



WASHINGTON STATE

REPUBLICAN PARTY

## 2020 WASHINGTON STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

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**Susan Hutchison**, Platform Committee Chair

**Richard Bilskis**, Platform Committee Vice-Chair

**Washington State Republican Party**

**Caleb Heimlich**, Chairman

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### Who We Are

The Republican Party, with a long and proactive history of equal rights for all people, was founded in 1854 to abolish slavery. Our first Republican President, Abraham Lincoln, issued the Emancipation Proclamation to free the slaves at the height of the Civil War leading to the defeat of the Confederacy and reunification of the nation. Republicans passed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution permanently abolishing slavery. Republicans passed the 14th Amendment granting citizenship and voting rights to black men. Republicans passed the 19th Amendment giving all women the right to vote. Republicans in the US House and Senate, in far greater percentages than Democrats, passed the 1964 and 1968 Civil Rights Acts.

For decades since, Democrats have consolidated power in the cities where blacks have suffered from poverty, non-performing schools, urban blight, crime, and hopelessness despite government spending of \$Trillions. It's time for these failed Democrat regimes to end.

**We stand with President Trump** as he has enacted policies to turn the course of history, enabling black citizens to access upward mobility and the American Dream. President Trump's policies have:

- **Closed the borders to stem the flow of illegal, low-cost workers** who have taken jobs from struggling Americans.
- **Cut the unemployment rate** for all minorities to historic lows
- **Brought back factories from overseas** which provide steady, good paying jobs in the cities
- **Set up Opportunity Zones in inner cities**
- **Implemented criminal justice reform**
- **Pardoned or commuted sentences for a number of deserving black Americans.**
- **Given a voice to black pastors, and conservative activists** and celebrities who support leaving the Democrat party (BLEXIT)
- **Increased funding to historically black colleges and universities**
- **Provided more inner city students access to charter schools and school choice**



## 2020 WASHINGTON STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

**The Washington State Republican Party is dedicated to preserving a constitutional republic through active participation by citizens for the protection and preservation of conservative values including:**

- Civil and Religious Liberty
- Limited Government
- Rule of Law and Justice
- National Security
- National Sovereignty
- Border Security and Immigration
- Sound Fiscal Policy
- Economic Opportunity
- Support for Families
- Choice in Education
- Quality Healthcare
- Property Rights
- Protection of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Balancing Energy and the Environment
- Efficient Transportation Priorities
- Preserving the Initiative Process

**We believe that good citizenship begins with protected rights with accompanying responsibilities.** We believe that individual self-determination and empowerment are the primary means by which the people provide for themselves and their families, and that government should be a last resort for individuals and do only those necessary things that people cannot do for themselves.

**We reaffirm the words in the Declaration of Independence,** “That all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness – that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.” And, we maintain that the most effective government is that which is closest to the people.

To each generation falls the responsibility to uphold the values that have made the United States the freest, most prosperous, compassionate and successful civilization in history.

It has been over two centuries since our founders established the American creed — government under God and accountable to the people. We believe their vision is best preserved by supporting the principles outlined below.



# 2020 WASHINGTON STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

## SECTION 1: CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

**We believe civil and religious liberty protect the sovereignty of the individual citizen.**

**Civil and religious liberties recognized in the U.S. Constitution are God-given and therefore unalienable.** These fundamental liberties are proclaimed in The Declaration of Independence, protected in The Bill of Rights and reaffirmed in Article I of the Washington State Constitution, which include the freedom of association and the absolute freedom of conscience. It is the obligation of government at every level to observe, respect and secure these liberties.

**Our freedom of religion ensures the individual's right to practice the religion of their choice, not only privately, but publicly.** A citizen shall not be punished, persecuted or prosecuted for exercising this right, and businesses shall not be required to perform services which violate the religious beliefs of their owners.

**We affirm the protection of free expression** at a time when our freedoms are under attack.

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## SECTION 2: LIMITED GOVERNMENT

**We believe limited government is essential to a free society.**

Our Founders created a Constitution granting the federal government only limited and enumerated powers, underscored by the passage of the Tenth Amendment. Constitutional limitations on powers of the federal and state governments are essential toward building economic prosperity and fostering individual freedom. Needless duplication of state and federal programs and policies should cease.

**All citizens must be free from unnecessary intrusion and violation of their Fourth Amendment rights,** through data collection, storage and use made without their knowledge or consent.

We believe that mandatory "contact tracing" is an invasion of our right to privacy and strongly oppose it.

Because long-term entitlement destroys dignity, and creeping socialism enslaves and creates destructive incentives and a dependency relationship, **we affirm both the freedom and the responsibility of the individual in society.**



# 2020 WASHINGTON STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

## SECTION 3: RULE OF LAW AND JUSTICE

**We call upon all branches and levels of government to defend the United States Constitution**, while upholding states' rights. We believe that upholding our rule of law and justice is based upon our Constitution, the common law, and Judeo-Christian heritage. This recognizes that liberty and individual responsibility best protect and promote a moral and just society.

**The role of the judiciary is to uphold the law** in a manner faithful to the legislative intent and the original intent of the State and U.S. Constitutions.

**Laws should reduce and deter crime through the application of strong and appropriate punishment**, up to and including the use of the death penalty. They should deter recidivism, require offenders to pay restitution, with the goal of reintegrating offenders back into society as productive citizens. We support the brave men and women of law enforcement.

**Effective criminal justice systems respect each citizen's right to not be held upon excessive bail**, or without charges or legal representation.

**We support equality of all citizens before the law.** We oppose the divisiveness of identity politics.

**The Governor does not have the right to circumvent or override the Constitution of the United States** through executive order or emergency proclamation. Legislators shall not exempt themselves from laws applicable to the people.

**We believe in the sanctity of a citizen's right to vote.** A registered voter must meet established eligibility standards and show proof of U.S. citizenship. Voter Fraud must be addressed and eliminated at all levels.

**We oppose the establishment of sanctuary cities and states** in conflict with the laws of the land.

**We oppose any attempts to abolish the role established in the Constitution for the Electoral College**, including by the National Popular Vote compact.

**We affirm both the State and U.S. Constitutions' strict protections for the individual right to keep and bear arms.** We oppose mandatory gun registration, licensing of gun owners, and restrictions on law-abiding citizens' right to purchase, own and carry arms, ammunition, or their components.



# 2020 WASHINGTON STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

## SECTION 4: NATIONAL SECURITY

**We believe that national security is a central function of government** and that a strong America is a free America. A strong national defense is necessary for government to fulfill its primary function which is protecting its citizens and their individual rights. The security of our nation is the responsibility of government, military, law enforcement and a vigilant public. Peace comes through strength and deterrence.

**A strong America is a force for good at home and abroad.** Republicans support and honor the past and continuing service of all veterans and members of the United States' armed forces and the Washington State National Guard.

At a time when the United States faces a variety of threats ranging from an aggressive and militarizing China, jihadist terrorism, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and rogue regional powers, we endorse policies that will ensure peace through strength.

**Neither the citizens nor the armed forces of the United States must ever be subject to any foreign or United Nations' control,** whether direct or indirect.

**United States foreign policy should support our national security and economic interests.** We support our allies, such as Israel, as well as people seeking freedom from repressive regimes. We call for extending visas to the citizens of Hong Kong fleeing the burgeoning oppression of the communist government of China.

**To protect national security, we support international free and reciprocal trade,** while also encouraging domestic production of key products to avoid over-reliance or concentration of production with one trading partner.

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## SECTION 5: NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

We believe the preservation of liberty is dependent upon the sanctity of our national sovereignty.

**The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land.** The President shall not negotiate, and the Senate shall not ratify, any treaties, U.N. resolutions, agendas or foreign law, religious or otherwise, that are contrary to the U.S. Constitution. Agenda 21/2030, the Kyoto Protocol, Sharia Law, and other agreements threaten our sovereignty. Therefore, judges, state and local authorities must be barred from using or applying foreign agendas, laws, and resolutions for the purposes of interpreting the State and U.S. Constitutions and laws passed pursuant thereto and must be bound by their original intent.

The sovereignty of the people of the United States must be protected and preserved.



# 2020 WASHINGTON STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

## SECTION 6: BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION

**We believe our national borders are best protected by a fair and enforced immigration policy.** We applaud the efforts of President Trump to secure the borders of the USA. The United States government must protect all our borders from illegal crossings.

**We support the immediate enforcement of all existing immigration laws** and withholding federal funding from cities and towns that refuse to enforce federal immigration laws, especially sanctuary cities.

**We believe that illegal immigrants, while having the same inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as all people do, do not have the same rights and protections as American citizens.** These rights may include but are not limited to: Federal, state, and local entitlement programs, driver's licenses; and the right to own or possess firearms. Voting privileges shall not be available to those who are in this country illegally. We advocate securing our borders with a physical barrier where possible, augmented with electronic surveillance and supported by Border Patrol enforcement officers.

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## SECTION 7: SOUND FISCAL POLICY

**We call for Congress to implement gradual spending controls** so that government spending stops growing faster than GDP. The government-controlled portion of the economy should not be allowed to grow faster than the private sector, and our children should not be saddled with the interest on trillions spent irresponsibly before they were born.

**We oppose a state income tax**, which would cause many of our most productive taxpayers to leave Washington in favor of lower-tax states.

**We call for a restoration of long-term fiscal stability via a balanced budget amendment**, a simplified and flattened tax code and a legislative super-majority required to increase taxes.

Governments should only deficit spend to effectively deal with a contingency such as a catastrophic natural disaster or war one can't budget for.

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## SECTION 8: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

**We believe economic opportunity ensures that each generation is better off than the one before it.** We support free enterprise that promotes liberty, justice, prosperity and charity as morally superior to the tyranny of socialism.

The greatest economic opportunity can best be achieved through imposing as few restraints as reasonably possible on private property, industry, recreational opportunities and trade. President Trump's substantial reduction in government regulation has fostered private sector job creation, entrepreneurship, and retaining business and industry in our country and state. These are best achieved by minimizing business and personal taxes, eliminating unnecessary regulations, adopting right-to-work legislation and removing prevailing wage laws. Those policies should be continued.

**We support continuing and enhancing the establishment of enterprise zones in economically troubled areas.** We agree with Pres. Kennedy's statement that the best form of welfare *"is a good paying job."*



# 2020 WASHINGTON STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

## SECTION 9: SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

**We believe that the family unit is the cornerstone of a free and moral society.**

**We recognize and defend the unalienable right of human life**, from conception to natural death. Public funds should not be used for any act, individual, or institution which violates the right to life of the innocent.

**We believe it is self-evident that there are only two innate, distinct, and complementary genders**, male and female, who may unite in a traditional marriage of one man and one woman, and who in union are genetically designed to conceive new life. It is the primary duty of parents, not the state, to protect, nurture and prepare their children for adulthood.

**We oppose the blurring of gender distinctions** which threaten the personal safety and privacy of opposite gender children and adults in public toileting or bathing facilities and disadvantage women and girls in sporting competitions.

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## SECTION 10: CHOICE IN EDUCATION

**We believe a good education is critical to equip our children to be responsible adults.**

**We believe the primary authority and responsibility of educating our children resides with the parents**, including important moral, religious, and values-based education; therefore, we oppose mandatory religious instruction, sex education, homosexual, bisexual, transsexual education, or any other sexual education alternatives, death education, and values clarification by public schools or outside organizations. We believe these topics should be taught at home and not included in graduation requirements.

**We support School Choice** through vouchers including: home schooling, private schools, public schools, charter schools, and vocational and technical training. States may set minimum graduation requirements. Education priorities and curriculum should be determined at the local level but must include the study and understanding of the Constitution and history of the United States of America and our founding documents.

**We support the elimination of the federal Department of Education** and returning its control and funding to the States. Teacher performance should be monitored and rewarded at the local level. We recognize that the educational needs of students vary throughout the country, which cannot be met with a single mandate requiring one size to fit all. We support the elimination of Common Core standards.

**We believe a strong higher education and vocational training system is critical for economic vitality**, therefore, the Federal Government should be removed from financial entanglements with higher education; and state supported post-secondary institutions need to give priority access to Washington state students. Colleges and universities should emphasize courses that promote understanding and a practical application of each discipline and avoid indoctrination and political correctness.



# 2020 WASHINGTON STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

## SECTION 11: QUALITY HEATHCARE

**We believe the greatest healthcare system in the world is best preserved by minimizing government control.** We support competitive, free market solutions and personal choice in health care. This would be accomplished through:

- Repeal of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)
- Interstate competition among insurers and healthcare providers and organizations
- Abolishing mandates which restrict or prevent catastrophic health insurance plans
- Health Savings Accounts
- Tort reform.

Physicians, healthcare providers, pharmacy owners, and healthcare organizations must retain the right to exercise their professional judgment and freedom of conscience to provide for their patients in a manner consistent with the Hippocratic Oath of *"First, do no harm."*

The absolute right of individuals and families to make medical determinations for themselves and their loved ones must never be surrendered to any government body or agency without vigorous due process as the result of criminal activity. In light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing debate concerning future vaccinations, we strongly oppose mandatory vaccination policies.

The homeless, chemically dependent, and mentally ill are best served by local, community-based, non-governmental and charitable organizations.

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## SECTION 12: PROPERTY RIGHTS

**The proper role of government is to protect life, liberty and property.** Washington Republicans believe there is a fundamental relationship between free societies and the protection of private property rights. When governments unnecessarily withhold or expand the amount of land they own and abuse the power of eminent domain and regulatory takings, everyone's freedom is at risk.

**We support strong laws that protect individuals' rights and property** by requiring Federal and State agencies to uphold contractual and historical land rights for water, grazing, forestry, agricultural, and land management. Every person has the right to acquire, own, use, possess, enjoy, and dispose of private property as they see fit.

**We affirm the Washington State Constitution** that states, *"No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."* For this reason, no government agency should participate in asset forfeiture without fair and impartial judicial process.

**We oppose any governmental acquisition of private property for private development.** We further oppose such acquisition for public use without constitutional due process and just compensation. Regulations that devalue real property constitute a taking for which the property owner needs to be justly compensated.





# 2020 WASHINGTON STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

## SECTION 13: PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

**We believe vibrant agriculture and natural resource industries are critical to the health of the Washington economy and environment.** Societies rise and fall based on the strength of agriculture. The free market is the best mechanism to secure a strong agricultural base. Abundant, domestically produced fertilizer, food, and access to water, essential technology and equipment are critical to our national security.

**We insist on the return of federally managed public lands to the states as promised in their Enabling Act,** excluding existing national parks, congressionally designated wilderness areas, tribal lands, and military installations. Federal public lands shall become state public lands to be managed in accordance with state and local plans. State or federal acquisition of land should be curtailed and procedures established for the disposition of lands for which there is no compelling public need. State trust lands need to be managed for the benefit of the entities entitled to their proceeds.

**We encourage local government to fully utilize state and federal statutes** mandating coordination with agencies in order to protect agricultural and timber industries from overreaching regulations in rule-making and plan revisions.

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## SECTION 14: BALANCE OF ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**We believe America must balance our need for energy with the conservation of our environment.**

**We support a comprehensive energy policy for the United States,** allowing access to and use of its abundant energy resources, consistent with free-market principles and minimal government regulation. Creativity, technological development and market-driven application of science and technology will determine the most efficient, cost-effective and clean uses of energy resulting in a prosperous economy.

We recognize that practices such as agriculture, timber harvesting and mining may change environments and landscapes and require practical stewardship to minimize negative impacts, prevent pollution, and promote a clean, healthy environment. Due consideration shall be given to the economic impact of environmental concerns and water rights on farming, forestry, property rights and other commercial activities. We therefore:

- Advocate continuing independence from petroleum imports and promote energy exports
- Support investment in safe nuclear energy and the safe and permanent disposal of nuclear waste
- Support Washington States recent inclusion of nuclear, hydro-electric, and renewable energy as “clean energy” and insist that electricity created from hydroelectric power plants be officially classified as renewable energy
- Oppose all energy subsidies
- Oppose the removal of functioning hydroelectric power dams

**We oppose the Green New Deal and carbon taxes** as being ineffective in solving the stated problem and detrimental to the economy.

We further maintain that debate over climate change and environmental protection and other related scientific issues must take place without external pressure, and scientists must be free to present various theses without fear of retribution.

**We agree with President Trump’s support for the Trillion Trees Initiative.**



# 2020 WASHINGTON STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

## SECTION 15: EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

**We believe the transportation system is important to our economic survival and quality of life.**

Our transportation grid, comprised of roads, rail, air, and waterways, as well as our ports and ferries, is critical to moving people and products in Washington. The highest priorities in transportation infrastructure should be congestion relief and the movement of goods and services. These priorities must be achieved through the construction and maintenance of general purpose roads.

Our state's limited transportation funding should not be squandered on commuter trains, the expansion of light rail and concepts such as "complete streets". We support a transportation system that enables people to make free choices for themselves and their businesses, not one that attempts to manipulate and control how they travel.

Furthermore, we reject the policies of Transportation 2050 with its ultimate goal of tolling nearly every highway in the state. These tolls and taxes will impede the flow of people and freight in the state.

**We strongly oppose the imposition of 'tax by the mile' as an alternative or addition to gas taxes.**

**Transportation agencies must be accountable to the taxpayers through ballot measures,** performance audits and, as a last resort, the State Senate's confirmation process.

**To prevent hidden transfer of funds from state to local governments, we call for the elimination of sales tax on all taxpayer supported transportation construction projects.**

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## SECTION 16: PRESERVING THE INITIATIVE PROCESS

**We believe the initiative process is essential** to providing a legislative voice for all the citizens of Washington State.

The Washington State Constitution provides, "*The first power reserved by the people is the initiative,*" and, "*The second power reserved by the people is the referendum.*" These fundamental rights of initiative and referendum should be free from unnecessary and burdensome regulation imposed by the state. We support prohibiting legislative abuse of emergency clauses to circumvent the people's power of initiative and referendum. We support providing that the courts can only overturn an Initiative passed by the people if it is found to be clearly in violation of a specific provision of the Washington State Constitution.



**The Washington State Republican Party reaffirms the principles of  
The American's Creed.**

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**The American's Creed by William Tyler Page.**

*I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.*

**I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.**