit.

THE ENVIRONMENT

The California Republican Party is the party that believes in long-term responsible stewardship of California's bountiful natural resources for future generations.

Protection and stewardship of the environment began under a Republican President.

We believe that we can have both a healthy economy and a healthy environment, and believe in environmental policies based upon sound science, innovation, new technologies and incentives rather than regulation, taxation and litigation. Environmental regulations must be balanced and tempered by the effect that they will have on workers and on the economy. We believe that the Kyoto Treaty is fundamentally flawed because it ignores the fact that the largest source of greenhouse gas in the world is China, which is exempt from the requirements of Kyoto.

We believe California industry should be the world's leader in developing and manufacturing safe, renewable and sustainable energy. We encourage the development of these new technologies and systems for use in the domestic market, as well as for export to large polluters like India and China.

We believe that entrepreneurs, using technology, innovation and incentives, are more likely to solve environmental problems than bureaucrats. We support the creation of tax credits to homeowners and builders who incorporate alternative energy systems into their homes, and also support offering tax credits to people who turn in older, high-polluting cars.

Our current dependence on foreign oil threatens both our national security and economic prosperity by making us vulnerable to dangerous dictatorships. Through private initiative and enterprise, we stand for the development of energy which is independent from foreign sources.

We believe that city governments should be held to the same standards of cleaning waste water as are applied to private industry.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The Republican Party is the historical party of equal opportunity.

The Republican Party championed racial and gender equality against strong opposition.

The Republican Party is the party of equal opportunity. It is the Republican Party that abolished slavery and stands for the right of all persons to succeed based on merit rather than non-merit based considerations. We oppose quotas, set asides, or guaranteed equality of results. We support laws prohibiting discrimination in employment and housing based on race, ethnicity, nationality, sex, or religion. We oppose any special rights based on sexual or behavioral preferences.

ETHICS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

We believe that public service is a trust -- one of the highest callings to which any man or woman may aspire.

Ethics in service to one's fellow citizens goes beyond the letter of the law. Republican elected and appointed officials are called by the California Republican Party to use their offices always to serve others, always to act with the highest standards of morality and honesty, and never to use their offices for personal gain. Republican officeholders are called to inspire others to serve and to give their utmost to our American society.

FAMILY

The California Republican Party affirms the family as the natural and indispensable institution for human development.

A strong and healthy family unit is the heart of the home – a safe surrounding where family decisions are made, children are raised, and morality is taught. The family is a foundation upon which American society has grown and prospered for over 200 years. We support the two-parent family as the best environment for raising children, and therefore believe that it is important to define marriage as being between one man and one woman. We believe public policy and education should not be exploited to present or teach homosexuality as an acceptable "alternative" lifestyle. We oppose same-sex partner benefits, child custody, and adoption.

FEDERALISM

We believe that political matters should be resolved by the local or state governments unless such matters are expressly reserved for the Federal Government by the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The Federal Government has repeatedly violated the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution by encroaching on the rights that are reserved and delegated to the states and to the people. The California Republican Party firmly believes that the best governments are those most accountable to the people. We heed Thomas Jefferson's warning: "When all government, in little as in great things, shall be drawn to Washington as the center of all power, it will render powerless the checks provided of one government on another."

For more responsible government, non-essential federal functions should be returned to the States and localities wherever prudent. It is the governments closest to the people that have the capability, knowledge, and sensitivity to local needs required to better administer and deliver public services. Their diverse problems require local understanding. The transfer of rights, responsibilities, and revenues to local jurisdictions will recognize the abilities of local government and the limitations of a distant federal government.

HEALTHCARE

The California Republican Party believes the United States health care system delivers the finest medicine in the world and supports the concept of freedom of choice in health care.

We oppose government mandated health care plans that restrict freedom of choice and the bureaucratic restrictions imposed in single payer plans. We support a restructuring of Medicaid that restricts elective medically unnecessary surgeries while increasing the compensation to

doctors and hospitals for necessary surgeries and other treatments. We also oppose any universal healthcare plan for California that would involve taxes on doctors or hospitals, coverage for illegal aliens, or tax subsidies. Finally, we support private sector solutions such as small business insurance pools, employment pricing reductions, guaranteed insurability and medical savings accounts.

IMMIGRATION

Our history is a story of immigrants. The California Republican Party welcomes and values each and every legal immigrant.

We are proud that after 400 years America continues to symbolize hope and promise to people from around the world. Immigrants have helped to make our great nation greater still.

We affirm our country's absolute right to control its borders. We support legal immigration and the immigration laws which are already in place, and call on the government to enforce all laws on the issue. To take any other position would be a great unfairness to those who have complied with the legal system, and would expose California's citizens to national security risks.

Once one enters the United States as a legal immigrant and desires to become a citizen, one should work actively to become American – we should grant citizenship only to those who embrace American values and culture. New immigrants should be required to learn English, and businesses should be able to require employees to speak the English language while on the job.

English should be the official language of government. All election ballots and other government documents should be printed in English only. Government should offer intensive English language instruction to all who need it, including stipends to help immigrants attend the programs.

California should work with the federal government to institute a worker visa program that will make it easy for people to work legally in the United States, but allowing illegal immigrants to remain in California undermines respect for the law. To join a worker visa program, workers must apply from their own country so that they arrive in the United States with a visa and a job in hand. Part of the application process will be that each worker must take an oath to obey American law and understands that if he or she will be deported if they commit a crime while in the United States.

Each worker will receive a tamper-proof identification card with biometrics that will allow the government to track him/her. A real-time verification system will be tied to the card so that an individual's immigration status can be immediately ascertained. There will be heavy monetary fines levied against employers and businesses who knowingly hire illegal immigrants.

We call for the cross-deputization of state and county law enforcement personnel so that illegal aliens who are also criminals can be deported immediately upon completion of their sentences. We call on the Federal Government to reimburse California for the costs of federally mandated immigration programs and federally mandated benefits to illegal aliens. Finally, we call for the termination of all federal and state benefits to illegal aliens other than emergency medical care.

THE LITIGATION CRISIS

Justice is an American virtue. To make justice available to every person, we support legal innovations such as arbitration, mediation, and reasonable limitations on unnecessary discovery and motions.

Both individuals and businesses are besieged by baseless and overly burdensome litigation. In order to ensure the availability of quality care, we support reasonable limitations on general damages awards (e.g., as contained in the bipartisan "Malpractice Insurance Crisis Reform Act"). We favor reasonable and consistent standards for punitive damages awards, which should only be available for intentional, egregious misconduct.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AND VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

The California Republican Party stands for a strong national defense.

The first duty of government is to provide for the common defense. It is imperative that we retain our military superiority in order to deter any potential adversary, and that under no circumstances would it be wise to initiate conflict at any level with the United States. Yet, we affirm that our military forces exist to deter our enemies and not to initiate war.

We should never allow our troops to be put under foreign command nor should they be committed to a foreign conflict unless U.S. national interests are directly at stake and there is a clear military goal and a firm exit strategy.

International terrorism is increasingly a new form of warfare waged against western democracies by state and non-state actors, and no one country can successfully combat it alone. While reasonable minds can disagree regarding the original decision to send ground troops into Iraq, it is imperative that we and our allies now support our troops in every aspect of their mission. We object to a "surrender first" policy. We also reject either unilaterally withdrawing or announcing the date upon which we will surrender.

We believe that compensation for our troops should be fair and support a state income tax exemption while our troops are on active duty.

We are free because of those who have answered the call to serve. We owe our veterans more than our thanks; we owe them our support for retirement benefits and healthcare. We support fair efforts to privatize the operations of the Veteran's Administration in order to increase efficiencies and the quality of care.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

We stand for the principle that condemnation and government restriction on private property must only occur for public uses.

One of the purest forms of tyranny is government confiscation of its citizens' private property. We reject condemnation or government restrictions on property without full compensation for such condemnations or restrictions. We also reject condemnation by governments of private property to be used for non-public uses.

THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

The United States Constitution guarantees the right of its citizenry to keep and bear arms.

One of the first acts of a totalitarian society is to disarm its people. California's gun control laws only serve to disarm law abiding citizens, not criminals. We oppose any further gun control legislation and support the right of all California citizens to own and bear guns and ammunition for any lawful purpose. We call for statewide legislation setting reasonable criteria allowing law abiding citizens in California to carry concealed weapons. We support allowing citizens to use deadly force to protect lives and property. We also support including all of these rights in the California constitution.

Finally, we call for the elimination of waiting periods to purchase firearms and instead support complete implementation of instant background checks.

THE RIGHT TO LIFE

The California Republican Party is the party that protects innocent life because we believe life begins at conception and ends at natural death.

We support laws that protect unborn children from partial birth, sex selection, and tax-payer funded abortions, and abortions performed as a form of birth control or on minor girls without their parent's notification and consent.

We believe that the question of abortion is a matter that should be left to the people through their elected representatives, not usurped by the United States Supreme Court, and believe that *Roe v. Wade* was wrongly decided and should be reversed.

We support adoption as an alternative to abortion and call on lawmakers to reduce the bureaucratic burden placed on adoptive couples.

As a part of respecting the sanctity of life for disabled persons, we oppose efforts to legalize assisted suicide or euthanasia.

We support a comprehensive ban on all human cloning.

The California Republican Party supports ethical stem cell research that focuses on cures not destroying innocent human Life.

TAXES AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING

The California Republican Party is the party of balanced budgets, limited government and fiscal responsibility.

We believe that taxes in California are too high, and that state government spends too much. We stand for the wise stewardship and responsible use of the people's money. We support without exception and without apology a two-thirds vote requirement for the passage of tax increases, tax increases labeled as fees, bonds and the state budget. We call for a constitutional ban on any bonded indebtedness to cover general operating deficits. We are against unfunded federal and state mandates. We support the efforts of our Republican legislators to have California's government live within its means.

We call upon our government officials to join a pledge to stand together against any new taxes. Through expanding population and our economic strength we already have in place a system which automatically raises all of the revenue needed to properly meet California's needs. The problems with California's budgets stem from lack of fiscal accountability and control. The answer is not now, and will not be in the future, to increase the tax burden on Californians. We believe that Democrats have not prioritized infrastructure investment with general operating funds leading us to a dangerous amount of bonded indebtedness, further imperiling our state's financial situation, and needlessly passing financial responsibility for current needs over to our children.

We acknowledge a responsibility to those California citizens who cannot take care of themselves. We support reasonable work requirements for welfare recipients who can work, and the termination of welfare benefits for those that can work but refuse to do so. We reject any welfare or social benefits for those who have criminally immigrated into California.

We recognize that unfunded public employee pension liabilities are currently the greatest threat to the financial security of our economy and government. We support the conversion of all public employee pension plans to 401(k)- style plans that provide only the benefits that have been funded by the actual contributions received.

We support the adoption of an optional single-rate system to give taxpayers the convenience of filing their taxes with a one-page form. We also support the abolition of the death tax.

Government is not equipped to participate, and should not compete, in the free market. Wherever the public's money can be saved and the level of service increased, we call for the privatizing services now delivered by government.

We reject the unjustified use of rhetoric like "shared responsibility" as justification for an increase of state government spending and wrongly expanding the role of government, at the expense of individual responsibility.

CONCLUSION

The California Republican Party recognizes the truth that government is meant to serve the people. As such, government is solemnly charged with responsibility to craft long term solutions rather than short-term fixes. We will hold our government responsible for securing the safety of our families, for expanding our world-class economy, and for promoting fairness and justice to every Californian.

- Submitted by Mark Pruner