

# Report of 2020 Platform & Resolutions Committee

## 2020 Platform Committee Members

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# Preamble

1. Affirming our belief in God, we still hold these truths to be self-evident, 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. Throughout the world, people dare to dream of freedom and opportunity. The Republican Party of Texas unequivocally defends that dream. We strive to preserve the freedom given to us by God, implemented by our Founding Fathers, and embodied in the Constitution. We recognize that the traditional family is the strength of our nation. It is our solemn duty to protect innocent life and develop responsible citizens. We understand that our economic success depends upon free market principles. If we fail to maintain our sovereignty, we risk losing the freedom to live these ideals.

# Principles

2. We, the 2020 Republican Party of Texas, believe in this platform and expect our elected leaders to uphold these truths through acknowledgment and action. We believe in:

3. 1) "The laws of nature and nature's God," and we support the strict adherence to the original language and intent of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitutions of the United States and of Texas.
4. 2) The sanctity of innocent human life, created in the image of God, which should be equally protected from fertilization to natural death.
5. 3) Preserving American and Texas sovereignty and freedom.
6. 4) Limiting government power to those items enumerated in the United States and Texas Constitutions.
7. 5) Personal accountability and responsibility.
8. 6) Self-sufficient families, founded on the traditional marriage of a natural man and a natural woman.
9. 7) Having an educated population, with parents having the freedom of choice for the education of their children.
10. 8) The inalienable right of all people to defend themselves and their property.

11. 9) A free enterprise society unencumbered by government interference or subsidies.
12. 10) Honoring all of those that serve and protect our freedom.

## Business, Commerce and Transportation

13. Utilities: We encourage free-market solutions for providing utilities whenever possible.
14. Power Grid: We urge that the Texas Legislature pass legislation to harden the Texas Electric Grid against:
  1. Cyberattacks on the grid's computerized command and control system.
  2. Physical attacks on substations and major high-voltage transformers.
  3. Geomagnetic storms created by solar flares from the sun.
  4. Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP).
15. Smart Meters: We support a no-cost smart meter opt-out for all utility customers in Texas.
16. Insurance Rates: We support that all types of insurance rates, for example, health, life, title, auto, and homeowner's insurance, should be set through free-market forces.
17. Intrastate Commerce: We believe that goods and services that are not transported across state lines are not subject to federal regulations.
18. Municipal Preemption: We encourage the Legislature to preempt local government efforts to interfere with the State's sovereignty over business, employees, and property rights. This includes but is not limited to burdensome regulations on short-term rentals, bags, sick leave, trees, and employee criminal screening. We support preemption of city ordinances that dictate sick leave policies to private businesses. This excludes the handling of emergency orders.
19. Carbon Tax: We oppose all efforts to classify carbon dioxide as a pollutant. We further urge the US Senate to defeat the "Cap-and-Trade" legislation, as it is outside the authority of the US Constitution.
20. Energy Production: We support free-market solutions and immediate removal of government barriers and direct subsidies to the production, reformulation, refining, and distribution of energy.

21. Environment: We oppose environmentalism that obstructs legitimate business interests and private property use, including the regulatory taking of property by governmental agencies. We oppose the abuse of the Endangered Species Act to confiscate and limit the use of personal property and to infringe on a property owner's livelihood. We support the defunding of "climate justice" initiatives, the abolition of the Environmental Protection Agency, and repeal of the Endangered Species Act.
22. Ethanol: We support the repeal of legislation mandating ethanol as a fuel additive.
23. Government Accountability: We call upon the Texas Legislature to eliminate all special collective bargaining statutes for public employees and to hold all public servants accountable to taxpayers through existing civil statutes. We oppose any distribution of taxpayer dollars to unions.
24. Windstorm Insurance Association: We urge the Texas Legislature to phase out the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association to reduce the liabilities it imposes on state taxpayers.
25. Licensing: We call upon the Texas Legislature to review all business/professional licensing programs and associated licensing for boards for the purpose of abolishing as many as reasonably possible and repealing those laws, rules, and regulations.
26. Minimum Wage: We believe the Minimum Wage Act should be repealed.
27. Prevailing Wage: We oppose prevailing wage laws.
28. Practice Law: We support allowing any person to sit for the Texas State Bar Exam regardless of where he or she received their law education, as long as criminal and ethical background requirements are met.
29. Blue Laws: We urge the Texas Legislature to eliminate antiquated "Blue Laws."
30. Dodd-Frank: We support the immediate repeal of Dodd-Frank legislation.
31. Sarbanes-Oxley: In light of the high compliance costs imposed by the Sarbanes-Oxley regulations and the destructive effects this law has had on innovation and capital formation, we support repeal of the Sarbanes-Oxley legislation.
32. Doxing: We recommend the State Legislature consider modifying existing state law to take into account the implications of doxing that results in harm to one's person or business.
33. Regulating the Internet: We oppose all efforts to further regulate the internet in the United States or internationally.
34. Social Media Freedom: The Republican Party of Texas calls on our Congressional Delegation to push for reform of Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act to limit the

ability of online social media platforms to censor the speech of citizens in the new digital town square which they currently control.

**35. Retirement Accounts:** We support the repeal of the required minimum disbursement from retirement accounts and inheritances.

**36. Social Security Opt-Out:** We support reform to Social Security that allows people to opt out.

**37. Rural and Volunteer Fire Departments:** We urge Congress to overturn the rules of the United States Department of Labor restricting volunteerism by paid firefighters and emergency medical technician personnel and to support protections similar to those provided to National Guardsmen for service during declared emergencies.

**38. Small Business:** We urge the federal and state legislatures to reduce regulations on small businesses and home-based work.

**39. Trade Agreements:** We support free trade as a necessary component of American capitalism and of the United States' influence in the world. We strongly oppose the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA). We demand the immediate withdrawal from the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). We demand the repeal of the current Fast Track Authority/TPA.

**40. Vehicle Inspection:** No non-commercial vehicles should be required to obtain a state safety inspection.

**41. Vehicle Registration:** Vehicle registration should only be a one-time occurrence at the point of sale.

**42. Flooding Mitigation, Hurricane, and Early Warning of Impending Disaster:** We support the immediate study, implementation, and construction of projects that will:

- a. Address river, bayou, reservoir, and other flood threats to public and private property.
- b. Seek the input of those most likely to be affected by a casualty to public and private property, to include infrastructure and facilities that affect national security.
- c. Address the risk of storm or tidal surge that affects the critical industries along the Gulf Coast.
- d. Create an early warning system that will immediately alert residents to an impending flood, wind, or casualty weather event.
- e. Establish regional Flood Control Districts where necessary for counties to resolve joint flooding issues.
- f. Provide funds to complete these projects from federal, state, and local funds, to include specifically targeted taxes for the purpose and never for any other purpose.

We strongly urge that the Republican Party of Texas make this a legislative priority. Governments at all levels must work together to avoid the historical bent to push projects, safety, and implementation into the future. Projects must be of most urgent priority now in order to avoid further trauma; loss of life; loss of personal, government, and business wealth; and diminution of the tax base.

**43. Regulatory Burden on Fantasy Sports:** We support action by the Texas Legislature clarifying existing state law without attaching new taxes or fees to the fantasy sports industry, which would grow the size and scope of government.

**44. Open Markets:** We urge the Texas Legislature to adopt legislation eliminating the mandatory three-tier system of production, distribution, and retail. Texans should have the freedom to purchase and service products (e.g., alcohol, vehicles, and medical supplies) directly from manufacturers, just as any other retail product.

**45. Toll Roads:** We believe that tolls should come off the road when the debt is retired, and if the debt is ever restructured or refinanced, the pay-off date needs to remain the same or receive voter approval in order to extend the toll tax longer. Maintenance should then revert to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Public-private partnerships, toll authorities, and construction:

- a. We oppose public-private partnerships, specifically regarding toll projects.
- b. We oppose conversion of existing roads or lanes to toll roads.
- c. We oppose the use of taxpayer money to subsidize, guarantee, prop up, or bail out any toll projects, whether public or private, and we call upon both state and federal lawmakers to adequately fund our highways without hidden taxes, tolls, or raiding of emergency funds.

Toll administration and collections:

- a. We urge the legislature to pass a uniform toll collection and billing procedure that prohibits excessive fines and fees along with other pro-taxpayer reforms such as requiring agencies to:
  - i. send out accurate bills for actual road usage in a timely manner without tacking on additional fines and fees.
  - ii. immediately notify drivers if a payment card is not working prior to tacking on fines and fees for non-payment.
  - iii. calculate any fines and fees based on a monthly billing cycle, not on a per transaction basis.
  - iv. allow for a longer period of time before being placed into collections.

v. allow payment plans to be set-up prior to being put into collections.

b. We call upon the legislature to pass legislation to decriminalize the failure to pay tolls. We also call upon the legislature to remove the ability of toll agencies to block drivers' vehicle registrations and to impound cars based on unpaid tolls.

**46. Tidelands and Resources:** We demand that the State of Texas and all coastal states enjoy and maintain jurisdiction and control of their offshore waters up to the international water boundaries as well as state inland waterways in regards to all natural resources therein, and that the federal government shall not set limits on harvesting or taking natural resources therein, nor allow foreign entities to harvest or take such natural resources therein, including minerals, game, fisheries, and hydrocarbons. Also, we demand that no entity shall usurp Texas's original tideland boundaries.

**47. Water Resources:** While we support the decision by the Texas Supreme Court in preserving individuals' rights to their groundwater under their property and their right to capture it, we support tying surface rights of ownership to groundwater rights of ownership. We support regulations that may put limits on a person's capture and use of groundwater if such use will negatively impact adjoining owners' use of their groundwater for private wells, their water supply, or agricultural use.

**48. The Lacey Act:** The Republican Party of Texas condemns the over-criminalization of trade in plants and animals under the Lacey Act and supports the RELIEF legislation.

**49. Origin Labeling:** We urge that all food products entering the United States not only show the country of origin, but also the country that processed it and the country that packaged it.

**50. Lower Taxes:** We support lower taxes across the board.

**51. Freedom Food:** We urge that no legislation be passed to restrict purchase of edible products such as meat, milk, eggs, vegetables, etc., directly from small farms and that any regulations prohibiting that be rescinded.

**52. Predatory Towing:** We urge the Texas Legislature to enact legislation increasing the criminal penalties resulting from predatory towing and decreasing the state allowed amount that a tower can charge to disincentivize the practice of predatory towing.

**53. Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs):** Republicans support maximum economic opportunity for all citizens and believe that legal limits on employee ownership of Texas firms by Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) trusts should be eliminated. We also believe that changes in ownership from private individuals to a majority ownership by an ESOP should not create a disadvantage when doing business with the State of Texas or political subdivisions of

the State. We believe the State of Texas should encourage the creation of more ESOPs by making information easily available to businesses located in Texas.

**54. Municipal permitting:** We call on the Texas Legislature to continue to streamline the building permitting process to ease burdens and costs on developers and consumers. We encourage the Legislature to monitor implementation of existing legislation that protects property development rights and close loopholes that cities are using to circumvent these laws. We oppose retroactive rulemaking and changing the rules on developments that have already been issued permits.

**55. High Speed Rail:** Taxpayer money should not fund or subsidize high speed rail.

**56. COVID-19 Liability:** Businesses are not held liable for any customer who frequents their business and later is confirmed to test positive for COVID-19.

**57. Jobs Are Essential:** We urge the Texas State Legislature to adopt legislation that recognizes and establishes all businesses and jobs as essential and a fundamental right.

**58. Mask Mandates:** Government should not be able to force businesses to require face coverings.

**59. Vehicle Titles:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to direct the department of motor vehicles to immediately reinstate all home, kit, or cottage industry vehicle titles that have been revoked since the creation of that agency in 2009, and prohibit this agency from further revocation of titles.

**60. Unions:** We support legislation requiring labor unions to obtain consent of the union member before that member's dues can be used for political purposes. We oppose card check. Texas should prohibit governmental entities from collecting dues for labor unions through deductions from public employee paychecks. We also encourage the adoption of a National Right to Work Act.

## **Constitutional Issues**

**61. The Rights of a Sovereign People:** The Republican Party of Texas supports the historic concept, established by our nation's founders, of limited civil government jurisdiction under the natural laws of God, and we oppose the concept that the state is sovereign over the affairs of men, the family, and the church. We believe that government properly exists by the consent of the governed and must be restrained from intruding into the freedoms of its citizens. The function of government is not to grant rights, but to protect the unalienable, God-given rights of life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness of all, including the unborn.

**62. Right to Free Speech:** We resolve that free speech shall remain free; that opinions may be spoken, recorded, printed, published, and shared without censorship or reprisal; and that Congress will ensure that individuals' rights to free speech will not be infringed upon with unconstitutional laws defining "hate speech" and "hate crimes." Texans should be free to express their religious beliefs, including prayer, in public places.

The Republican Party of Texas calls for the reinforcement of protections regarding online speech on all internet-based platforms and strongly urges the federal government to enforce existing free speech protections regarding the designation of platforms that practice censorship of political speech as publishers with the appropriate legal liability such as pursuant to section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996.

**63. Keep Oath to the Constitution:** The Republican Party of Texas calls for all who swear the oath to support and maintain the limitations and clear meaning of the United States Constitution.

**64. Preservation of our Constitutional Republic:** We support our constitutional republican form of government as set forth in the Texas Bill of Rights. We oppose initiative and referendum. We oppose socialism, communism, fascism, and/or Marxism, or any other form of tyranny in any form. We support the Texas Legislature and the United States Congress in enacting legislation that prohibits any judicial jurisdiction from allowing any substitute or parallel system of law, which is not in accordance with the United States or Texas Constitutions. We further resolve that all amendments to the Texas Constitution require a majority of the voters in at least 191 counties (three-fourths), instead of a simple majority of the votes.

**65. State Sovereignty:** Pursuant to Article 1, Section 1, of the Texas Constitution, the federal government has impaired our right of local self-government. Therefore, federally mandated legislation that infringes upon the 10th Amendment rights of Texas should be ignored, opposed, refused, and nullified. Texas retains the right to secede from the United States should a future president and congress change our political system from a constitutional republic to any other system.

**66. No Foreign Law:** No foreign law (including Sharia law) or international edict shall preempt the United States Constitution or the Texas Constitution, or be used as the basis for any decision, except required by contract between individual private parties.

**67. Judicial Overreach:** All attempts by the judiciary to rule in areas not constitutionally granted to the judiciary, including abuses of the "commerce clause," the "general welfare clause," and the "supremacy clause," should be nullified. Any federal enforcement activities that do occur in Texas should be conducted under the authority of the county sheriff. (SCOTUS Ruling in 1997 *Mack-Prinz v. US*)

**68. Limiting the Power of the Supreme Court:** Judges don't define the role of judges; Article 3, Section 2, defines the roles of judges. We support Congress's limiting the power of the Supreme

Court by invoking Article 3, Section 2, Clause 2, by "legislating exceptions and creating regulations" to limit the cases for which the Supreme Court has jurisdiction.

**69. National Popular Vote:** The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is a direct violation of Article 1, Section 10, and Article 2, Section 1, of the Constitution and shall be rejected by Texas and all its officials.

We support the electoral college.

**70. Recall Elections:** We support the right to recall our elected officials.

**71. State Electoral College:** The State Legislature shall cause to be enacted a State Constitutional Amendment creating an electoral college consisting of electors selected by the popular votes cast within each individual state senatorial district, who shall then elect all statewide office holders.

**72. Habeas Corpus:** We oppose any bill or provision that would suspend habeas corpus for American citizens, except as addressed by the US Constitution.

**73. US Citizenship:** We support a change to the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to eliminate "birth tourism" or anchor babies by granting citizenship only to those with at least one biological parent who is a US citizen.

**74. Census:** In accordance with Article 1, Section 2, of the United States Constitution, we support an actual count of United States citizens only, and we oppose Census Bureau estimates and the collection of all other data.

**75. United States Senators:** We support restoring state sovereignty with the repeal of the 17th Amendment of the United States Constitution and the appointment of United States Senators by the state legislatures.

**76. Term Limits:** We support term limits of twelve years for federal and state offices.

**77. National Language:** We support a constitutional amendment making English the official language of the United States, and one of no more than two official languages of all US territories and other possessions.

**78. Equal Rights Amendment:** We call upon the 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to adopt a resolution clarifying that the 1972 ratification by the 62<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislature of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution was valid only through March 22, 1979.

**79. Executive Orders:** We oppose all executive orders, whether by a president, a governor, or a local official, that go beyond administration of executive authority and have the effect of

legislation. We call upon the president to rescind the executive order allowing unionization or collective bargaining by any or all federal employees.

**80. Affirmative Action:** We believe in equal opportunity for all citizens without regard to race or biological sex. We believe in Martin Luther King's dream of a colorblind society.

**81. Family Values:** We support the affirmation of traditional Judeo-Christian family values and oppose the continued assault on those values.

**82. National Sovereignty:** Any agreement or treaty entered into by the US with any foreign government or international entity, such as a non-governmental organization, that is not ratified in accordance with the Constitution by the US Senate is void and unenforceable.

**83. Right to Self-Defense:** We affirm that lawful gun ownership and carry by the people protects us from those who wish to do harm and guards against tyranny by our own government. We call upon gun owners of Texas to regulate themselves through exercising safe handling procedures, voluntarily receiving training and helping to train others, and safely carrying firearms as a deterrent to crime. We support all legislation and policies that reduce restrictions on legal gun owners age 18 and over to purchase, own, or carry any type of gun, ammunition, accessory, knife, or other weapons, and oppose all legislation and policies that hinder the same.

**84. Restore Firearms Freedom:** We support the following state legislation: Constitutional Carry, allowing law-abiding citizens who are not prohibited from possessing handguns to carry them openly or concealed, while maintaining the option of a permit for reciprocity purposes; an Intrastate Protection Act, exempting guns made and sold in Texas from federal regulations; and preventing Texas from enforcing federal law not also affirmed. We support national reciprocity for handgun carry.

**85. Gun Carry and Possession Restrictions:** We oppose any measure that would deprive someone of their right to possess firearms without being convicted of a crime or found mentally incompetent by a medical psychiatric professional, or that would cause gun owners to be investigated by law enforcement or appear before a judge when there is no reasonable cause of a crime committed. This includes state legislation such as red flag laws, social media monitoring that targets gun owners, expanded background checks, mandates on personal firearms storage, and government-mandated location restrictions such as those in K-12 schools and 51% establishments, and Federal law such as PTSD-related restrictions and the National Firearms Act.

**86. Amend Texas Constitution:** We call for the Texas Legislature to propose to the people of Texas a constitutional amendment to strike the following words from Article 1, Section 23, of the Texas Constitution: "but the Legislature shall have power, by law, to regulate the wearing of arms, with a view to prevent crime."

**87. Unfunded Mandates:** Unfunded mandates are unacceptable. The State of Texas must fully fund at a minimum the following additional costs to local governments:

- a. Indigent criminal defense.
- b. Inmate healthcare in jails.
- c. Indigent burials and autopsies.
- d. Veteran services offices.

**88. War Powers:** Congress shall not abdicate the war powers to the executive branch except when under imminent threat and not to be used as a preemptive strike unless approved by Congress.

**89. Lockdowns Never Again:** The Republican Party of Texas calls upon our elected officials to never again implement mass lockdowns on the people, our businesses, and churches in the name of communicable disease response; nor should Texas officials ever again presume they know better how to treat or prioritize the medical treatment of Texans and to make command and control edicts that dictate to healthcare providers how to do their job. We oppose funding or implementation of any form of contact tracing.

**90. Protecting Constitutional Rights Regarding Age:** Be it resolved that the Republican Party opposes all efforts to deny rights and privileges to adult citizens based solely on their age. We further state that all rights and duties of citizenship that are granted based on age, including but not limited to voting, involuntary military service, signing legal contracts, owning or possessing firearms, consenting to medical treatment, being charged as an adult with a crime, using alcohol or tobacco, getting married, and paying income taxes should be conferred when a citizen is an adult at the same age, whatever that age may be. Conferring the duties of citizenship at one age while conferring the privileges of citizenship at a different age is an unconstitutional practice in violation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

**91. Limit Executive Power:** In the event the State Executive Branch activates the emergency powers for a disaster, the Legislature will automatically be convened two weeks later for a session to take up whatever matters are deemed necessary by the Legislature.

## **Criminal and Civil Justice**

**92. Parents' Rights:** We support legislation ensuring that the parents' rights to raise and educate their children are protected in Texas law as a fundamental, constitutional right and that there is a presumption that fit parents act in the best interest of their children.

- 93. Equal Parenting:** We support legislation providing for equal and consistent parenting (possession and access) for every child, when both parents are fit, willing, and able, as it is in the best interest of the child.
- 94. CPS:** We call for the eventual abolishment of CPS, and in the interim we support reform and any legislation that would support due process in family court proceedings, oversight of the system, and a jury determining the outcome of any case if requested by either party.
- 95. Abortion Homicide Exemption:** The physician homicide exemption of the Texas Penal Code Section 19.06 should be modified to apply only to nonelective abortions such as required to save the life of the mother.
- 96. Capital Punishment:** Properly applied capital punishment is legitimate and should be reasonably swift, while respecting all due process.
- 97. No Arrest for Nonjailable Offenses:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to end the practice of arresting individuals for offenses for which jail is not an allowable consequence under the law.
- 98. Police, Firefighters, and Other First Responders Appreciation:** We express our gratitude and appreciation for police officers, firefighters, and other first responders. We support them in the exercise of their duties. To that end we support proper funding for robust training programs that provide them with intensive and comprehensive physical and academic training in the classroom and on the ground. We also support funding of proper mental health care and encouragement for officers.
- 99. Written or Recorded Consent:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to require officers to get written or recorded consent (i.e., body cams) to conduct a search and to inform motorists that they can decline such consent if the search is not based on probable cause or arrest.
- 100. Mental Health Support Backup:** We support trained mental health personnel backup being provided to peace officers at all hours day and night in order to serve the public.
- 102. Protection from Arbitrary Stops:** The Texas Legislature is to enact legislation to protect Texans from arbitrary stops, detentions, or arrests for only openly carrying a firearm.
- 103. Obscenity Exemption:** We urge repeal of the Texas Penal Code “Obscenity Exemption” [43.24(c)], which allows children access to harmful, explicit, or pornographic materials under the guise of education materials.
- 104. Civil Asset Forfeiture:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to abolish civil asset forfeiture and to ensure private property only be forfeited upon a criminal conviction.
- 105. Victims of Human Trafficking:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to allow victims of human trafficking to have convictions within the previous

five years for prostitution offenses set aside, if they received these convictions as a direct result of being trafficked.

**106. Human Trafficking Jurisdiction:** The Texas Legislature should pass legislation granting the Texas Attorney General full concurrent jurisdiction over multi-jurisdictional cases to be limited specifically to those cases involving human trafficking.

**107. Government Surveillance:** We oppose all forms of warrantless government surveillance of United States citizens and businesses.

**108. Location and Data Privacy:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to protect citizens' current and historic technologically available location data by requiring a warrant based on probable cause for governments to request access, except in the case of an immediate, life-threatening situation. We also call on the Texas Legislature to require appropriate policies regarding the disclosure of data collection when no criminal case is filed.

**109. Hate Crimes:** We urge the complete repeal of the hate crimes laws, since ample laws are currently in effect to punish criminal behavior towards other persons.

**110. Right to See Charge:** Defendants charged with violating a governmental regulation should have the right to see the enabling law.

**111. Indefinite Detention:** We oppose the indefinite detention of United States citizens without due process. We urge our government to terminate detention without due process, including, but not limited to, any military enforcement of federal law within the State of Texas, under NDAA Sections 1021 and 1022.

**112. Juries:** We support the right to privacy and security of prospective jurors. Courts must show relevance in questioning jurors and balance the prospective juror's right to privacy and lawyers' need to know. We support the right to inform the jurors of their common law power to judge law (jury nullification) as well as the evidence, and to vote on the verdict according to their conscience.

**113. Frivolous Lawsuits:** We support further reform to discourage frivolous lawsuits. We oppose the abusive use of class action lawsuits.

**114. Marriage Officiation:** We believe religious institutions have the freedom to recognize and perform only those marriages that are consistent with their doctrine.

**115. Law Enforcement Equipment:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to implement reporting and training standards to disclose how much military-grade material is sent to local law enforcement under the Department of Defense's 1033 program and to ensure that it is being used appropriately, and to require the local governing authority over a police force to approve, by vote, an application or grant request prior to the request being made to a federal agency.

**116. Raise the Age:** We call upon the Legislature to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 17 to 18 years.

**117. Warrant Validity:** The filers of search warrants should be held responsible for the validity of the information used to obtain the warrants.

**118. Bail Reform:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to ensure bail in Texas is based only on a person's danger to society and risk of flight, not on the person's ability to pay.

**119. Pandemic Release:** The Republican Party of Texas opposes the release of convicted felons from prison due to a risk of infection within the prison system during a pandemic.

**120. Pandemic Business Fines:** The Republican Party of Texas supports prohibiting fines or imprisonment of business owners for operating their business during pandemics and call for the legislature to pass these protections into law.

**121. Political Policing:** We believe that laws should be enforced uniformly, that punishment should meet the crime, and that law enforcement should never be used to target individuals for political purposes.

**122. Police Brutality:** The Republican Party of Texas opposes police brutality.

**123. Fraudulent Lien Filings:** We support legislation designed to reduce fraud by requiring that the identity of the debtor on all liens be confirmed prior to filing by at least three methods, including but not necessarily limited to state ID, county records, and personal contact.

**124. Police Unions:** The Texas Legislature should ban collective bargaining with police unions.

**125. No-Knock Raids:** Republican Party of Texas calls upon the Texas Legislature to greatly limit the use of no-knock raids.

**126. Oppose Riots:** We oppose riots, vandalism, and looting and condemn such conduct as domestic terrorism. We advocate that each and every said criminal act be dealt with immediate arrest, imprisonment, and prosecution, to the fullest extent of the law.

**127. Independent Review:** In every incident involving the death of a citizen that was directly caused by a law enforcement officer, the family of the deceased should be given the right to have an independent review convened within a reasonable time, and relatives of the deceased should be allowed to present evidence pertinent to the incident.

## Education

**128. Local Control for Education:** We believe that all children should have access to quality education. Under the US Constitution, the power to regulate education is reserved exclusively to the States and to the people. Parents have the primary right and responsibility to educate their children. The classroom should be a place where all viewpoints are welcomed, free speech is celebrated, and “person before politics” beliefs are preached. We support the right of parents to freely choose public, charter, private, parochial, or homeschooling for their children. We support the right of parents to choose the specific public school that their children attend. No child should be forced to attend a failing school. We reject the imposition of federal education standards and the tying of any government funding to the adoption of federal education standards. We reject the intrusion of government in private, parochial, or homeschools. We affirm that the policies, procedures, activities, and finances of public education in Texas at all levels should be fully transparent. To ensure transparency, the check register of all traditional school districts and charter schools should be posted online with the link on the home page. We respect parental authority regarding sex education. We believe that abortion providers and affiliates should be prohibited from providing any curriculum or instruction in schools.

**129. Abolish Department of Education:** Since education is not an enumerated power of the federal government, we believe the Department of Education should be abolished, and the transfer of any of its functions to any other federal agency should be prohibited.

**130. Eliminate the Harris County Department of Education:** Because Harris County Department of Education is the only county department of education remaining in Texas after independent school districts were created to fulfill the role, the Harris County Department of Education must be eliminated, along with its taxing authority. All assets of the Harris County Department of Education would be distributed equitably to the Independent School Districts within the county.

**131. Campus Speech:** We urge the Texas Legislature to recognize the rights of those on college campuses to practice their faith and their right to free speech. We further urge that the Texas Legislature write legislation to protect the right of students, faculty, and invited guests/speakers. We support withdrawal of public funding from any college or university within this state that actively or passively discriminates or permits discrimination against the free speech of either students or guest speakers. Student groups shall have the unfettered right to elect their leaders, choose their members, and set their organization’s mission, purpose, and standard of conduct.

**132. Religious Freedom and Public Schools:** We urge school administrators and officials not to infringe on Texas school students’ and staffs’ rights to pray and engage in religious speech, individually or in groups, on school property without government interference. We urge the Legislature to end censorship of discussion of religion in our founding documents and encourage discussing those documents, including the Bible as their basis. Students have the right to exhibit religious items on school property.

**133. Special Treatment:** Our state universities and public schools shall not make special concessions based on religious practices that create undue burdens and costs for the institution.

**134. Basic Standards:** The educational system should focus on basic standards, which include, but are not limited to, a curriculum of reading (with an emphasis on phonics), spelling, writing, civics (must pass the US Citizenship and Immigration Services test), the arts, music, literature, mathematics (including personal finance), science, geography, economics, and United States and world history. We encourage teaching critical thinking skills, including logic, rhetoric, and analytical sciences within these subjects. We advocate the value of vocational training programs.

**135. Founding Documents in High School:** We support a high school level curriculum (rather than 8<sup>th</sup> grade level) for the study of American history (pre-1877) that are heavily weighted toward the study of original founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Constitutional Convention, and Founders' writings.

**136. Scientific Theories:** We support objective teaching of scientific theories, such as life origins and climate change. These shall be taught as challengeable scientific theories subject to change as new data is produced. Teachers and students shall discuss the strengths and weaknesses of these theories openly, without fear of retribution or discrimination of any kind.

**137. National Core Curriculum:** We oppose the use of national or international standards in the State of Texas (i.e., Common Core, TEKS Resource System (formerly CSCOPE), United Nations Inclusion, National Sexuality Education Standards, and SIECUS, etc.) We also oppose the modification of college entrance exams to reflect any national core philosophies. Any school district that violates state law banning the use of a national core curriculum or standards shall lose all state funding until said curricula or standards are removed and no longer utilized in classrooms.

**138. American Identity:** We favor strengthening our common American identity, which includes the contribution and assimilation of diverse racial and ethnic groups. We reject Critical Race Theory as a post-Marxist ideology that seeks to undermine the system of law and order itself and to reduce individuals to their group identity alone. We support legislation to remove this ideology from government programs, including education involving race, discrimination, and racial awareness. To facilitate the appreciation of our American identity, the contrast between freedom and the tyrannical history of socialism/communism throughout history must be taught. Students shall pledge allegiance to the United States and Texas flags daily to instill patriotism. Students have the right to display patriotic items on school property. Schools should have the options to display the National Motto "In God We Trust."

**139. Bilingual Education:** We encourage non-English-speaking students to transition, via best practices, to English within two years, allowing them to quickly assimilate and succeed in American society.

**140. Elected SBOE:** We believe that the SBOE should continue to be an elected body consisting of fifteen members. Their responsibilities must include:

- a. Appointing the Commissioner of Education.
- b. Maintaining constitutional authority over the Permanent School Fund.
- c. Maintaining sole authority over all curricula content.
- d. The state adoption of all educational materials. This process must include public hearings.

The SBOE should be minimally staffed out of general revenue.

**141. School Options:** Texas families should be empowered to choose from public, private, charter, or homeschool options for their children's education, using tax credits or exemptions without government restraints or intrusion.

**142. School Security:** The Texas Legislature shall pass a statute that allows LTC (License to Carry) holders to carry a concealed firearm on the premises of Pre-K-12 schools for security and protection purposes.

**143. Textbook Approval:** The Texas Education Code (TEC) must be amended to empower the State Board of Education (SBOE) to require each school district that adopts non-state-approved instructional materials to conform to the SBOE higher approval process to protect citizens' right to petition, correct factual errors, prevent corruption, and fulfill legislative intent in the TEC. Local school district boards must hold public hearings prior to adoption on such materials, and citizens should have access to review classroom materials upon request at any time.

**144. Oversight of Instructional Materials:** All instructional materials paid for with state funds should be vetted by the elected State Board of Education, and we oppose appropriation of state funds for instructional content that has not been approved by the SBOE. We call for the repeal of the lobby-driven Senate Bill 6 (82nd Legislature, 1st Called Session), which allows Common Core-based materials and liberal propaganda into the classroom.

**145. Sexual Education:** We demand the State Legislature pass a law prohibiting the teaching of sex education, sexual health, or sexual choice or identity in any public school in any grade whatsoever, or disseminating or permitting the dissemination by any party of any material regarding the same. All school districts, individual schools, or charter schools are prohibited from contracting with or making any payment to any third party for material concerning any of the above topics. Until this prohibition goes into effect, sexual education shall only utilize sexual risk avoidance programs and promote abstinence outside of marriage. Before a student may be

provided with human sexuality or family planning instruction, the district must obtain the written consent of the student's parent or guardian [Opt-In status].

**146. Gender Identity:** The official position of the Texas schools shall be that there are only two genders: biological male and biological female. We oppose transgender normalizing curriculum and pronoun use.

**147. Inappropriate Content:** We request that the Texas Legislature pass legislation that requires Texas schools and libraries to filter inappropriate content, such as pornography, for minors. Operators of adult sex entertainment businesses and venues, adult entertainment of any kind, including Drag Queen Story Hour, shall not be part of educational programming in public schools, libraries, or any other taxpayer-funded program for children.

**148. Fair Play for Texas Athletes:** We hold that biological men shall compete against other biological men and biological women shall compete against other biological women in athletics in the public school system of Texas and at the collegiate level.

**149. Healthcare in Public Schools:** Legislators shall prohibit reproductive healthcare services, including counseling, referrals, and distribution of condoms and contraception through public schools. We support parents' right to choose, without penalty, which medications are administered to their minor children. We support informed consent of parents before any school-based mental health assessments or interventions are performed.

**150. School Health Advisory Councils:** Until the legislature removes sex education from the curriculum of public schools, the State of Texas should adopt changes to Texas Education Code 28.004 to:

- a. Require every member of the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) to be appointed by the Board of Trustees.
- b. Require at least 50% of SHAC be parents of students within the district.
- c. Require at least 50% of the parent attendees be present for business to be conducted.
- d. Require every school district to post:
  - i. SHAC meeting minutes.
  - ii. full and fair disclosure of the contents of the human sexuality instruction.
  - iii. proposed changes to health education.
- e. Close loopholes in order to prohibit contraception distribution and demonstration.
- f. Expand the grievance process to cover the entire section of Texas Education Code 28.004.

**151. Foreign Charter Schools:** Charter schools should have accountability and transparency to local parents, taxpayers, and the State of Texas, as do current public schools, which should

include United States citizenship of public school trustees. We oppose public funding of charter schools that receive money from foreign entities. We urge the Texas Legislature to enact legislation that requires charter school operators to be American citizens.

**152. Supporting Military Families in Education:** We ask for truancy waivers for the students whose parents are being deployed for up to 5 days prior to their departure, and up to 5 days for those returning from deployment. We support the waiver of out-of-state tuition for any dependent of military personnel stationed in Texas.

**153. Due Process for Teachers:** Teachers should be afforded the opportunity of due process.

**154. Tenure:** We support abolishing the system of tenure in academia and advocate replacing it with a merit-based system for teacher retention.

**155. College Tuition:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to take reasonable measures to curtail tuition increases. The Legislature should pass a law clearing the way for all Texas public universities to adopt at least one applied major through the “Affordable Baccalaureate Program.”

**156. Equal Access:** All Texas students shall have equal access to all state-supported grants, scholarships, and loans, based upon measurable academic criteria. Illegal aliens shall not be eligible for state or federal grants or financial assistance. We support the suspension of federal funding from universities that prohibit military recruitment on campus. We support Texas college admissions based solely on merit.

**157. Texas School Reopenings:** If Texas schools are unable to reopen on the regularly scheduled school calendar for in-person instruction, the taxpayers should not be forced to pay for it as this puts an undue burden on Texas families.

**158. No Pass No Play:** School districts performing below state education standards shall be restricted from issuing bond debt for the construction or renovation of sports facilities.

## Finance

### (Spending Restraint)

**159. Government Spending and Taxation:** We in the Republican Party of Texas believe in the principles of constitutionally limited government based on federalist principles. To this end, we encourage our elected officials at all levels of government to work to reverse the current trend of expanding government and the growing tax and debt burdens that places on “We the People.” Government spending is out of control at the federal, state, and local levels, and action is needed.

**160. Federal Fiscal Restraint:** We urge Congress to become more fiscally responsible by immediately enacting the following items:

- a. Adopt zero-based budgeting.
- b. Adopt a policy of requiring a private sector efficiency commission for each governmental department.
- c. Oppose the use of “earmarks” as a part of the budget and spending process.
- d. Prohibit Congress from passing appropriations bills unless each appropriations group is considered and passed separately.

**161. State Fiscal Restraint:** Amend the Texas Constitution and state statute with a stricter spending limitation based on US Census population growth plus inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, and apply the new limit to Texas’s total government budget.

**162. Local Fiscal Restraint:** We support local government efficiency and believe that cities and counties of a certain size could benefit from a third-party, objective review of their budgets and operations. We call on the Texas Legislature to prompt the utilization of third-party efficiency audits to identify opportunities for improvement and streamline operations.

**163. Entitlement Reform:** We support federal entitlement reform for welfare, Social Security, and Medicare to protect these programs for future generations. We oppose taxation of Social Security benefits.

**164. Economic Stabilization Fund:** We oppose the use of the Economic Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund) to expand government. Use of the Economic Stabilization Fund should be limited to its intended purposes of preventing tax increases during economic downturns and responding to unforeseen disasters.

**165. Government Pensions:** The Texas Legislature shall enact new rules to begin to transition government pensions for ERS and TDCRS members from a defined benefit pension to a defined contribution retirement plan similar to a 403(b).

**166. Gambling:** We oppose the expansion of legalized gambling. We oppose and call for a veto of any budget that relies on expansion of legalized gambling as a method of finance.

**167. Line-Item Veto:** We support strengthening the line-item veto authority of the Governor.

**168. Veto Session:** We support a constitutional amendment permitting the Legislature to return for a three-day session in response to the Governor’s veto.

**169. State Income Tax Ban:** We support maintaining the current ban on state income taxes in Texas.

**170. Truth in Taxation:** We urge that taxes established for a particular purpose shall not be used for any other purpose.

**171. Public Posting:** We support all government entities compiling and publicly posting their current debt, future obligations, financial statements, check registers, and all government contracts on their official websites.

**172. Transportation and Fuel Taxes:** We resolve that tax revenue derived from gasoline taxes and all other taxes/fees on our vehicles (including vehicle sales tax) should only be used for road construction and maintenance, and not be diverted to any other use, including mass transit, rail, restrictive lanes, and bicycle paths.

**173. Death Tax:** Abolish the Estate Tax (commonly known as the Death Tax).

**174. Higher Education Spending Control:** State Higher Education appropriations, grants, and loans should not subsidize or encourage tuition increases or growth in administrative cost.

### (School Finance and Property Taxation)

**175. Defund Big Government, Not the Police:** Any large city or county that cuts its police budget by more than 10 percent should be required to cut its property tax revenue by the same or greater percentage.

**176. Management Districts:** We oppose the creation of management or special purpose districts with the authority to impose taxes and bonded debt, and we oppose the use of eminent domain by these districts.

**177. Permanent School Fund:** We support saving the Permanent School Fund for future generations and oppose raiding it or using it as a source of additional funding for the state budget. We oppose any effort to remove State Board of Education authority over the Fund, whose constitutionally intended purpose is to fund SBOE-approved instructional materials.

**178. Abolish Property Tax:** We support replacing the property tax system with an alternative other than the income tax and requiring voter approval to increase the overall tax burden. We urge the Legislature to develop a transition plan that is a net tax cut (one of the solutions could be a consumption tax).

**179. Property Tax Increase Limitation:** We support the legislation that limited property tax revenue increases to 2.5 percent for school maintenance and operations and 3.5 percent for most other units of government. We call on the Legislature to close the disaster loophole in the law. We call on the legislature to require taxing authorities to make taxpayers whole when property taxes were raised more than 3.5 percent without voter approval.

**180. Homestead Appraisals:** We support allowing homeowners to contest their homestead appraisals in Justice of the Peace court.

**181. School Finance:** We support a simple, fair, and efficient method for financing our public school system. We oppose the “Robin Hood” system of public school finance and believe the Texas Legislature, not the courts, should determine the amount of money spent on public education and the distribution thereof. We oppose the Edgewood I and II decisions that legislate school finance from the bench.

**182. Administrative Bloat Is Not Transformative:** We call on Texas school administrators to deliver more education for our dollars, instead of nonstop lobbying for more dollars for education. At a minimum, 65 percent of revenue should be spent in the classroom. We oppose the underhanded strategy of making cuts to visible front-line teaching positions instead of administrators and overhead.

**183. School Maintenance and Operation Property Tax:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to use surplus revenue to buy down the school maintenance and operation property tax rate as a prelude to replacing it with a broader based consumption tax.

**184. Tax Notice for Renters:** We support requiring appraisal districts to publish the amount of property taxes and appraisals attributable to each rental unit. We support exploring cost-effective ways to notify renters how much property taxes they pay via rent.

## (Opposition to Market-Distorting Tax and Fiscal Subsidies)

**185. School Property Tax Abatements:** We support repealing Tax Code Chapter 313 school property tax abatements.

**186. Bailouts and Subsidies:** We encourage government to divest its ownership of all businesses that should be run in the private sector, and allow the free market to prevail; this includes all businesses run by school boards and Texas Educational Service Centers. We oppose all bailouts of domestic and foreign government entities, states, and all businesses, public and private.

**187. Community Reinvestment Act:** We support the repeal of the Community Reinvestment Act.

**188. Lending Institutions:** We support the sale of the federal government’s interest in Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) and SLM Corporation (Sallie Mae).

**189. Special Funds:** We urge the Texas Legislature to abolish the Special Events Trust Fund program, the Texas Enterprise Fund, and the Moving Image Industry Incentive Program.

**190. Pro Stadiums:** Tax dollars should not be used to fund the building of stadiums for professional or semi-professional sports teams.

**191. Public Broadcasting:** We oppose tax dollars for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

**192. Audit the Fed:** We support additional accountability and transparency for the Federal Reserve System, including regular performance audits.

## **Government and Foreign Affairs**

### **(Government Operations)**

**193. Cybersecurity Voter Registration:** The State of Texas should use any undedicated federal election funds received to improve the security of our online voter registration data.

**194. Elected Appraisal Boards:** We believe appraisal district boards should consist entirely of elected officials in the geographically affected area.

**195. Sexual Harassment:** The Republican Party of Texas believes sexual harassment should not be tolerated. Persons in a position of responsibility should conduct themselves in a family-friendly manner.

**196. Government Authority:** We believe any government authority that has the ability to levy a tax or fee on the people should be accountable to those who pay the taxes via the electoral process, from the local level to the federal level.

**197. Federal Land in Texas:** All federal land in Texas should be returned to and administered by Texas, except for land specifically authorized in the Constitution (military bases, federal buildings, post offices).

**198. Tax-Funded Lobbying:** We oppose using tax dollars to hire lobbyists or pay dues to associations that lobby the Legislature.

**199. Texas Speaker of the House:** We oppose the use of pledge cards and call for the Republican members to caucus after each November general election to determine, by secure secret ballot, their candidate for Speaker and Speaker Pro-Tempore. We also call for the Republican members to vote as a unified body for their selected Speaker candidate when the Legislature convenes in regular session.

**200. House Committees:** Texas House standing committees should advance the conservative grassroots agenda, not that of special interests and lobbyists. The chairman and a majority of members of key committees should support the conservative agenda. Specifically, we call for a pro-life Public Health Committee, a pro-Constitutional-Carry and pro-police Public Safety and

Homeland Security Committee, and a pro-traditional values State Affairs Committee. The Public and Higher Education Committees should spend more time advancing conservative reforms and less time pandering to superintendents, vendors, and university administrators.

**201. House Calendars Committee:** We call for changes to the House Rules that require the House Calendars Committee to vote on a bill within 14 days of receipt, or it is automatically put on the calendar. We also support automatic setting of a bill on the calendar within seven days if it is cosponsored by three-fifths of House members. We call for votes on each bill individually that is not set on the calendar, rather than killing a slate of bills at once.

**202. Candidate Support:** The Republican Party of Texas should provide financial support only to those candidates who support the right-to-life planks.

**203. Unelected Bureaucrats:** We oppose the appointment of unelected bureaucrats, and we support defunding and abolishing the departments or agencies of the Internal Revenue Service; Education; Energy; Housing and Urban Development; Commerce; Health and Human Services; Labor; Interior (specifically, the Bureau of Land Management); Transportation Security Administration; Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and National Labor Relations Board. In the interim, executive decisions by departments or agencies must be reviewed and approved by Congress before taking effect.

**204. Sunset Commission:** We support a majority citizen-led Sunset Commission.

**205. Ordinances Providing Safe Haven Cities for the Preborn:** We support the right of Texas municipalities to protect mothers and preborn children in their communities by passing enforceable city ordinances that ban abortions and abortion industry businesses within their city limits.

## **(Elections)**

**206. Bond Elections:** State and local bond election ballots should be required to include the amount of debt currently outstanding, current debt service payments, current per capita debt obligations, the amount of new debt being proposed, estimated debt service for the new debt, and estimated per capita burden being proposed. The bond issue must obtain a yes vote of a minimum of 20 percent of registered voters at an election administered by the County. No public funds are to be spent influencing a bond election. We oppose bundling of items on bond election ballots and “rolling polling” for bond and tax rate increase elections.

**207. Judicial Candidate Speech:** We support a state constitutional amendment that would enable judicial candidates to express their beliefs in general terms before elections to thus inform voters of their views.

**208. Pay-to-Play Endorsement Slates:** We oppose “pay-to-play” endorsement slates and urge Republican primary voters to exercise extreme caution regarding any endorsement or statement made in these slates.

**209. Early Voting:** We support that early voting will be limited to 7 days, ending on the Friday before Election Day.

**210. Fair Election Procedures:** We support the right of eligible voters to cast a ballot in each election once but oppose illegal voting, illegal assistance, or ineligible persons registering. We support vigorous enforcement of all our election laws as written and oppose any laws, lawsuits, and judicial decisions that make voter fraud very difficult to deter, detect, or prosecute. We support Voter Photo ID. Internet voting for public office and any ballot measure should be prohibited.

**211. Ballot by Mail:** We oppose any attempt to expand the criteria for ballot by mail in Texas because of the potential for voter fraud. We support increased scrutiny and security in balloting by mail.

**212. Offense Enforcement for In-Person Voting:** We support raising to felony status infractions of the Texas Election Code during in-person voting, including allowing persons not in the poll book to vote a regular ballot, willfully misclassifying the reason for a provisional ballot, giving one voter multiple ballot access codes or multiple ballots, and all forms of voter assistance not compliant with Texas Election Code, especially “assistants” who force themselves on voters to influence their votes.

**213. Felon Voting:** We support the constitutional authority of state legislatures to regulate voting, including disenfranchisement of convicted felons.

**214. Actual Residence:** We support changes to the appropriate sections of Texas law that would deny or cancel homestead exemptions, driver licenses, and License to Carry, if the addresses on those documents DO NOT match the address on the voter’s registration.

**215. Consolidated Elections:** All public elections, with the exception of specially called elections, should be consolidated to Primary and General Election days and locations.

**216. Voter Registration:** We support restoring integrity to the voter registration rolls and reducing voter fraud. We support repealing all motor voter laws, re-registering voters every four years, requiring photo ID of all registrants, requiring proof of residency and citizenship along with the voter registration application, retaining the 30-day registration deadline, and requiring that a list of certified deaths be provided to the Secretary of State in order that the names of deceased voters be removed from the list of registered voters. We support periodic checks on the voter rolls to ensure all currently registered voters are eligible, with prompt removal of ineligible voters. We should give the Secretary of State enforcement authority to ensure county

registrar compliance with Secretary of State directives. We also support revising Title 19 funding to avoid incentivizing retention of ineligible voters.

**217. Ballot Harvesting:** We support stiff criminal penalties against so-called “ballot harvesters,” those who collect or fill out mailed ballots on behalf of a campaign.

**218. Campaigning at Poll Sites:** We encourage free speech at polling sites outside of the existing boundaries. The right to campaign, including the display of signage, with respect to current state law, at an appropriate distance (100 feet) from the polling place, shall not be infringed.

**219. Voting Rights:** We support equal suffrage for all United States citizens of voting age who are not felons. We oppose any identification of citizens by race, origin, or creed and oppose use of any such identification for purposes of creating voting districts. We urge that the Voting Rights Act of 1965, codified and updated in 1973, be repealed and not reauthorized.

**220. Direct Elections of State Judges:** We support our right to select our judges by direct vote.

**221. English-Only Ballots:** English, and only English, shall appear on any ballot for any election in the United States of America and in the State of Texas.

**222. Closed Primary:** We support protecting the integrity of the Republican Primary Election by requiring a closed primary system in Texas.

**223. Crossover Voting:** We welcome people to join the Republican Party who support limited government and traditional values. We oppose campaigns to get liberal Democrats to cross over and move the Republican Party to the left in the primary.

**224. Redistricting:** We support drawing districts based on eligible voters, not pure population. We believe districts should be geographically compact when possible. We oppose any redistricting map that is unfair to conservative candidates in the primary or the general election.

**225. County Chair Elections:** We support the election of Republican County Chairs—for counties with more than 70,000 residents—by their respective County Executive Committees.

## **(Foreign Policy)**

**226. Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR):** We hereby call on all law enforcement and governmental agencies in Texas to avoid and suspend all contact and outreach activities with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), named unindicted co-conspirators in the Holy Land Foundation trial, with ties to terrorist groups such as Hamas.

**227. Foreign Policy:** We support a foreign policy that relies on peace through the strength of our national defense and avoids foreign deployments or entanglements. We support a free-market economy, private humanitarian aid to developing countries, continued favorable

treatment of proven allies, censure of adversarial entities that seek destruction of other countries, and strong policy on confronting terrorists. We strongly oppose religious or ethnic cleansing. We oppose US aid to any foreign entity that consistently votes against our interests or is openly hostile to our nation.

**228. Trade with China:** We support a re-examination of our trading relationship with China based on America's economic and foreign policy interests. America should not be dependent on a communist country for critical medical or technological resources, including prescription drugs like penicillin.

**229. People's Republic of China Aggression:** China's aggression in the South China Sea endangers international trade routes and infringes on allied nations' sovereignty. The cybersecurity threat posed by China continues to grow. We support the people of Hong Kong in their quest for freedom and democracy and call for China to honor its agreements with the United Kingdom.

**230. Foreign Aid:** We support foreign aid only to America's allies who share our values.

**231. Iran and North Korea:** We oppose development of nuclear weapons by Iran and North Korea, and we oppose easing sanctions on either country until their hostile behavior and nuclear proliferation cease.

**232. Israel:** We are grateful the US Embassy in Israel has been moved to Jerusalem, Israel's eternal and indivisible capital. We strongly affirm Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. We insist upon Israel's right to exist, right to secure borders, and right to the land secured by practicing self-defense from aggressive enemies. We oppose the creation of a Palestinian state within the historical borders of Israel, as it would jeopardize Israel's security and it would force Israel to give up land that God gave to the Jewish people as referenced in Genesis. We reaffirm our support for Israel's maintaining a qualitative military edge over any and all adversaries through continued support militarily, financially, and technologically. We respect Israel's rights of sovereignty, self-determination, and self-defense.

**233. Oppose BDS:** We strongly oppose the anti-Semitic Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement as a form of warfare being waged upon Israel, on all levels, including and especially on college campuses, at the United Nations, and by anti-Western nongovernmental organizations.

**234. Taiwan:** We call upon the United States to move toward full diplomatic recognition of Taiwan as an independent and sovereign nation and to renew our commitment to defend our security interests in the Western Pacific region in the face of China's military provocations, which threaten its neighbors and critical maritime trade routes.

**235. United Nations:** The United Nations is a detriment to the sovereignty of the United States and other countries, and because of this we support:

- a. Our withdrawal from the current United Nations.
- b. The removal of the United Nations from United States soil.
- c. The rejection of all Agenda 21 and Agenda 2030 policies and programs.
- d. The rejection of all related NGOs, councils, and environmental programs.
- e. A zero-budget allotment of American tax dollars to any United Nations programs.
- f. The opposition of any designation of World Heritage Sites in the United States and especially in Texas.
- g. Withdrawal from the UN Arms Trade Treaty.
- h. President Trump's withdrawal from the corrupt World Health Organization (WHO) and his demand for reforms of that organization.
- i. A credible, impartial, and international investigation into the WHO's and China's actions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

**236. UN Treaty on the Rights of the Child:** We unequivocally oppose the United States Senate's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**237. Taxation by a Foreign Entity:** Any attempt to allow the United Nations or any other foreign entity to levy taxes on United States citizens or governments should be prohibited.

## Health and Human Services

**238. Caring for Our Mentally Disabled Citizens:** We urge the Legislature to continue funding and operating all state-supported living centers for mentally disabled legal Texas residents, and to continually seek common sense improvements to increase efficiency.

**239. Mental Health:** We support parents' right to choose or reject, with prior written informed consent and without penalty, each medication and mental health assessment or survey administered to their children.

**240. Parental Safeguard:** We support abolishing the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium, the trauma-informed care policy, school-based mental health providers, school-based or school-connected mental health interventions, and other public school programs that serve to expand access to minor children for development and training of thirteen universities and colleges of psychiatry and their residents.

**241. Welfare Reform:** Welfare reform should encourage partnerships with faith-based institutions, community, and business organizations to assist individuals in need. We encourage welfare reform in the following areas:

- a. Denying benefits to individuals who cannot prove citizenship.

- b. Reforming welfare programs to require recipients to work, learn, and train to move toward self-sufficiency.
- c. Reforming welfare programs to require recipients to remain substance-abuse free in exchange for temporary benefits not exceeding two years.
- d. Requiring all welfare recipients to submit to random drug testing in order to receive benefits.
- e. Requiring that money provided through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) be used only for nutritious foods consistent with those included under the WIC program, and be released only with a photo ID of the approved user.
- f. Implementing a non-monetary-based assistance program for providing supplemental food benefits.
- g. Removing prisoners from welfare rolls.

**242. Federal Welfare Programs:** We support the abolition of all federal welfare programs, as they are not an appropriate role of the federal government.

**243. Defunding HUD's AFFH:** We support defunding HUD's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH).

**244. Child Support Related to Welfare:** Mothers applying for government financial support, exempting rape victims, should provide the verifiable name and any known contact information of the birth father, which information shall be turned over to the State of Texas Attorney General's Office within 30 days for collection of child support.

**245. Homosexuality:** We believe there should be no granting of special legal entitlements or creation of special status for homosexual behavior, regardless of state of origin, and we oppose any criminal or civil penalties against those who oppose homosexuality out of faith, conviction, or belief in traditional values. No one should be granted special legal status based on their LGBTQ+ identification.

**246. Gender Identity:** We oppose all efforts to validate transgender identity. For the purpose of attempting to affirm a person 21 or under if their perception is inconsistent with their biological sex, no medical practitioner or provider may engage in the following practices:

- a. Intervene in any way to prevent natural progression of puberty.
- b. Administer or provide opposite sex hormones.
- c. Perform any surgery on healthy body parts of the underage person.

**247. No Taxpayer Funding for Sex Change:** We oppose the use of taxpayer funds for any type of medical gender dysphoria treatments or sex change operations and/or treatments. This includes but is not limited to military personnel as well as inmates in federal, state, or local prisons or jails. Inmates must be housed according to their biological sex.

**248. Counseling Methods:** Therapists, psychologists, and counselors licensed with the State of Texas should not be forbidden or penalized by any licensing board for practicing Reintegrative Therapy or other counseling methods when counseling clients of any age with gender dysphoria or unwanted same-sex attraction.

**249. Addiction:** We oppose legalization and decriminalization of illicit and synthetic drugs. We also oppose any needle exchange programs. Faith-based rehabilitation programs should be considered as a part of an overall rehabilitation program.

**250. Healthcare Decisions:** Informed consent is a basic human right. All people have the right to weigh the risks and benefits of any medical intervention for themselves or minor family members in determining whether or not to undergo any intervention. To this end, we declare:

- a. Healthcare decisions, including routine preventive care such as immunizations, should be between a patient and healthcare professional and should be protected from government intrusion.
- b. Texas public schools have a duty to inform parents they can opt out of CDC recommended vaccinations for their children.
- c. Abortion is not healthcare.
- d. Government has no right to mandate specific medical procedures or methods of healthcare.
- e. Both the risks and benefits of a proposed intervention must be equally communicated and accessible to the patient or to a minor patient's parents or guardian.
- f. The patient's decision, or, in the case of a minor, the parent or guardian's decision, to undergo a procedure or not must be recognized as equally valid without bias, consequence, or retaliation.
- g. We reject any government-mandated treatment, vaccination, or use of controlled substances of any kind.
- h. We call for an addition to the Texas Bill of Rights that explicitly recognizes the natural right to refuse vaccination or medical treatment and the right for such choices to not be a condition of provision of government services.

**251. Texas Medical Practice Act:** To protect the rights of both patients and physicians, the Texas Medical Board (TMB) should adopt the following provisions in the Texas Medical Practice Act:

- a. Protect the right of patients to choose natural solutions, including chiropractic care, to their health problems, as well as the physician's right to provide natural solutions for health problems.
- b. Eliminate confidential complaints against physicians.
- c. Eliminate anonymous medical witnesses against physicians.
- d. Mandate legal due process in all TMB proceedings.

- e. Allow physicians the right to have a complaint against them tried in a state district court, rather than in an administrative law court.
- f. Prohibit TMB members from working for insurance, pharmaceutical companies, or hospitals while serving on the board, to prevent conflict of interest.
- g. Prohibit intimidation tactics by TMB lawyers against physicians.

**252. Healthcare Choice:** No government bureaucrat or insurance company should be allowed to interfere with citizens' freedom to choose their type of medical care. We demand the US Congress to repeal the ACA and pass healthcare reform that results in more affordable healthcare through a market-based, competitive, and transparent healthcare system, including but not limited to:

- a. Tort reform.
- b. Interstate competition.
- c. Health savings accounts.
- d. Genuine accountability.
- e. Oversight.
- f. Portability and extended COBRA availability.
- g. Selection of coverage (rather than paying for coverage not needed or not wanted).
- h. Price transparency of all medical procedures and drugs.
- i. Medical expense sharing organizations.

**253. Natural Medical Right:** We call for an addition to the Texas Bill of Rights that explicitly recognizes the natural right to refuse vaccination or medical treatment and the right for vaccination or medical treatment to not be a condition of provision of government services.

**254. Medication Manufacturing:** Medications and prescription drugs consumed in the US should be manufactured in the US for security, consistency, and reliability of the drug.

**255. Water Supply:** The Republican Party of Texas opposes medication of the drinking water supply of the state of Texas, including but not limited to fluoridation.

**256. Cannabis Classification:** Congress should remove cannabis from the list of Schedule 1 and move to Schedule 2. We call upon the Texas Legislature to improve the 2015 Compassionate Use Act to allow doctors to determine the appropriate use of cannabis for their patients.

**257. Medicaid Reform:** We support Medicaid block grants to the states and returning Medicaid to its original purpose to be a temporary assistance. We oppose any further expansion of Medicaid.

**258. Medicare Reform:** Medicare Part A should have a parallel opt-out to Part B for those who have health insurance through their employer and continue to work. Part A will then kick in when they retire.

**259. Labels on Medications:** The labels on all prescription and over-the-counter drugs, supplements, and medical supplies must be required to show the country where manufactured or produced.

**260. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”):** We demand the immediate repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which we believe to be unconstitutional.

**261. Medical Records and Informed Consent:** We oppose any state or federal medical record computer database that stores personal identifiable records on citizens without their written consent.

**262. Contact Tracing:** We strongly oppose contact tracing, tracking, or surveillance, and we also strongly oppose any action similar to the federal TRACE Act. Contract tracing, tracking, or surveillance are not core functions of public health. No government entity, nor private entity, nor combination thereof, nor the Texas National Guard, shall ever be employed to violate the natural rights of Texans.

**263. Right to Try:** We urge the Texas State Legislature and Governor to enact laws that allow patients and their doctors to have access to experimental medications and procedures that can potentially be lifesaving or improve quality of life.

**264. Healthcare Savings Accounts:** All individuals should be allowed to establish health savings accounts. Individuals should be allowed higher annual contributions to health savings accounts.

**265. Texas HSA:** We recommend the creation of the State of Texas Health Savings Account, with funds in excess of those needed in the Rainy Day Fund, with the purpose of enabling the state to develop reserves sufficient to exit the federal Medicaid program, which will not expire nor be utilized for any other purpose.

**266. Fetal Tissue Harvesting and Stem Cell Research:** We support legislation prohibiting experimentation or commercial use of human fetal tissue, including for vaccines, which requires or is dependent upon the destruction of human life. We encourage adult stem cell research using cells from umbilical cords, from adults, and from any other means that does not kill human embryos. We also support elimination of public funding for embryonic stem cell research, research on fetal tissue, or human cloning.

**267. Choice of Therapy:** We affirm the right of people with unwanted same-sex attraction or gender confusion to seek therapies to meet their purposes. No laws or executive orders shall be

imposed to limit or restrict access to sexual orientation change counseling or therapy to resolve gender confusion in a way that supports biological sex, for self-motivated youth and adults.

**268. Parental Rights and Responsibilities:** We support the fundamental, constitutional rights of parents to raise and educate their children, including their rights to direct the care, custody, control, upbringing, moral and religious training, and medical care of their children. Local, state, or federal laws, regulations, or policies that limit parental rights in the rearing of both biological and adopted children shall not be enacted. Parents have the God-given right and responsibility to direct and guide their children's care and moral upbringing.

**269. Parental Rights of Dependent Adult Children:** As long as parents are responsible for an adult child, through college or the age of 26 when children are on the parents' insurance, the parents must have access to medical information, grades, and other information normally afforded to parents of minor children.

**270. Parental Consent:** We insist on informed parental consent for all medical care, counseling, etc., for all minors.

**271. Conscience Clause:** All persons and legal entities have the right of conscience and should be protected under Texas law if they conscientiously object to participate in practices that conflict with their moral or religious beliefs. This includes, but is not limited to, abortion, the prescription for and dispensing of drugs with abortifacient potential, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, eugenic screenings, genetic engineering, euthanasia, assisted suicide, harmful futile procedures, vaccines, and the withdrawal of nutrition and hydration.

**272. Alternatives to Abortion:** Until abortion is made illegal in Texas, we urge the Republican Party of Texas and the Texas Legislature to assist in educating the public regarding alternatives to abortion, especially adoption.

**273. Discriminatory Abortion:** We support legislation such as the Preborn Non-Discrimination Act (Pre-NDA) to close existing discriminatory loopholes that fail to protect preborn children suspected of having a "fetal anomaly" or disability, and we support legislation to enact anti-discriminatory language to apply additional protections to preborn children at risk of being aborted because of their sex, race, disability, or age of gestation, in addition to providing families with information about life-affirming social and medical services available to them in Texas, such as perinatal palliative care.

**274. Planned Parenthood:** We support completely eliminating public funding for Planned Parenthood and any other abortion providers and all their affiliates, and we oppose their digital or physical presence in our schools and other public institutions, and the expansion of their facilities in our neighborhoods.

**275. Human Embryos:** We support the adoption of human embryos and the banning of human embryo trafficking.

**276. End-of-Life Patient Protection:** We support patients' rights, especially near the end of life, and call for reform of existing legislation so that:

- a. Texas law should provide that medical personnel may not deny care, change advanced directives, or originate directives for any patient without the permission of the patient or the patient's designate.
- b. We also support the passage of legislation to amend the Advance Directives Act by requiring hospitals intending or threatening to withdraw life-sustaining treatment against the patient's wishes or their advance directive to continue all treatment and care for such patients pending transfer to another facility.
- c. We also support legislation to prohibit the discriminatory rationing of healthcare services premised on any aspect of the patient, including a patient's age, race, sex, disability, or perceived quality of life.

**277. Repeal and Replace Ten-Day Rule:** We support legislation repealing the unethical Ten-Day Rule in Section 166.046, Health and Safety Code, which allows physicians to withdraw basic life-sustaining treatment (like a ventilator) after an impending countdown. We also support legislation replacing the Ten-Day Rule with a truly life-affirming law that requires a patient's or surrogate's medical decision about basic life-sustaining treatment to be honored until the patient is transferred to another physician or facility that will honor the decision to continue life-sustaining treatment.

**278. Home and Community-Based Services:** We call on the Texas Legislature to support Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) as a pro-life alternative, and to enact language to apply additional protections and to address any loopholes that fail to protect or provide appropriate home and community-based alternatives for children and adults with disabilities, in addition to providing families with information about life-affirming social and medical services available to them in Texas as alternatives to abortion and costly institutional care.

**279. Modernized Social Security Card:** We support the improvement of our 1936 Social Security card to use contemporary anti-counterfeit technology. The Social Security card will not be considered a national ID card for United States citizens.

**280. Social Security Disability:** We support appropriate limits on the length of time to receive Social Security disability benefits for all but those truly not able to do ANY kind of paid employment.

**281. Toxic Exposure:** We support the immediate implementation of the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015, which will ensure that the federal government will establish a database on all exposed veterans and their families.

**282. VA Medical Benefits Not Limited:** We support allowing veterans to use VA medical benefits at private medical providers and not be limited to VA Hospitals.

**283. Replace the VA:** We support replacing the Veterans Administration with a commercial insurance plan that allows eligible veterans to obtain health services from any licensed provider.

**284. Pandemic Response:** We call upon Texas elected officials to never again implement mass lockdowns on the people of Texas in the name of communicable disease response. Texas officials shall never again dare to presume that they know best how to medically treat Texans or prioritize the medical treatment of Texans. Elected officials must never make command and control edicts that dictate to healthcare providers how to do their job.

**285. Pornography Crisis:** The State of Texas shall recognize that pornography is a public health crisis.

## **National Defense and Border Security**

**286. Support of Our Armed Forces:** The men and women who wear our country's uniform, whether on active duty or in the Reserves or National Guard, are the most important assets in our military arsenal. All current and prior military personnel and their families must have the benefits, healthcare, housing, education, and overall support they need. Injured military personnel deserve the best medical, mental health, and rehabilitative care our country has to offer. Veterans Administration monetary benefits shall match present national price index value in all programs.

**287. Proof of Legal Residency for Public Services:** Texas shall require proof of legal residency for obtaining a Texas driver license and enrolling in public school, and shall require proof of citizenship for obtaining voter registration and public benefits.

**288. No Gender Norming in Military:** We oppose gender norming in the military. Transgendered persons should not serve in the military as a special class; no special considerations or medical treatment shall be required or offered.

**289. Missile Defense:** We urge the continuing development and enhancement of missile defense.

**290. Military Readiness:** 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 oppose placement of US troops under command of the United Nations.

**291. Defeat Terrorism:** We support an aggressive war on terrorism, including radical Islamic terrorists, which consists of cooperating with our allies and sanctioning nations that sponsor terrorists. We support the reasonable use of profiling, the prosecution of national security breaches, and the revision of laws or executive orders that erode our liberties. We call on the federal government to designate the Muslim Brotherhood a foreign terrorist organization, and

we call on governmental agencies to avoid and suspend all activities with all radical Islamic organizations, such as the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

**292. Abolish Refugee Resettlement Program:** We call for the abolition of the refugee resettlement program.

**293. Citizenship Qualification:** We call on the United States Congress to pass a constitutional amendment that defines citizenship as those born to a citizen of the United States or through naturalization.

**294. Amnesty:** Any form of amnesty with regard to immigration policy should not be granted, including the granting of legal status to persons in the country illegally. Illegal aliens shall be deported.

**295. Border Security Funding:** We expect both the Texas Legislature and the United States Congress to make a priority of allocating funds to effectively secure the border through whatever means necessary, including but not limited to barriers, a border wall, and/or fence everywhere along the border where it is feasible and useful, as well as personnel and technology over land, sea, and air.

**296. Eliminate Illegal Immigration Magnets:** No tax dollars should be provided for social or educational programs for illegal aliens. All existing laws providing for in-state tuition and nonemergency medical care shall be rescinded. All nonverifiable foreign-issued identification cards shall be legally invalid in the United States.

**297. E-Verify:** Texas should require all employers to screen new hires through the free E-Verify system to prevent the hiring of illegal aliens and of anyone not legally authorized to work in the US, and to protect jobs for American workers. We call upon the 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to pass legislation to this effect.

**298. Sanctuary Cities:** State and federal funds shall be denied to any public or private entity, including but not limited to sanctuary cities, that are not in compliance with immigration laws. Prosecute the responsible elected officials of Sanctuary Cities/Counties/States for obstruction of Immigration Laws.

**299. Immigration System:** We demand that state and federal law enforcement officers enforce our immigration laws, implement an entry/exit tracking system for visa holders, and expedite hearings on deporting both violent and non-violent illegal immigrants and visa overstays. Chain migration and the diversity visa lottery should be eliminated. Our legal immigration system should be strictly merit based, and the total number of new immigrants should be limited to a level that facilitates assimilation.

**300. H-1B Visas:** The Republican Party of Texas calls for the permanent end of the H-1B Foreign Worker Visa program in the interest of protecting American jobs, classified technology, and national security.

**301. Aiding and Abetting Illegal Immigrants:** We support revoking the 501(c)3 tax exempt status of any organization that breaks state and federal law by knowingly aiding and abetting illegal immigrants.

**302. National Guard Deployment:** Congress shall not abdicate the war powers to the executive branch except when under imminent threat and not to be used as a preemptive strike unless approved by Congress. The Texas National Guard should only be deployed to overseas combat zones under authorization of Congress through a declaration of war.

## **State Affairs**

**303. Alamo:** The Alamo is a historical event to Texas and as such:

- a. Should be remembered and not “reimagined.”
- b. Texas’s authority regarding the Alamo shall not be infringed upon by any organization or authority, including but not limited to local governments, the federal government, the United Nations, or UNESCO.
- c. Decision-making authority for the Alamo must never be removed from Texas.
- d. The custodians of the Alamo must be required to:
  - i. Affirm and emphasize the intrinsic significance of the 1836 battle in telling the story of the Alamo.
  - ii. Maintain transparency in finances and operations of the Alamo.
- e. Specific protection shall be afforded the site, including all land and existing monuments, including the Cenotaph, which SHALL NOT be moved from its present site.

**304. Heritage:** We call upon governmental entities to protect all symbols of our American and Texan heritage and therefore:

- a. We oppose governmental action to remove the public display of the Ten Commandments or other religious symbols.
- b. We support the Pledge Protection Act. We urge that the national motto “In God We Trust” and the National Anthem be protected from legislative and judicial attack.
- c. Penalties should be established for any form of desecration of the American or Texas Flag.
- d. We support preservation of Texas history and historical sites.

e. Visitors to the Alamo should conduct themselves with decorum and reverence inside the shrine, out of respect for the sacrifice of the heroes who are honored there.

f. We call for restoration of plaques honoring the Confederate widow's pension fund contribution that were illegally removed from the Texas Supreme Court building.

**305. Historical Monuments:** We believe all historical war memorials, including Confederate monuments, in Texas shall be protected from future removal or defacement and that those monuments that have been removed should be restored to their historical locations. We support the continuing allocation of funds that are necessary to preserve the USS Texas as a permanent monument to the ship, her crew of two world wars, and the history of the State of Texas.

**306. Honor Our Flags:** We appreciate and honor our flags and what they represent, and we strongly advocate for all public schools to display the US and Texas flags in every classroom and to begin each school day with the pledges to both.

**307. Campaign Finance Transparency:** We support laws requiring full disclosure by political candidates of the amounts and sources of any campaign contributions, whether contributed by individuals, political action committees, or other entities. We oppose reporting requirements that infringe on the free-speech rights of citizens. We urge immediate repeal of all limits on campaign contributions by American citizens to the candidates or causes of their choice.

**308. No Restrictions on Charities:** We oppose any restrictions by any government agency on individual taxpayer contributions to churches, faith-based charities, and other non-profit organizations.

**309. Freedom of Assembly:** We believe in the constitutional freedom of assembly throughout Texas.

**310. Religious Freedom for Business Owners:** We support the removal of laws and regulations that are used to force business owners and employees to violate their conscience, sincerely held beliefs, or core values.

**311. Public Accommodations:** We support legislation at the state and federal levels that concretely defines public accommodations as originally defined and understood in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that it:

a. Prohibit any change to that legal definition by any federal, state, or local law to expand government control to restrict any First Amendment rights.

- b. Proscribe any law that requires any private business or individual to create or provide a custom product or service, or any kind of expressive work, or enter into a contract, or be coerced into any speech that is not their own.

**312. Religious Freedom of Speech and Practice:** As America is “one nation under God,” founded on Judeo-Christian principles, we affirm the constitutional right of all individuals to worship as they choose. We strongly believe in Religious Freedom and Freedom of Speech. Therefore, we demand:

- a. The repeal of the Johnson Amendment, which assaults the free speech of pastors and religious organizations.
- b. Protection of the First Amendment rights of any citizen to practice their religion and exercise their right to free speech in the public square, as well as in religious organization affiliations.
- c. Elimination of Federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) involvement with Church messaging.
- d. That Texas judges and legislators uphold and defend our First Amendment rights of religious liberty and freedom of speech, and we oppose any effort to intimidate and prevent Christians and other people of faith from exercising their rights.
- e. Acknowledgement that the Church is a God-ordained institution with a sphere of authority separate from that of civil government, and thus the Church is not to be regulated, controlled, or taxed by any level of civil government.

**313. Daylight Saving Time:** We urge the Texas Legislature to enact legislation to end Daylight Saving Time in Texas.

**314. Gender Identity Facilities in Businesses:** We support enacting legislation in the State of Texas ensuring that:

- a. No government entity in the state shall be allowed to take it upon itself to define for any private business or private entity how it must segregate its restrooms, changing facilities, or showers.
- b. Nor may any government agency be allowed to require businesses to profess, espouse, or adopt specific views on sex, sexuality, gender, or gender identity.
- c. Government agencies must guarantee that views and positions on these matters are not used as a basis to deny access to public accommodations, as defined by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, nor to deny employment, or discriminate in employment decisions, solely on the basis of a person's views on these matters.

**315. Child Rights:** We call on the Texas Legislature to pass legislation to protect privacy in public schools and government buildings as allowed by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, by ensuring that multi-use facilities, including showers, changing rooms, and bathrooms, are designated for and used only by persons based on the person's biological sex.

**316. Gender Identity Pronouns:** We oppose any attempt to criminalize and/or penalize anyone for the wrong use of pronouns.

**317. Homosexual Behavior:** We affirm God's biblical design for marriage and sexual behavior between one biological man and one biological woman, which has proven to be the foundation for all great nations in Western civilization. We oppose homosexual marriage, regardless of state of origin. We urge the Texas Legislature to pass religious liberty protections for individuals, businesses, and government officials who believe marriage is between one man and one woman. We oppose the granting of special legal entitlements or creation of special status for LGBTQ+ behavior, regardless of state of origin. We oppose any criminal or civil penalties against those who oppose homosexuality out of faith, conviction, or belief in traditional values.

**318. Definition of Marriage:** We support the definition of marriage as a God-ordained, legal, and moral commitment only between one natural man and one natural woman.

**319. State Authority over Marriage:** We support withholding jurisdiction from the federal courts in cases involving family law, especially any changes in the definition of marriage.

**320. Spousal Benefits:** We shall not recognize or grant to any unmarried person the legal rights or status of a spouse, including granting benefits by political subdivisions.

**321. No-Fault Divorce:** We urge the Legislature to rescind unilateral no-fault divorce laws and support covenant marriage.

**322. Overturn Unconstitutional Ruling:** We believe the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision, overturning the Texas law prohibiting same-sex marriage in Texas, has no basis in the Constitution and should be reversed, returning jurisdiction over the definition of marriage to the states. The Governor and other elected officials of the State of Texas should assert our Tenth Amendment right and reject the Supreme Court ruling.

**323. Adoption:** We encourage the Texas Legislature to remove as many barriers to adoption as possible and make the process less intrusive while protecting children's safety and best interests. We urge the Texas Legislature to adopt the following steps to promote adoption:

- a. Continue to privatize the process.
- b. Continue to allow faith-based agencies to set their own rules and requirements for adoptions.
- c. Change incentives to encourage successful permanent placement of children instead of continuation of foster care.

- d. Remove obstacles to transracial adoptions while continuing to increase the amount of minority adoptive parents.
- e. Enact legislation to permit foster parents to initiate adoption proceedings.

We urge communities and people of faith to promote adoption and for those not called to adopt themselves to offer assistance to families that can. We believe that, in the best interests of the family and child, the State of Texas should allow children to be adopted only by married or single heterosexuals.

**324. Pro-life:** Until the abolition of abortion is achieved, we support laws that restrict and regulate abortion including, but not limited to:

- a. Parental and informed consent, including the elimination of judicial bypass.
- b. Prohibition of licensing, liability, and malpractice insurance for abortionists and abortion facilities.
- c. Prohibition of financial kickbacks for abortion referrals.
- d. Prohibition of late-term abortions.
- e. Prohibition of abortions after the time an unborn child's heartbeat is detected.
- f. Prohibition of the manufacturing and sale of abortifacients.
- g. Elimination of causes of action for "wrongful birth."
- h. Health insurance coverage for abortion services and abortifacients, which under Texas law should be considered supplemental coverage and billed to the beneficiary.

**325. Abolish Abortion:** Since life begins at conception, we urge the Texas Legislature to abolish abortion through enacting legislation that would immediately secure the rights to life and would ignore or refuse to enforce any and all federal statutes, regulations, orders, and court rulings that would deny these rights.

**326. Dismemberment Abortion:** We strongly support the prohibition of elective dismemberment abortions, a type of dilation and evacuation abortion, which take the life of preborn children by removing their limbs.

**327. State Authority over Abortion:** Consistent with the plank titled Limiting the Power of the Supreme Court in the Constitutional Issues section of this platform, we urge the Texas Congressional delegation to pass legislation implementing their authority under Article 3, Section 2, of the US Constitution to eliminate the Supreme Court's ability to adjudicate abortion cases.

**328. Fundamental Right to Life:** All innocent human life must be respected and safeguarded from fertilization to natural death; therefore, the unborn, the aged, and the physically or mentally challenged have a fundamental individual right to life, which cannot be infringed.

- 329. Reverse Roe v. Wade:** We are resolute in our support of the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*.
- 330. Property Annexation:** Homeowners and landowners in an area proposed for annexation should have the right to vote to approve or reject the annexation, regardless of the population of the county. No annexation can occur within 45 days of any election.
- 331. HOA Governance:** We support legislation prohibiting HOAs from using “policies” to bypass the process of residents’ voting on changes in deed restrictions. We urge the Texas Legislature to enact legislation allowing a simple majority of property owners within and subject to a homeowners’ association to dissolve the association. The Texas Legislature should enact legislation to restrict developers from controlling the Homeowners Association more than 5 years and expanding the properties included beyond contiguous property.
- 332. Property Rights:** Property ownership and free enterprise, the foundation of our collective wealth, must not be abridged nor denied by government. We support legislation to protect these bedrock rights. Areas of concern are: annexation, eminent domain (including foreign entities), property forfeiture, extraterritorial jurisdiction, seizure for public or private development, natural resources and conservation easements, groundwater and/or mineral rights, nationalization of lands, and the preservation of our Fourth Amendment right to privacy. Property owners should be notified of their rights with regard to condemnation, annexation, or easement, and the condemner should be required to petition a court of jurisdiction to show public necessity. Taking of property should result in immediate compensation of fair market value to the owner. These issues should be administered by elected officials accountable to voters.
- 333. Eminent Domain:** The use of eminent domain must exclude the seizure of private property for private economic development or increased tax revenue.
- 334. Unfunded Mandates Impact:** We urge all governing bodies within Texas to consider the impact on taxpayers for any mandate they pass.
- 335. Platform Integrity:** The Platform Committee of the Republican Party of Texas at their state convention may not diminish the platform without a plank by plank vote.
- 336. Right to Use Cash and Cash Substitutes:** The Republican Party of Texas supports adding the following protection to the Texas Bill of Rights: The right of the people to own, hold, and use a mutually agreed upon medium of exchange, including cash, coin, bullion, digital currency, or scrip, when trading and contracting for goods and services shall not be infringed. No government shall prohibit or encumber the ownership or holding of any form or amount of money or other currency. This amendment shall not be construed to restrain the State of Texas from choosing the mediums of exchange it will accept or reject in payments to it.

**337.** Employment Privacy: We call upon the Texas Legislature to abolish and oppose fingerprinting and DNA/blood sample collection as a requirement for licensure renewal except for state public school educators, law enforcement, and healthcare workers.

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# Minority Report

## 2020 Platform Committee Minority Report

**SCOPE:** We the members of the Platform and Resolutions Committee who have signed the Minority Report below propose that the the version of Plank #54, as passed in the Republican Party of Texas Convention in 2018, be restored to its original form. This request is based on the announcement of the intent to file a minority report prior to adjournment of the Permanent Platform Committee meeting, though the announcement was not accepted.

### MINORITY MEMBERS:

- SD 6 Marga Matthews
- SD 7 Tom Nobis
- SD 8 Paul Chabot
- SD 18 Caleb Pillado
- SD 19 Stuart Knowlton
- SD 24 Matt Long
- SD 26 David Westbrook

The 2018 RPT Platform plank reads:

54. Article V Convention of States: We reaffirm our support for our Texas State Legislators' call for a limited Article V Convention of States for the specific purpose of reducing the power of the federal government, including fiscal responsibility, balanced budget, and term limits. Any proposed amendments must be ratified by three-fourths of the states.

2018 Platform plank #54, supporting an Article V Convention of States (above), garnered the second-highest number of votes to be designated as a top RPT Legislative Priority during our 2016 Convention (90% of delegates), and, subsequently, the 85th legislative session in 2017 passed it with resounding Republican legislative support. Since it is a resolution still pending in Congress until acted on by additional states, it cannot be said to have been "passed" in any meaningful way.

In conclusion, we believe that the original language of Plank #54, as passed in convention in 2018, overwhelmingly represents and advances the core values of the Republican Party.

As a remedy, the Minority hereby tenders a motion to restore Plank #54, which the Majority Report has removed, with the original language passed in the Republican Party of Texas Convention in 2018, which reads as follows:

54. Article V Convention of States: We reaffirm our support for our Texas State Legislators' call for a limited Article V Convention of States for the specific purpose of reducing the power of the federal government, including fiscal responsibility, balanced budget, and term limits. Any proposed amendments must be ratified by three-fourths of the states.