

Preamble

The Story County, Iowa, Republicans hereby adopt and approve this platform. It articulates our beliefs and provides a guide for our elected representatives and nominees in putting those beliefs into effect.

1. Abortion & Right to Life

We believe human life is a sacred gift from God our creator and is an inalienable right as outlined in the Declaration of Independence. This right is innately valuable in every stage and development, including the unborn, the elderly, the terminally or chronically ill, and the mentally or physically handicapped. No human life should ever be diminished or arbitrarily taken from conception until natural death.

1.1	We support the reversal of Roe v. Wade, thus criminalizing abortion.	
1.2	We support a ban on “partial birth abortion.”	
1.3	We support legislation requiring consent by a parent and/or legal guardian before a minor child or ward receives an abortion or any other reproductive services or products.	
1.4	We support a “Woman’s Right to Know Law” whereby performers of abortions must provide complete factual information to the pregnant woman about the complications of abortion, the biological development of the unborn, fetal pain, and availability of alternatives to abortion.	
1.5	We oppose using public revenues at any level of government to fund abortions or organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, which advocate abortion.	
1.6	We oppose euthanasia, assisted suicide, and non-consensual withholding of treatment due to age, disability, or infirmity.	

2. Agriculture

We believe that preservation of the family farm, primary producers of produce, crops and livestock, is vital to the economic condition of our communities, state and nation. Family farms should be allowed to operate as free, independent, responsible producers and not be encumbered by onerous regulations.

2.1	We support eliminating the U.S. Department of Agriculture.	
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3. Business & Economic Development

We believe that a welcoming business climate is critical to our state's economic prosperity and the development of our natural and human resources. We believe that free enterprise and the encouragement of individual initiative are essential and are the foundation of economic opportunity, growth and prosperity. The key to that prosperity is an adequate return on an individual's labor, talent, capital, and risks. We believe that excessive regulation, business fees, and taxes diminish that return.

3.1	We oppose government distortion of the free market through subsidies and bailouts.	
3.2	We support trade policies which provide fair returns to American producers and protects against the outsourcing of American jobs.	
3.3	We support an equitable trade balance with China.	
3.4	We support a National "Right to Work" law.	
3.5	We support Iowa's "Right to Work" law and oppose "Fair Share" legislation.	
3.6	We believe that public employees should have access to all benefits, compensation, and other employee rights offered by the employer, regardless of union or other professional affiliation.	
3.7	We support eliminating unnecessary regulations in order to create more opportunity for private enterprise.	
3.8	We support a repeal of the Dodd-Frank Act.	
3.9	We oppose the Employee Free Choice Act and "Card Check" legislation.	

4. Education

We believe parents, not the government, are responsible for and should be fully in charge of the education of their children. We believe that in order for our educational system to be successful, it must be accountable to the parents of the community. Therefore, parents should be afforded as many options as possible including private, home or alternative based education. We do not believe that more money ensures better education. We believe reimbursement is due families who choose non-government education since they pay taxes as well as tuition.

4.1	We support the abolition of the U.S. Department of Education with return of educational support and monitoring of all levels of education to the individual states.	
4.2	We support tax credits to parents of children educated outside of public education.	
4.3	We support the display of the American flag in public school classrooms and daily recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.	
4.4	We support the display of the "Ten Commandments" in public school classrooms.	
4.5	We believe that the Constitution provides the freedom to allow prayer openly in public schools.	
4.6	We support that public schools stress sexual abstinence outside of marriage to prevent unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and related psychological problems.	
4.7	We oppose the distribution of condoms in public schools.	
4.8	We oppose the promotion of homosexual life styles in public schools.	
4.9	We believe that teachers' salaries should be based on performance rather than solely on tenure. We support programs that reward superior teachers and outline procedures that eliminate ineffective educators.	
4.10	We support ending tenure for all teachers and professors in publicly funded academic institutions.	
4.11	We support replacing the current Iowa Board of Regents with an elected system.	

5. Energy & Transportation

We believe the availability of an adequate supply of energy is essential to the economic strength of the United States. We believe access to an adequate transportation infrastructure is necessary for a market economy to succeed and for national security to be served.

5.1	We support the responsible building of nuclear power plants, off-shore drilling, energy refineries, and pipelines (such as the Keystone XL) in the United States with safeguards for environmental protection.	
5.2	We support an on-going space program.	
5.3	We support eliminating the U.S. Department of Energy.	

6. Family Values

We believe that the basis of our laws and our founding documents are rooted in Judeo-Christian values. We believe every human being should have the inalienable right to life regardless of age or degree of dependency including human beings from conception. We believe the family is the cornerstone of society; a traditional two-parent family of one man and one woman is the best environment to raise children.

6.1	We support a constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union between one man and one woman.	<i>HJR 6</i>
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7. Government

We believe the primary purpose of government is to protect the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and property. Beyond its constitutional functions, there is nothing which can be done by government as efficiently as is done by the people of this great Republic. We believe the people have the ability, dignity, and right to make their own decisions and determine their own destiny without encumbrance or undue interference from government. We call for a return to limited government at federal, state, and local levels, allowing for maximum personal and economic freedom.

7.1	We believe that the federal government should be strictly limited to the 18 enumerated powers in the United States Constitution and that all others should be left to the states and to the people in accordance with the 10 th Amendment.	
7.2	We support legislation to protect Iowa's state sovereignty, in order to restore the proper relationship between the State of Iowa and the federal government, as defined by the 10 th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.	HF 419
7.3	We are committed to the principle of federalism in that families and city and state governments have powers and responsibilities before the federal government.	
7.4	We support requiring candidates for State and Federal offices in the State of Iowa to file proof of their eligibility for office with the Secretary of State.	
7.5	We support applying term limits to all elective offices so that no individual would serve more than 12 continuous years in any given elective position.	
7.6	We support holding elected officials and government employees accountable for reimbursable office expenses.	
7.7	We believe that for any law passed by Congress and signed by the President, all citizens—including Congress, the President, their families and staff—must live in accord with those laws, with no exceptions.	
7.8	We support the adoption of the following amendment to the Iowa Constitution: "The right of an individual to acquire, keep, possess, transport, carry, transfer, and use arms to defend life and liberty, and for all other legitimate purposes is fundamental and shall not be infringed upon or denied. Mandatory licensing, registration, or special taxation as a condition of the exercise of this right is prohibited, and any other restriction shall be subject to strict scrutiny."	HJR 2009
7.9	We believe that all items to be voted upon by any governmental body should be posted online 120 hours prior to their vote.	
7.10	We support an open and transparent government that is	

	accessible and accountable to ordinary citizens and citizen-based organizations.	
7.11	We support reducing the size and scope of government.	
7.12	We support a 15% reduction in the costs of government.	
7.13	We believe that the state and federal government should focus on debt reduction and fiscal responsibility.	
7.14	We believe that the phrase “in God we trust” stamped on our currency is consistent with the Constitution of the United States of America and does not constitute an establishment of religion.	
7.15	We support allowing the placement of religious symbols on public property during holiday seasons.	
7.16	We believe that only citizens bearing proper photo IDs should be allowed to vote and that proof of citizenship should be required for absentee voting.	<i>HF 95</i>
7.17	We believe eminent domain should be used solely for public use; therefore we support legislation preventing the seizure of private property for the purposes of economic development.	
7.18	We oppose the “Fairness Doctrine” regulating speech on “talk radio.”	
7.19	We oppose the further expansion of gambling in Iowa, to include casinos, sports betting, and online gaming.	
7.20	We believe that Congressmen should not receive a pension from when serving in office and must fund their own retirement.	
7.21	We believe that all state and federal legislation must be limited in scope to one topic, and be written in language that is easily understood by the majority of Americans.	
7.22	We believe English should be the official language of the United States and that all official documents be printed in English.	
7.23	We support a repeal of the 17 th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.	
7.24	We oppose the National Popular Vote Compact.	

8. Health & Human Services

We believe that healthcare is best provided by the private sector, and that universal or government healthcare will reduce the quality and availability of care. Hospitals, doctors, and other healthcare providers should be accountable to patients—not to politicians, insurance bureaucrats, or HMO Administrators. Further, we believe people are healthier, happier, and more productive when they have the freedom and responsibility to provide for themselves and their families without government interference.

8.1	We oppose the nationalization of the health care system.	
8.2	We believe that the nationalization of healthcare violates the 10 th Amendment which grants all non-enumerated powers to the states and should require a constitutional amendment for legitimate implementation.	
8.3	We support “Conscience Clause” laws designed to protect healthcare professionals who, for moral or religious reasons, refuse to provide services such as abortion or birth control.	
8.4	We believe that emphasizing abstinence education can reduce unwanted pregnancies, venereal diseases and HIV.	
8.5	We believe that embryonic stem cell research should be abolished and additional stem cell research should only be performed using adult stem cells.	
8.6	We believe that no human body parts may be sold without permission of their living human donor.	

9. Homeland Security & Immigration

We believe that Congress should establish an immigration policy that furthers the cultural, social, and economic interests of the United States. A sound immigration policy and vigorous enforcement of immigration law is essential to securing our homeland.

9.1	We believe only United States citizens and legal immigrants are entitled to Constitutional protections and government services.	
9.2	We believe the federal government should stop supporting illegal immigration.	
9.3	We encourage legal immigration and support efficient processing of applications.	
9.4	We support cooperation among local, state, and federal agencies in identifying and processing illegal immigrants.	
9.5	We support expansion of the worker-visa program to allow legal immigrants to work in the United States.	
9.6	We believe that employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants should be fined heavily.	
9.7	We believe cities acting as sanctuaries for illegal immigrants should be denied federal funding.	
9.8	We believe the citizenship of a child born in the United States should be based on the citizenship of the child's parents, and that the 14 th Amendment does not provide automatic citizenship to the children of non-citizens.	
9.9	We believe each state must be able to enact and enforce legislation relating to immigration policy when complying with federal law.	
9.10	Federal law enforcement must enforce all laws related to securing the borders and enforcing the legal immigration process.	
9.11	We support securing the border.	
9.12	We support the use of an electronic verification system like E-Verify to confirm immigration status.	<i>HR 693</i>

10. Law & Justice

We believe the job of government is to uphold the law, to prevent injustice from reigning, to protect the free exercise of an individual's rights (life, liberty, and property), to maintain order, to protect the innocent, to resolve disputes, and to punish crime.

10.1	We strongly oppose judicial activism and call upon judges at all levels to adhere, strictly, to the original intent of the United States Constitution and their respective state constitutions.	
10.2	We should impeach judges who willfully create or change legislation from the bench.	
10.3	We support efforts to eliminate frivolous lawsuits and cap liability.	
10.4	We support appointment of judges who support the sanctity of innocent human life and who honor family values.	
10.5	We assert that the Constitution of the United States of America is the highest law of the land and cannot be superseded by any international law, treaty, or agreement.	
10.6	We believe that equal opportunity is constitutional and possible and that equal outcomes are not a constitutional right and are impossible to maintain without force and loss of individual freedoms.	
10.7	We oppose granting special rights to groups of people based on race, sexual practices, or creed through "hate crimes" legislation.	
10.8	We support enforcement of current laws rather than additional legislation "hoping" to reduce crime.	
10.9	We support the Second Amendment to the Constitution and recognize the right of individuals to bear arms.	
10.10	We support the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act.	<i>HR 822</i>
10.11	We support the concealed carry of a firearm on college campuses.	<i>HF 2357</i>
10.12	We oppose allowing any government agency or locality to restrict the legal possession of firearms.	<i>HF 2114</i>
10.13	We support state "Stand Your Ground" laws to allow law-abiding citizens to stand their ground and protect themselves.	<i>HF 2215</i>
10.14	We support the Firearms Freedom Act in Iowa, protecting any firearm that is manufactured in Iowa, sold in Iowa, that stays in Iowa, from being subjected to any Federal regulations.	<i>HF 121</i>

11. National Defense & Foreign Policy

We believe in our party's long standing commitment to a strong national defense and support the President's use of military force to protect and defend the United States and our allies against any enemy. We believe our foreign and domestic policies must be based upon our strategic national interests and must always jealously guard our nation's sovereignty.

11.1	We believe that war has been actively declared by radical jihadists and that intelligence services and the military should be adequately funded to meet this threat.	
11.2	We believe Civil Defense shelters in each community should be identified and public education provided on what individuals can take during an emergency.	
11.3	We believe that the monthly testing of the Emergency Broadcast System should be expanded to include basic survival information.	
11.4	We believe that trials of foreign terrorists, born or residing outside of the United States at the time of an attack, be tried in military rather than civilian courts.	
11.5	We support United States withdrawal from the United Nations and moving their headquarters from United States' soil.	
11.6	We fully recognize the State of Israel as a sovereign nation.	
11.7	We believe that the United States should not go to war without a Declaration of War issued by Congress.	
11.8	We support a repeal of the Patriot Act.	
11.9	We oppose the indefinite detention of American citizens on American soil by members of the Armed Forces of the United States.	<i>HR 1540</i>
11.10	We believe we must maintain high ethical standards in the treatment and detainment of enemy combatants, and oppose the use of torture.	

12. Natural Resources & Environment

We believe that environmental policies should reflect sensitivity to sound ecological practices, unbiased scientific standards, risk analysis, national sovereignty, private property rights, common sense, and a realistic view of economic impact. We encourage recycling and other methods of reducing waste volume.

12.1	We support limiting the oversight authority of the EPA, and strengthening Congressional oversight.	
12.2	We support more control of the DNR at the state level so that DNR regulations do not exceed EPA regulations.	
12.3	We believe Iowa should create a constitutional office with an elected official to replace Iowa's current DNR.	

13. Taxes & Spending

We believe the purpose of taxation is to fund only the constitutionally authorized functions of government. We support every reasonable effort by all levels of government and taxpayers to limit taxation and government spending. We call for an end to all unconstitutional expenditures of public monies and an end to currently proposed measures that will result in unreasonable taxation for future generations. We understand that government produces nothing independent from the resources and labor that it diverts from the private sector.

13.1	We support a Federal Balanced Budget Amendment and believe that the State of Iowa and the Federal Government should maintain a balanced budget by controlling spending and that the national debt should be reduced and ultimately paid in full.	
13.2	We support the implementation of Lean Six Sigma across all levels of government.	
13.3	We support that the current tax cuts, originally signed into law by then President Bush, should be made permanent.	
13.4	We support requiring all tax, fee, or revenue-generating legislation require a 2/3 vote for adoption.	
13.5	We support the line-item veto for the President.	
13.6	We believe that the Federal government should not bail out private corporations with public monies.	
13.7	We support eliminating the capital gains tax.	
13.8	We support eliminating the Federal estate tax.	
13.9	We support the repeal of the 16 th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.	
13.10	We support the elimination of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).	
13.11	We support backing United States currencies with real assets, such as gold, silver, oil, etc. and changing tender laws to reflect such.	
13.12	We support a full and complete audit of the Federal Reserve.	HR 459 S 202
13.13	We believe the Federal Reserve Bank should not be allowed to control the money supply without specific approval from Congress.	
13.14	We support ending the Federal Reserve System.	
13.15	We support the replacement of the current Social Security system with new private and voluntary retirement investment plans.	
13.16	We support reforming Social Security by gradually raising the	

	retirement age.	
13.17	We support further welfare reforms, including drug testing for welfare recipients.	
13.18	We support eliminating the corporate income tax in the State of Iowa.	
13.19	We believe that County, State, and Federal budgets must be balanced, including past, present, and future expenditures except for declared states of emergency or war.	

14. Republican Party

The following principles have been encouraged since the time of Ronald Reagan, and are hereby adopted as principles of the Story County Republican Party.

I am a Republican because...

14.1	I believe the strength of the nation lies with the individual and that each person's dignity, freedom, ability and responsibility must be honored.	
14.2	I believe in equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, sex, age or disability.	
14.3	I believe free enterprise and encouraging individual initiative have brought this nation opportunity, economic growth, and prosperity.	
14.4	I believe government must practice fiscal responsibility and allow individuals to keep more of the money they earn.	
14.5	I believe the proper role of government is to provide for the people only those critical functions that cannot be performed by individuals or private organizations and that the best government is that which govern least.	
14.6	I believe the most effective, responsible and responsive government is the government closest to the people.	
14.7	I believe Americans must retain the principles that made us strong while developing new and innovative ideas to meet the challenges of changing times.	
14.8	I believe American's greatness comes from God, freedom and free enterprise, and we should honor those who have served to protect and defend the United States of America.	
14.9	Finally, I believe the Republican Party is the best vehicle for translating these ideas into positive and successful principles of government.	