

NORTH CAROLINA REPUBLICAN PARTY

2015 REPORT OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE

PREAMBLE

From May 20, 1775 through today, North Carolina has been a beacon for independence and freedom. Independence finds its foundation in limited government and individual responsibility. We believe that individuals are best suited to make their own decisions about their welfare. We believe that government can best help people realize their full potential by governing within the principled foundations set by the North Carolina State Constitution and the US Constitution. We know government governs best that governs least and allows individuals to follow their own paths to prosperity. The North Carolina Republican Party applauds the efforts of our Republican elected officials in turning back the encroaching powers of government and freeing the people of North Carolina to work toward a bright future.

Article I. Family

1. Our nation's strength lies with the family. It is the first school of discipline, responsibility and good citizenship.
2. The institution of marriage is the foundation of civil society. Its success as an institution will determine our success as a nation. It has been proven by both experience and endless social science studies that traditional marriage is best for children. Children raised in intact, married families are more likely to attend college, are physically and emotionally healthier, are less likely to use drugs or alcohol, engage in crime, or get pregnant outside of marriage. The success of marriage directly impacts the economic well-being of individuals. Furthermore, the future of marriage affects freedom. The lack of family formation not only leads to more government costs, but also to more government control over the lives of its citizens. We recognize and honor the courageous efforts of those who bear the many burdens of parenting alone, even as we believe that marriage, as the union of one man and one woman must be upheld as the national standard. We embrace the principle that all Americans should be treated with respect and dignity.
3. We affirm the authority of parental rights over their children's welfare from conception to emancipation. We support laws that require written, notarized consent for

medical treatments such as mental health treatments of minor children, drug and alcohol treatment, and counseling and services related to contraceptives, pregnancy, and abortion. Government, however, should protect children from abuse and neglect, balancing parental rights with the protection of a child's health and safety.

4. We support the marriage amendment as part of the North Carolina Constitution and encourage all efforts to defend it.

Article II. The Economy

1. The free enterprise system is the most effective and just economic system in the world. It creates opportunity, rewards self-reliance and hard work, and unleashes productivity that other societies can only imagine. It is an engine of charity, making America the most philanthropic nation on earth.
2. Economic freedom is essential to human liberty and dignity. It preserves the inherent right to liberty and ownership of private property. To protect this inherent right, government must provide an environment for individual's initiative and enterprise unencumbered by excessive regulation and taxation.
3. The government should tax only to raise money for its essential functions. We support a

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thorough review of expenditures each year, and we support a taxpayer's bill of rights. We applaud the efforts in 2014 of the Governor and General Assembly to begin reform of North Carolina's tax laws. We support the continuation of reforming the tax code to encourage economic growth and moving toward a system that taxes the broadest possible base of economic activity at the lowest possible rates.

4. Because growth in employment requires expanding capital formation, we oppose the taxation of capital gains as ordinary income.

5. We support free market solutions, spending within our means and ownership of our infrastructure investments. We encourage policy that utilizes market resources in a cost efficient manner and minimizes taxation without penalizing business efficiency.

Article III. Individual Liberty

1. Liberty is founded upon a belief in the inherent dignity of the human person and a recognition that individuals possess God-given inherent rights including, but not limited to, the right to life, liberty and property, and the pursuit of happiness. The fundamental role of government is to protect those inherent rights as recognized in our Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, including its Bill of Rights, and the North Carolina Constitution, including its Declaration of Rights.

2. We believe that America's constitutional form of government is the best system of insuring freedom. Consistent with that belief, our government must enact, interpret and enforce laws consistent with a strict construction of our Constitutions.

3. We support the free exercise of religion by all Americans. We oppose any restriction on the free exercise of religion such as removing

prayer from governmental activities, the removal of "Almighty God" from our public documents and institutions. We oppose any attempt of government to establish a state religion, or to foster one religion over another. We oppose any governmental coercive action aimed at limiting the free exercise of religion. We support the right of individuals and corporations to uphold their free exercise rights Consistent with the 1st amendment to the US Constitution. We support the right of all institutions, including hospitals and schools, to refuse to provide contraceptive, abortion, or other services or procedures inconsistent with their religious tenets.

4. Government should treat all citizens impartially and equally under the law. Invidious discrimination is detrimental to freedom for all individuals and we oppose it in any form.

5. The Second Amendment guarantees the right of the individual to keep and bear arms. We support the ownership, sale, purchase and "lawful carry" of firearms by law-abiding citizens. Gun owners have a right to confidentiality. Personal information acquired by government agencies for gun purchases and permitting should be available to law enforcement for investigative purposes only and not for public record.

6. We oppose government-sanctioned tracking of drivers to enforce occupancy rates on our highways.

7. Private property should not be taken by eminent domain except for a public use and upon prompt payment of just compensation.

Article IV. Sanctity of Life

1. We believe in the sanctity of all human life and that the government must respect and protect all innocent human life from conception to natural death.

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2. We recognize that abortion egregiously discriminates against the unborn person for reasons of race, sex, and disability.

3. Unborn children have Constitutional rights to life and liberty which the government must protect. We urge the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade. We support a right to life Constitutional amendment.

4. We oppose efforts to mandate the provision of abortion or to fund with taxpayer dollars organizations that provide or promote abortion services. We oppose school-based health clinics that provide referrals, counseling and related services for abortion and contraception.

5. We support requiring an appropriate waiting period, mandatory counseling before an abortion and criminal penalties for harming or killing an unborn child when the mother is killed or injured. We urge the General Assembly to enact laws which would require written, notarized parental consent for abortion and contraceptives, regulate abortion facilities as ambulatory surgical centers and to require abortion doctors to have admitting privileges in hospitals near their abortion clinics. Furthermore, we urge the General Assembly to immediately stop abortions at the gestational time when science identifies that the unborn child can feel pain.

6. We support developments in biomedical research that enhance and protect human life. We oppose procedures that intentionally destroy innocent human life. We oppose human cloning and the destruction of human embryos. We strongly support adult stem cell research.

7. We oppose euthanasia. We oppose the non-consensual withholding of care and treatment for persons with disabilities, including newborns, the elderly and infirm. We believe these individuals should be treated with

love and respect, not as a burden. We urge the General Assembly to enact legislation criminalizing assisted suicide.

8. We support the right of medical professionals to refuse to participate in abortions or to refuse to withhold life-sustaining care. We support the right of pharmacists to refuse to dispense abortion-inducing drugs. We support the right of medical residency programs to refuse to provide abortion training.

9. We oppose infanticide. We urge the enactment of laws in this State to prohibit Partial Birth Abortion and to require medical care for babies who survive abortions.

10. We urge the recruitment and support of candidates who are committed to enacting laws to protect all innocent human life.

Article V. State Government

1. We believe that in a free society, power should rest in the hands of the people. We believe in a limited government which serves the people, rather than one that enslaves them.

2. We believe that government at all levels must not spend money it does not have.

3. Government should not discourage honest, productive work. We oppose gambling.

4. We oppose unfunded state mandates for counties and municipalities.

5. No State funds should be spent without an explicit appropriation. We oppose "slush funds" as rewards for political support. Raiding of dedicated funds should not be allowed except in an emergency as determined by law. Every bill heard in committee should receive a recorded vote. The budget bill should be made public at least two legislative days before the final vote in each house.

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6. We support the issuance of a driver's license or state identification card only to those who are lawfully present.

7. The mental health system needs to be reformed. The needs of patients must be the first priority. This requires diagnosis, comprehensive care, follow-up, and stiff penalties for those who abuse or exploit patients.

8. Elected officials should not appear in "public service ads" during their election.

9. We support efforts to ensure that habitual drug users are not on public assistance rolls. We believe that drug tests are appropriate if there is reasonable suspicion of illegal drug use.

Article VI. Elections

1. A free society demands an honest and accurate election process. Our laws and our policies at every level of government should insure both.

2. We support legislation requiring poll judges at all election sites, including early voting sites.

3. We support enforced state-wide procedures for updating voter rolls to insure accuracy.

4. We reaffirm our support of voter ID and the repeal of straight ticket voting.

5. We support compact contiguous single-member districts that do not split counties, except as required by federal law or the state constitution.

6. We recognize the independence of the judiciary and oppose the appointment of state judges to full terms. To hold our trial courts

accountable through direct elections is a valuable right.

7. Voters should have timely information on candidates' campaign finances. We oppose funding election campaigns with public or foreign funds.

8. The party affiliation of judicial and school board candidates should appear on the ballot.

9. We encourage state and federal prosecutors to promptly investigate and prosecute voter fraud.

Article VII. Education

1. Parents have the right to educate their children and should expect excellent public education. All children should have access to an education that empowers them to reach their full God-given potential and contribute to the betterment of our society. Allowing choice and competition insures quality education. We support incentives for parents who educate their children in private or home schools. We support the expansion of charter schools and vocational curricula.

2. Education reform requires local control of curriculum, budget, textbooks and personnel. Parents must have access to all curricula and data about their children, including content that is stored on classroom tablets and computers.

3. All reform should be aimed at improving student achievement. Reform requires nationally normed testing, cutting administrative waste and facilitating alternate teacher certification. Students must have the best teachers, whether physically present or by use of technology. Teachers should be paid and promoted based on the quality of their work, not exclusively on longevity. Quality should be determined not only by raw test scores, but the academic progress of individual students.

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Teachers should be trained in the subject matter they teach and/or major in the subject they teach. Highly qualified teachers at low-performing schools should be paid more if their students show academic progress.

4. It is an appropriate goal for students to perform at grade level. Every effort should be made to ensure that all students learn to the greatest extent of their abilities. A high school diploma should mean that a student is fully prepared to enter college, technical school or the workforce.

5. Schools should encourage patriotism and the Judeo-Christian values of Western civilization. They should teach students about the historical foundation and documents of the United States, including the Declaration of Independence and federal and state constitutions. Schools should teach economics and government so that students will be prepared to vote as informed citizens.

6. We support regular recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, display of an American and a State flag and use of our national motto — “In God We Trust.”

7. We oppose sex education in public schools without parental consent. No birth control devices or drugs should be distributed in public schools. We support teaching abstinence until marriage as the expected norm for sexual behavior. Abstinence until marriage is the most effective way to prevent teenage pregnancies, abortion, and sexually transmitted diseases, and to create healthy relationships and self-esteem. Public schools should not be used to teach children about homosexual behavior. We urge the NC General Assembly to enact legislation ensuring parental rights are asserted over sex and health education in NC.

8. Schools should not ask children to answer offensive or intrusive personal non-

academic questionnaires without parental consent.

9. We support the right of students to pray in school and at public occasions without censorship. We oppose restrictions on free speech and free assembly by public institutions on ideological and religious grounds.

10. We oppose standards such as “Common Core,” and recognize them as an attempt to turn over the control of our education system to unelected and unaccountable private interests supported by the Federal Government. The US Constitution does not enumerate a power to the Federal Government to establish, dictate, or control educational standards. Local and State Government should be responsible for ensuring North Carolina students are being educated with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in today’s global economy. The people will establish rigorous standards through the actions of their elected state government to ensure our children are empowered to achieve their highest, God-given academic potential. We support English as the official language of the US.

Article VIII. Justice

1. The first duty of government is to maintain law and order, while securing for its citizens the freedom to pursue the blessings of liberty and the fruits of their labor.

2. We support the death penalty for first degree murder. We should drastically reduce the time between death sentence and execution in order to have an effective deterrent.

3. We call for mandatory sentencing for all violent crimes, especially crimes committed against those who are charged with protecting us.

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4. We support mandatory educational and treatment programs for illegal drug users and alcohol abusers. Those who drive while impaired and those who manufacture, sell or distribute illegal drugs must face stiff punishment.

5. We condemn gratuitous violence and pornography in literature and music. We oppose internet pornography. We support mandatory labeling of these products. Laws should control obscene or sadistic materials.

7. Child pornography is a hideous form of child abuse. Those who produce it— and those who traffic in it ---must be punished to the maximum extent of the law.

8. We want stiff penalties enforced for abducting, exploiting or abusing children, including unborn children. We abhor domestic violence and human trafficking.

9. Prisons should focus on security, education and labor. Inmates should be required to work.

10. We support tort reform, including a cap on awards for pain and suffering, and structured payments of awards for lost income.

Article IX. The Environment

1. We are stewards of our God-given natural heritage. We have a duty to protect the earth's resources.

2. If regulation is needed to protect the environment, government should proceed only with evidence that the benefits warrant the cost. Humans are a critical component of the ecosystem. Regulations should be predicated on a cost benefit analysis should be predicated on a cost benefit analysis.

3. We support energy security, affordable energy and energy independence. A

comprehensive energy policy includes offshore and on-shore oil and natural gas, nuclear power, coal, solar, wind and alternative fuels that do not adversely impact the food supply or energy costs. We support efforts to develop oil and natural gas through safe, clean, hydraulic fracturing. We call for repeal of the national ethanol mandate and EPA and offshore regulation and the state renewable energy mandate.

4. We support federal revenue sharing with those states directly affected by offshore exploration and development in federal waters. This revenue can be used to pay for research and development of alternative energy generation and distribution and to offset impacts on the coast.

Article X. National Policy

1. National security being one of the first and most important roles of government we support a foreign policy of peace through strength. That strength can only be accomplished with a strong military supported both when abroad and at home with the full gratitude and resources of the United States. Strength only exists when our borders are secure and our enemies deterred.

2. A republican form of government is the foundation of freedom. Our foreign policy must promote and support democratic governments worldwide and oppose tyranny in all its forms.

3. Opposition to slavery being the foundation of the GOP; we oppose slavery, including human trafficking, in any form both foreign and domestic.

4. The sovereignty of the United States should never be weakened through fruitless allegiance or membership in international treaties and organizations that dilute our sovereign right to govern ourselves. We oppose attempts by foreign governments or

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international organizations to infringe on our sovereignty.

5. Economic strength is the foundation of the United States' greatness. We support free markets, free trade, and capitalist principles at home and around the world. Threats to our economic strength such as budget deficits, the national debt, and burdensome social welfare programs including Obamacare should be met with sound market-based policies designed to enhance individual rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

6. Understanding that individuals and households are the basis for our economic system, we support free market solutions to societal problems. Market based solutions offer the most efficient use of scarce resources to solve public goods problems. We support individual's ability to choose private market-based solutions to retirement, health insurance, worker's rights, or any other public goods or infrastructure issues.

7. We support the principle of a "sound money" policy to sustain a stable U.S. currency. The Comptroller General of the General Office of Accounting must perform an annual accounting of the Federal Reserve to ensure its transparency and accountability.

8. We call on Congress, the President and the courts to abide by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution and the Ninth and Tenth Amendments. We oppose encroachment upon all powers that the Constitution has reserved to the states or to the people.

9. A free society being necessary to the strength of any country, we support policies protecting all innocent human life and oppose all efforts of government to promote pro-abortion policies at home and abroad. We support efforts to strengthen the bonds of family. We support policies that prohibit the

distribution of federal funds to any organization that promotes or provides abortions.

10. The US Constitution is the enumeration of the foundational principles of this great country. As such, we oppose any usurpation of the foundational principles or articles in the Constitution by activists in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.

11. We oppose any form of amnesty for those who, by intentionally violating the immigration law, disadvantage those who have obeyed it. Granting amnesty only rewards and encourages more law breaking.

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**Respectfully,
The 2015 Platform Committee**

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