

2004 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PLATFORM FOR THE THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT REPUBLICAN PARTY CAUCUS

The Presidential election year 2004 calls for a recommitment to the goals and ideals of the Republican Party.

Central to these goals and ideals is the belief that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are inalienable rights of all people. Wisconsin Republicans believe, as did the founders of our nation, that the powers of government flow from the people, and that the people and the states retain all power not expressly given to the federal government through the Constitution.

We believe that the traditional marriage and family are the strongest building blocks on which to construct a free society and therefore encourage policies that foster strong families and condemn policies that destroy families.

We believe in one sovereign United States of America under God. We call for government to support freedom of religion and end hostility toward the faithful of any religion. We believe all are equal in the eyes of God and government should preserve the free exercise of religion.

We believe that when people are free to make their own choices, free from government intrusion, the best attributes of our citizens will flourish, and society as a whole will benefit.

We believe that the precious gift of freedom must be continually nurtured around the world so that every man, woman and child is free from the shackles of tyranny, poverty and moral decay. Therefore, we support our armed forces and President Bush's goal to bring about freedom to other countries in the world, specifically Iraq. We also support and thank our coalition partners who joined us in this effort.

We believe that limited government with minimal taxation and minimal regulation allows individual initiative and private enterprise to produce a thriving economy.

In summary, the Republican Party of Wisconsin is dedicated to freedom, limited government, free enterprise, equal opportunity and the primacy of the family.

Respectfully submitted,

Platform Committee
Arek Babel (Eau Claire County GOP)
Bob Fraser (Eau Claire County GOP)
Jo Kutzner, Chair (Clark County GOP)

Family Values

The Republican Party of Wisconsin believes that traditional marriages and traditional families are the foundation of our strength as a community, a state, a nation and a people. We assert the need to return to traditional principles of conduct and firm standards of judgment. We maintain that fathers and mothers have first responsibility for the care, education and discipline of their children. Government must retreat from the intrusive role it has played in disrupting our community morality.

We urge the state and federal government to make it clear that marriage will be recognized as between one biological man and one biological woman only. Therefore, we strongly support President Bush in his plan to so amend the United States Constitution.

We support policies that encourage families to stay together and oppose those that contribute to family breakdown.

Republicans support legislation that would re-establish legal protection for all human beings from conception until natural death and affirm our support for the Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Until constitutional protection is restored, we will continue to support legislation that promotes the protection of the unborn and oppose legislation that allows or promotes the taking of innocent life by abortion, euthanasia, assisted-suicide, scientific experiments including cloning, or any other means.

Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth

Tax policy must recognize that families and local governments retain their rights to make fiscal decisions and that ultimately the economy and society benefit from this freedom.

We stand with Wisconsin farmers and urge policies that will sustain Wisconsin's agricultural tradition. Republicans recognize that our state's natural beauty and historic cultural diversity have spawned a vibrant tourism industry.

We pledge to continue to promote exports to benefit manufacturers, farmers and service industries. We encourage state-of-the-art telecommunications and high-tech infrastructure to benefit all Wisconsin residents and businesses.

National Defense

The chief responsibility of the federal government is the protection of the sovereignty of the United States and freedom of its citizens. Therefore, the Republicans of Wisconsin call for continued upgrading of the Armed Services through adequate funding, efficiency and professionalism.

Constitutional Right to Bear Arms

The Republican Party fully endorses the Second Amendment to the United States' Constitution, supports its broad interpretation and opposes restrictive legislation.

Public Security and Crime Control

Wisconsin Republicans call for swift, certain punishment for criminals in order to protect Wisconsin's families and businesses. Crime will only be controlled when punishment is both swift and certain.

We support the right of Wisconsin to determine its own prison capacity free from the interference of federal judges.

We support Republican efforts to provide early intervention to save the juveniles who can be rehabilitated. We call for appropriate punishment for violent juveniles.

We support stiff penalties for drug law violations, especially for drug dealers.

We call for protection of victims' rights. We call for restitution of damages to victims and reasonable reimbursement of the state's expenses for prosecution and incarceration.

Education

Parental involvement is the key to education.

Parents must be given the ability to choose where their children go to school, whether public, private or religious, through a comprehensive school choice plan in which funding follows the students. We support expansion of school choice throughout Wisconsin. We also advocate the parents' rights to educate their own children.

Republicans seek policies and programs that will unleash the independence, innovation and creativity of individual teachers, administrators and school boards. We condemn compliance with state and federal mandates as a substitute for local accountability.

We urge Wisconsin's education system to teach the basic skills and traditional family values as defined by the local community, and to use technology to prepare students to compete in the global economy.

The state must continue to support our excellent Technical College and University of Wisconsin systems.

Health Care

We believe the government should encourage user-controlled spending as the best way to hold down growing health care costs and ensure quality.

We call for universal access to health care, but oppose efforts to establish a government-mandated, nationalized health care policy.

The state and federal government should implement legislation to allow the use of tax-free medical savings accounts. Individuals must be free to use their own money to purchase the health care or health care insurance of their choice.

We demand state and federal regulations be revised to decrease health care costs, including the cost of pharmaceuticals, particularly unneeded mandates, liability and taxes. We support the reform of our medical malpractice laws to stop the escalation of liability insurance. The state and federal government should provide self-employed workers and farmers the same tax treatment as corporations by allowing 100 per cent deduction of health care costs from their taxes.

Environment and Property Rights

We support the preservation of our state's natural resources.

Wisconsin Republicans support viable recycling programs and urge full participation by the citizens of our state. Further, we encourage the creation of tax incentives for innovative private sector recycling initiatives.

We encourage conservation as the best way to reduce energy consumption, increase economic efficiency and promote environmental protection.

We support tax incentives for people to preserve wetlands, particularly farmers and landowners.

Republicans believe a balance must be struck between protection of our resources and protection of private property rights. We embrace Article 1, Section 14 of the Wisconsin Constitution that states, "All lands within the state are declared to be allodial, and feudal tenures are prohibited." We support reimbursement of individuals when property is taken or value is reduced by government actions. We support mining that meets our state's environmental protection laws.