

California Republican Party Platform

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Preamble

A party platform is normally a statement of present positions. This platform is a statement of future action. With this platform the California Republican Party seeks to unite all Californians.

Our Declaration of Independence's vision for a great nation continues to ring true ~~in our ears~~ today and is more important than ever to remember: "We 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."

State government has been failing us for years. As it fails, it begins to extinguish the dreams and aspirations of all Californians. For some Californians, this failure threatens their equality... for some their life... for some their liberty... for some their happiness. This is as unacceptable to us as it was to our Founding Fathers.

We recognize that in recent years, the California Republican Party has not been a viable alternative for many Californians. We want to change this.

We believe we can offer real solutions to bring good paying jobs back to California.

We believe we can offer real solutions to reform our failed state government in Sacramento.

We believe we can offer real solutions to keep our families educated, healthy, and safe.

We believe we can offer real solutions to make sure the California Dream is available for a new generation.

Perhaps most important, we believe Californians have more in common than not ~~we have apart~~. We believe a failed state government hurts ~~impacts~~ all of us - regardless of race, gender, age, political affiliation, or wealth.

With this platform, we hope to clearly convey what Republicans will do in office to ensure the public trust. We want to make state government accountable, effective, and ethical again. Not just for Republicans - for everyone. This platform is our call to all of the people of California: take a few minutes to read what Republicans stand for today.

If you agree with us, let's stand together to demand the type of government that Californians deserve ~~is our right~~.

The Republican Jobs Plan

Our positions on bringing jobs back to California come from the following principles which most Californians share:

Every Californian should have the opportunity to prosper economically. Every person who wants to work should be able to find a job and earn a living to meet his/her needs. Every person who wants to start or expand a business should be encouraged to do so. We want to pass on this prosperity and opportunity to the next generation of Californians.

Government should not be our largest employer. It is the role of government to protect our safety, our environment, and our basic standards of fair play. However, this role must always be weighted sternly against the government's fundamental duty to protect our economic freedom and opportunity. It is time to eliminate the over-litigation, the over-regulation, and over-taxation that has made California one of the worst places in the nation to do business.

A job is not just a job, and owning a business is not just owning a business. To work is a basic human need that provides independence and dignity. From the owner of a corner store, to a laborer in the field, to a salesman on the road - each of these people is needed in our community, and each should be respected for the work they do.

If entrusted with the future of the State of California, we will:

Encourage More Entrepreneurship and Innovation

California has some of the most innovative businesses and minds in the nation. We need a state government that encourages the best and brightest to come here to start job creating businesses and supports businesses by minimizing burdensome laws.

Train Tomorrow's Workforce

We support education reforms that give the next generation the tools they need to work in the 21st century workplace with good-paying high tech and bio tech jobs.

Limit Taxes on Individuals and Business Owners

We oppose any new taxes, including taxes disguised as fees that further increase the burden on small businesses and individuals. We further support a comprehensive public review of the tax and fee structure in this state designed to keep taxes on families low,

encourage in-state businesses to hire more people, and encourage out-of-state businesses to relocate here.

Roll Back Job-Killing Over-Regulation

We call on the Governor to call a Special Emergency Session of the legislature to review current business regulations, take testimony from California business owners, and roll back those regulations which are killing new job creation.

Defend Agriculture

We support the protection of agricultural land and improving water infrastructure, including new water storage, to help agriculture thrive as an economic driver for California and the United States.

End Lawsuit Abuse

We support comprehensive tort reform, including a 'loser pays' law for frivolous lawsuits.

The Republican Government Fiscal and Political Reform Plan

Our positions on reforming state government come from the following principles which most Californians share:

The direction the legislative majority has taken our state is leading toward fiscal and ethical bankruptcy. Our state government has failed in its essential responsibilities to the people of California. The Republican Party believes we pay for and deserve a state government that works. We support a state government which is effective, accountable, transparent, and ethical.

We believe the state should only spend what it brings in. We oppose new taxes ~~that result in wasteful spending~~. We believe spending should be prioritized on core programs that all Californians support - like education, ~~law enforcement~~ public safety, and transportation. We should return ~~believe we need a fair new deal with~~ public employees' ~~that returns their salaries and benefits to a level more like~~ comparable to private-sector employees.

It is fundamentally unethical to take money from the hard-working citizens of California and then waste it and continue to ask for more. It is fundamentally unethical to burden our children with paying-off the debt for our unchecked spending. We believe in ongoing public audits of state government to find and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse ~~corruption~~.

If entrusted with the future of the State of California, we will:

Demand Fiscal Responsibility

We support a balanced budget, without ~~unnecessarily~~ raising taxes ~~or fees~~. We support a spending cap that will make state government live within its means and limit future irresponsibility.

Require Accountability

We support ongoing public, non-partisan audits of state government to find and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse. We support transparency in the legislative and budget processes so that the people of California can easily review the text of laws and the line items of budgets well before they are voted on.

Give Public Employees a Fair Deal

We support a comprehensive review of public employee salaries and benefits, with the intent of returning public employee salaries and benefits to a level more commonly found in the private sector.

Promote Political Reform

We believe Special Interests have too much power in Sacramento. We support reforming campaign finance laws to implement paycheck protection and eliminate political expenditures by nonprofits and other organizations that do not reveal their donors to the public.

The Republican Family Opportunity Plan

Our positions on strengthening opportunity for our families come from the following principles, which most Californians share:

The role of the state government is to empower families to greater independence and upward mobility. To that end, we believe that the culture of dependence that has been encouraged and fostered in California for decades must be redirected to a system that offers opportunity with ~~and~~ a helping hand that ~~and~~ builds self-reliance.

California families deserve a firm foundation on ~~from~~ which to build their lives ~~seek to get ahead~~. The Republican Party is committed to providing every person with 'the basics' ~~with 'the basics'~~— a safe community and a world class education. These are the basic tools required to access opportunity, and the core responsibility of the state government.

The Republican Party supports a state government that offers a helping hand, not an unending hand-out. Dependence doesn't just cost money, it kills the soul. ~~This means~~ Assistance should be provided in a way that encourages Californians to get back on their own feet as quickly as possible.

The Republican Party supports traditional marriage as the foundational unit for our society and key for the future of our children.

If entrusted with the future of the State of California, we will:

Keep Our Communities Safe

We oppose releasing violent felons from prison early and support building ~~as many~~ new prisons ~~as it takes~~ to keep violent felons behind bars. We support justice for crime victims. We support spending the necessary ~~such~~ resources ~~as it takes~~ to make all of our communities and schools safe. We support our Constitutional Second Amendment rights.

Common Sense Prison and Parole Reform ~~Regain Control of Our Prisons~~

Prison and parole reform must reflect and prioritize the safety of our citizens. We must ensure that public safety and justice are not compromised by mass releases of unrehabilitated felons. We support reforms that result in predictable, progressive consequences for those who victimize society. ~~We believe that our prisons have become 'criminal factories' and support strong measures to eliminate criminal activity within them.~~

Provide a World Class Education

We believe that the current education system is failing large numbers of Californians, and that this is a violation of the equal opportunity every child deserves. We support immediate, serious and substantial reform of our education system to provide the opportunity to earn ~~promote~~ a world class education in all of our schools. We support increasing parental involvement, increasing local decision making, increasing safety in schools, and increasing accountability in each school and each classroom. We support school choice and the expansion of charter schools and educational options for all California families.

Deliver Real Health Care Reform

We believe in the sanctity ~~sacredness~~ of human life; therefore, we believe in the protection of all innocent human life. We are also concerned with quality of life, and part of that is making sure every Californian has peace of mind about their health care concerns, ~~and such as~~ having a direct relationship with their own doctor. We support providing access to quality health care through a competitive private market. We support a nonpartisan, ~~public blue-ribbon commission of~~ effort to bring together knowledgeable healthcare professionals to determine how we can lower health care costs without compromising on innovation and quality of treatment. We support the repeal of national healthcare mandates on the State of California and its citizens.

The Republican Californian Dream Plan

Our positions on protecting the California Dream come from the following principles, which most Californians support:

Most of us live in California because we believe in the California Dream. What this dream is varies from person to person - it could be economic opportunity or the opportunity to enjoy our beautiful landscape from the Sierras to the Pacific Ocean. For most of us, it is the right to live as we see fit, without government interference, unless we trespass on the rights of another.

~~We argue that m~~Much of the political discussion in California has centered around the issues that divide us and ~~that this focus has blurred our overall appreciation of the not~~ on the financial crisis in state government that threatens all of our dreams. ~~We~~ Republicans as a group support core conservative values, but recognize that there is a wide diversity range of opinions and lifestyles in among the citizenry of California. ~~We believe that the focus of this time should be on those financial issues. The time for all to unite to solve the financial crisis is now.~~

The California Republican Party is an institution that encourages ~~allows~~ internal debate of ideas. We believe that this open debate of ideas in our schools, community centers, and in our campaigns leads to a stronger ~~more tolerant~~ society, where each person's opinion is respected and given equal opportunity to win Californians's hearts and minds.

If entrusted with the future of the State of California, we will:

Protect California's Environment

We are ~~re~~-committed to firmly protecting California's natural beauty, a resource every Californian enjoys. However, we oppose the radical environmentalism of the few which offers very little in terms of real protections and which cripples the ability to create jobs for all Californians.

Work Towards a Fair Immigration Solution

We will demand that the federal government secure the border and end the criminal activity and humanitarian crisis, including human, drug, and arms and sex trafficking that threatens citizens and ~~illegal~~ immigrants alike. We will demand that the federal government pass a streamlined legal immigration and work permit process so that those who want to come and work in California can do so lawfully ~~without fearing arrest~~.

Defend Our Right to Own Private Property

We believe that secure property ownership is a fundamental right and will protect such ownership to the full extent envisioned by the United States and California Constitutions.

Restore Local Control

We do not believe the state government in California knows best in every matter, every time. We support devolving many, if not most government functions, to the county governments, city governments, and school boards that know what is best for their local communities. We do not believe that state government should impose unfunded mandates on local communities.