

Republican Party of Minnesota 2016 Standing Platform

Statement of Principles

Promote Economic Prosperity

We believe economic prosperity is driven by individuals, not government. We support lowering the tax burden, exercising spending restraint, and creating and maintaining a fair, honest and competitive business environment to promote economic prosperity.

Preserve Civil Rights

We believe we are “endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights.” We support defending the right to life, protecting religious and political liberties, and expect that government treats all of its citizens equally under the law. We support respecting personal privacy and property, protecting the right to bear arms, and giving workers the right to decide whether to join a union.

Protect our Health Care

We recognize that the United States has the most advanced health care system in the world, leading in innovation and new technology development. Through genuine market competition and granting people choices, we can make health care more affordable, of higher quality and available to more Americans, while protecting privacy.

Educate our Children

We believe that parents must have choices for their children’s education so that we can better educate, with more effective administration, while emphasizing traditional American values.

Strengthen our Families and Communities

We recognize the blessings that God has bestowed on this great Nation. We also recognize the central role of the traditional family in our society and the necessity of traditional values for strengthening our families and communities.

Protect Public Safety

We believe that the most fundamental function of government is to keep citizens and our property secure.

Strengthen the Rule of Law

We support limiting frivolous lawsuits, preserving judicial elections, holding judges accountable, and respecting the rule of law.

Enjoy and Protect our Natural Resources

We believe that proper stewardship of our natural resources and agricultural lands is best achieved through sound science and adherence to constitutionally guaranteed property rights.

Make Government Smaller and Better

We support keeping government functions in state, local or private hands, electing honest and responsive legislative bodies, advocating for fair election processes, and generally making government smaller and better.

Defend America at Home and Abroad

We believe that we can maintain peace by having a strong national defense, securing our borders and by seeking principled international relationships.

Section 1 Promote Economic Prosperity

We believe economic prosperity is driven by individuals, not government. We support lowering the tax burden, exercising spending restraint, and creating and maintaining a fair, honest and competitive business environment to promote economic prosperity.

Lower Tax Burden on Families and Businesses

Republicans support comprehensive tax reform, abolishing the current tax code and replacing it with a simpler, fairer tax system that:

- Favors a national sales tax or flat tax.
- Simplifies the state property tax system.

Republicans seek to reduce the current burden of taxation by:

- Requiring a supermajority vote in Congress or the Minnesota Legislature to raise taxes.
- A state constitutional amendment limiting state spending growth to inflation plus population growth.
- Returning surpluses to the taxpayers in proportion to the taxes paid.
- Cutting or eliminating capital gains taxes, business taxes, wheelage taxes, taxes on marriage, sickness, death, inheritance, Social Security and veterans' benefits and pensions.
- Eliminating the Alternative Minimum Tax.
- Keeping internet sales and access free of taxation.
- Making purchases by local government exempt from Minnesota state sales tax.
- Not increasing state sales taxes on transportation fuel.
- Cutting property taxes on agricultural land.

We:

- Support phasing out Social Security by allowing younger Americans to invest part of their FICA taxes in personal accounts while continuing to fulfill our obligations to older Americans.
- Oppose any proposal to require IRA or 401(k) deposits to be in government bonds.
- Would return Social Security to an "on budget" item.

Exercise spending restraint

We favor reducing the size of the national debt by cutting federal spending. We support:

- Adopting a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution.
- Replacing baseline budgeting with Zero-based budgeting for state and federal budgets.
- Setting State budgets within the first 30 days of each Legislative session, and being the first order of business.
- Ending the use of omnibus spending bills.

We should dedicate all taxes, fees, and licenses from their revenue streams to their appropriate program funding. Specifically:

- Gas and motor vehicle taxes should not fund rail transit construction and operation.
- Road and bridge safety should take precedence over new light rail construction.
- Programs such as public broadcasting, sports stadiums and the arts, should be funded by users and voluntary donors.
- The use of 'earmarks' in appropriations bills should be ended.
- Public employee retirement fund deficits should not be bailed out by taxpayers.
- No mandate can be imposed by any branch of government on any other unless it includes the funds necessary to support that mandate.

We support the abolition of the Federal Reserve System. Until then we support open and transparent annual audits in strict compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP).

Create and Maintain a Fair, Honest and Competitive Business Environment

We support a fair, honest and competitive business environment, and, therefore we should:

- Oppose corporate welfare.
- Reduce all corporate tax rates.
- Reject the Keynesian model of economics in federal policy.
- Maintain a sound and stable, backed currency.
- Oppose government wage and price controls.
- Let private enterprise expand high-speed Internet access.

Section 2 Restore and Defend Civil Rights

We believe we are “endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights.” We support defending the right to life, protecting religious and political liberties, and expect that government treats all of its citizens equally under the law. We support respecting personal privacy and property, protecting the right to bear arms, and giving workers the right to decide whether to join a union.

Defend the Right to Life

Republicans believe that every innocent human being, born and unborn, has an inalienable right to life from conception to natural death. The U.S. and Minnesota Constitutions should be amended to restore legal protection to the lives of innocent human beings from conception to natural death. To that end, we:

- Support legislation that establishes ‘personhood’ at the time of conception.
- > **Add this point:** We support a woman’s right to view an ultrasound in any setting in which it is conducted. (Submitted by Anoka P3, Coon Rapids W2P1)
- Oppose partial birth abortions.
 - **Change this point to:** Oppose partial birth abortions, abortions after 20 weeks and abortions after an ultrasound shows a baby’s beating heart. (Submitted by Anoka P3)
- Would eliminate taxpayer funding of abortion or abortion providers, particularly Planned Parenthood.
- Oppose abortions performed on minors without parental consent.
- Advocate prohibiting U.S. promotion or funding of abortion in any nation, and
- Would protect a father’s right to object to a unilateral decision to terminate his unborn child’s life.

Protect Religious & Political Liberties

We support protecting the right to religious expression for all peoples, including:

- Public display of the Ten Commandments or other religious displays.
- Prayer at government events in the name of a specific deity, and
- Having their religious liberties accommodated if they refuse to solemnize, celebrate, or assist in a same-sex marriage.
 - **Change this point to:** Having their religious liberties accommodated if they refuse to solemnize, celebrate, or assist in activities or services in contradiction to their faith. (Submitted by Andover P4 & Andover P2)

Everyone should have the right to form organizations based on their set of religious beliefs or principles including places of worship, charities, schools and hospitals. They should:

- Not lose their tax-exempt status for supporting specific principles or political candidates.
- Have the right to set their own standards for membership and policy, and
- Exempt health care workers from performing procedures or dispensing medications contrary to their conscience.

To uphold all Americans’ right to free speech, we support campaign finance reform, allowing unlimited donations but requiring immediate, full disclosure of all sources. We:

- Support repeal of McCain-Feingold, and
- Oppose reinstatement of the so-called “Fairness Doctrine.”

We believe we are all Americans, not divided into subcategories. We reject any form of set-asides or quotas for employment, student admissions, faculty hiring, or the awarding of government contracts. We also:

- Call for the Civil Rights statutes to apply equally to all citizens, and
- Would prohibit any government agency from collecting data for the purpose of discriminating among Americans.

Respect the Right to Personal Privacy and Property

As Republicans, we respect personal privacy, personal property, and the 4th Amendment. Therefore, we:

- Require probable cause and constitutionally compliant warrants to search a citizen's personal affairs or finances. 🏠
- Oppose a national identification system.
- Support legislation prohibiting any release of personal information without express consent.
- Would prohibit the use of Social Security numbers for any purpose other than Social Security identification.
- Require government to follow the same personal information breach notification laws it mandates for private businesses.
- Support electronic health records, but believe disclosure laws should require informed, written and voluntary consent.
- Reject Internet anti-piracy laws that violate online privacy.
- Would prohibit government from requiring individual identification on all livestock animals used for small farm market, private, or individual use.
- Support abolishing the TSA and privatizing airport security.
- Oppose warrantless NSA data collection on electronic communications
- Oppose the warrantless use of government surveillance drones over private property
- Oppose a government backdoor into personal electronics.
- Support the right to privacy and the right to not share bathrooms and locker rooms with the biologically opposite sex.

We disapprove of federal, state and local governments taking private property by eminent domain except for the general public good. It should NOT be taken for:

- Commercial or recreational use,
- Increasing tax revenues, or
- Benefitting one private owner over another.

We believe interference by the federal government in private contracts should be prohibited.

We support compensating homeowners for property devaluation resulting from governmental action, and:

- Permitting all property owners to govern the legal consumption of tobacco within their properties.

Other Rights

We fully support the Second Amendment to the Constitution and believe that it protects an individual citizen's right to keep and bear arms. We:

- Believe all law-abiding citizens have the right to purchase and possess firearms, free from any gun registration system,
- Without needing a government-issued permit.
- Urge all state lawmakers to pass a "Constitutional Carry" law.
- **> Add this point:** Urge all state lawmakers to pass a "Stand Your Ground" law. (Submitted by Anoka P3, Andover P9)

We support removing restrictions on and liability for self-defense, including:

- If necessary, the use of deadly force anyplace one has a legal right to be, without having a duty-to-flee.
- Legislation prohibiting enforcement of all future anti-gun federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and mandates.

All workers in Minnesota have the right to work without being forced to join a union and to organize through secret ballot to join a union or other association. Also:

- Union members have the right to withhold dues used for political purposes without their consent,
- We oppose the deduction of union dues from government employees' paychecks.
- We should repeal state and federal legislation that imposes mandated wage rates on government and school district projects.

Section 3 Protect our Health Care

We recognize that the United States has the most advanced health care system in the world, leading in innovation and new technology development. Through genuine market competition and granting people choices, we can make health care more affordable, of higher quality and available to more Americans, while protecting privacy.

Restoring Competition

As Republicans, we support programs that introduce genuine market competition to our health care system, minimize or eliminate government interference in health care or mandate the purchase of health insurance. Specifically, we should:

- Allow insurance sales across state lines.
- Reward patients who take greater responsibility for their own care and wellness.
- Repeal all state and federal programs that ration health care, including the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, health care exchanges, and the Independent Payment Advisory Board.
- Stop the unlawful bailouts of insurance companies and state exchanges.
- Abolish government-mandated employee benefits.
- Allow small businesses to join together in group employee health plans.
- Expand health savings accounts.
- Make all health insurance premiums tax exempt.
- Make all health care expenses fully tax deductible.
- Enact medical malpractice reform.
- Provide greater transparency on the performance and costs of physicians, clinics and hospitals.
- Not determine Medicare reimbursement by the provider's location.
- Place all federal and state health care programs, including Medicare and Medicaid, under states' control while continuing to receive federal funding.

Improve Quality

To improve quality of care, we should leave the choice of treatment to the doctor and informed patient, not government regulation, and:

- Streamline the approval process for new drugs and medical devices.
- Protect women's health by banning dangerous "web-cam" abortions and by instituting basic regulations and inspections of abortion facilities.
- Prohibit any medical procedure or therapy that would deliberately cause or hasten death including physician-assisted suicide and deprivation of food and water.
 - **Change this point to:** Prohibit any medical procedure or therapy that would deliberately cause or hasten death including physician assisted suicide and deprivation of food and water in regard to the elderly sick or disabled. (Submitted by Andover P4, Andover P2, Anoka P3, Coon Rapids W2P1)
- Oppose government mandated vaccinations.
- Provide our nation's veterans proper medical, emergency and psychological care during and after their service. 🗳️
Allow veterans to access their benefits locally.
- Recognizing a right to voluntary reparative therapy.
- Supporting a ban on "morning after pill" until long-term effects can be studied.
- > **Add this point:** (Improve Quality) We support full disclosure of possible side effects before administration of any vaccine and parental consent concerning the administering and scheduling of vaccinations. (Submitted by Anoka P3)
- > **Add this point:** (Improve Quality - add) We urge state lawmakers to fund organizational development money to doula agencies operated by Native and African Americans serving primarily birthing persons in their communities and increase Medicaid payments to billing agencies serving low income women throughout the state. (Submitted by Anoka P2)

Minnesota lawmakers should ban the sale and use of fetal tissue or body parts obtained through abortion, or of embryos or embryonic stem cells, for experimentation or research.

Medical Data Privacy

Parents (or legal guardians) should have access to all of their minor child's health records and all patient records must be the sole property of the patient or legal guardian.

We believe parents must provide informed opt-in consent before newborn genetic testing and before the Minnesota Department of Health can retain their children's DNA. Furthermore, the Minnesota Department of Health should be required to destroy all DNA and genetic information collected without express parental consent.

Section 4 Educate our Children

We believe that parents must have choices for their children's education so that we can better educate, with more effective administration, while emphasizing traditional American values.

Protect Parental Choice

As Republicans, we seek to improve the quality of education by maximizing parental choice. This includes:

- Expanding support for charter schools, school choice programs, and home schools.
- A more competitive and accountable public school system.
- Recognizing parental rights to observe their child in the classroom.
- Expanding tax credits, deductions, and voucher programs, including for religious schools.

We believe that Minnesota's educational system would be more effective and efficient if we eliminated federal and reduced state bureaucracies' control. Specifically, we:

- Oppose universal pre-school programs in Minnesota.
- Oppose universal health screening of students in K-12 schools, pre-schools and in early infancy.
- Oppose emotional outcomes being incorporated into the school curricula.
- Oppose the use of federal waivers to coerce states into imposing Common Core or Race to the Top federal curricula.
- Oppose state and federal support of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program.
- Require parental permission for collection of personal student data for any non-educational purpose.
- Would repeal the bureaucratic anti-bullying law.

Better educate

Minnesota should have a well-rounded knowledge-based curriculum to prepare our students to be good citizens, with an emphasis on hard work, honesty, home and family, as well as a respect for America's religious and civic heritage. This includes:

- Statewide testing of basic academic skills.
- Rigorous standards for core curricula determined by the local school district.
- Requiring schools to provide parents full details before administering non-academic tests.
- English as the primary language in all public schools, and programs that help master English as a second language
- Removing students with chronic behavior problems from public schools.

Minnesota should devote the same amount of effort to educating gifted and talented students as it currently devotes to special education.

Ensure Effective School Administration

All public schools, including colleges and universities, should be held accountable for all funds received and spent in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Additionally:

- Effective administrations should spend at least 70% of the school district's budget in the classroom.
- Education funding formulas should be simplified and funding categories eliminated, allowing local school boards to use state aid effectively.
- The Legislature should not delay payment of allocated school funds.
- Funding based on the number of children who receive free or reduced meals should be eliminated.
- College education should be paid for by students and not taxpayers.

Teachers should be paid based on performance and there should be periodic competency testing for public school teachers in both the academic curriculum and the subjects they teach. Also, we:

- Should reform tenure.
- Limit public school teachers' right to strike.
- Restore balance to the Public Employment Labor Relations Act.
- Not penalize School Districts for being unable to reach union contract agreements.
- Retain Minnesota's current system of Independent School Districts rather than aligning school district boundaries with county boundaries.

Emphasize Traditional American Values

We believe that every classroom should be required to display the United States flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance daily.

In keeping with our heritage, all history classes should include information about the important role religion played in our Nation's founding, including study of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and other original sources.

We should encourage and respect the voluntary expression of religious beliefs and traditions. Specifically,

- Educators who discuss creation science should be protected from disciplinary action.
- Science standards should recognize the controversy over the theory of evolution.
- K-12 public school teachers should not discuss or teach about alternative sexual lifestyles.
- K-12 public school teachers should teach about sexual abstinence, that premarital sex and extramarital sex is wrong, and that using contraceptives is not safe sex.
- We oppose the dispensing of or referral for birth control drugs and devices in schools.
- We oppose dispensing any prescription drugs in schools without parental consent.
- **> Add this point:** (Emphasize Traditional American Values) We support biological sex as the sole determinant of an individual's gender and seek to protect students from inclusion policies that allow boys and girls to use locker rooms, bathrooms, showers and overnight facilities as well as participate on athletic teams according to their chosen gender identity. (Submitted by Andover P2, Andover P4, Ramsey W4P2)
- **> Add this point:** We believe that pro-Sharia-Law materials be removed from our public schools and any Islamic content be objectively evaluated and created independently of pro-Sharia-Law special interest groups. (Submitted by Ramsey W2P1, Andover P4)

At the University level, we should restore academic and intellectual freedom for professors and students, and:

- Prohibit imposing fees that support student organizations without consent.

Section 5 Strengthen our Families and Communities

We recognize the blessings that God has bestowed on this great Nation. We also recognize the central role of the traditional family in our society and the necessity of traditional values for strengthening our families and communities.

- **Add this:** We recognize Pornography as a Public Health Hazard leading to a broad spectrum of Individual and Societal Harms (Submitted by Ramsey W4P2)
- **Add this:** We support restricting the promotion and sale of vulgar and obscene material to children, and support the use of pornography-blocking software in publicly-financed institutions.
- **Change this point to:** We recognize the need for education, prevention, research, and policy change at the community and societal level (submitted by Ramsey W4P2, Ramsey W2P2, Andover P4)

We believe that marriage is between one man and one woman. Therefore, we:

- Call on the Minnesota State Legislature to repeal its new laws to the contrary.
- Believe the U.S. and Minnesota Constitutions should be amended to this effect.
- Oppose civil unions or their legal equivalents.

- Believe domestic partner benefits should not be publicly funded.

People in need should be assisted primarily through private charity, including faith-based programs instead of government welfare programs. We believe in real welfare reform that would require all able-bodied recipients to work or get training in order to receive benefits beyond some time limit, and:

- Encourage private charity through federal and state tax credits.
- Stop cash incentives for unmarried recipients to bear children.
- Require proof of legal citizenship.
- Require mandatory drug tests.

We seek to eliminate all state-sponsored gambling and oppose any expansion of gambling in Minnesota.

We would:

- Prohibit commercial surrogacy contracts.

Section 6 – Protect Public Safety

We believe that the most fundamental function of government is to keep citizens and our property secure.

To secure and punish criminals, we support:

- Mandatory minimum prison sentences.
- Substantially higher sentences for repeat offenders.
- Ending probation for violent criminals.
- Establishing life sentences without the parole the most dangerous sex offenders.
- Denial of parental rights of convicted rapists to the children conceived by rape.
- Capital punishment for the most serious crimes.
- Prisons meant for punishment, not recreation.
- Requiring restitution to victims and the state for crimes committed, holding offenders personally responsible, including juveniles.
- Stricter penalties for assaults on police.

We believe public safety is better served if we:

- Eliminate "Hate crimes" against specific "protected classes" and all equal crimes are punished equally.
- Require police check the immigration status of non-citizens.
- Repeal any law which allows American citizens to be arrested and indefinitely detained without trial.
- Eliminate federal drug laws.
- Reaffirm a state's right to regulate controlled substances, including illegal drugs.
- Do not legalize recreational marijuana.
- > **Add this point:** Support Local and State Police Officers, because "Blue Lives Matter"! (Submitted by Andover P3)
- > **Add this point:** Minnesota law should oppose sanctuary cities and require that jails and prisons honor detainers issued by immigration authorities and in no way impede immigration agents in the performance of their duties. (Submitted by Coon Rapids W1P2, Coon Rapids W1P1)

Section 7 –

Strengthen the Rule of Law

We support limiting frivolous lawsuits, preserving judicial elections, holding judges accountable, and respecting the rule of law.

Limit Frivolous Lawsuits

Republicans believe that the legal system has been subject to abuse and want tort reform, including the following: limit attorneys' fees in class action lawsuits where the plaintiffs receive small payouts; reduce frivolous lawsuits, excessive numbers of lawsuits, and lawsuits intended primarily to advance a political aim. It would also limit any party's liability to its fair share of the damages. Additionally:

- Judges should review and, when necessary, limit excessive awards of damages and attorneys' fees.
- A prisoner should have limited ability to file frivolous lawsuits.
- Juries should have the power to find a suit without merit, and require the plaintiff and his attorney to pay the defendant's legal costs.

Protect Judicial Elections and Holding Judges Accountable

We support contested, not "retention," election of judges as provided by the Minnesota Constitution and oppose any proposals to eliminate or limit these elections. We would limit the authority of the Governor to make judicial appointments for the purpose of avoiding a contested election. Furthermore, we believe:

- The word "incumbent" should be removed after judicial candidates' names on the ballots. 🗳️
Judicial vacancies should be appointed only until the next general election.
- Voters in judicial elections must be residents of the district where the judge will preside.
- Voters should have the ability to remove any judge from office, even when the election is uncontested.
- Voters must have access to a transparent public judge evaluation process.

A code of judicial ethics, enforced by a legislative Board on Judicial Standards, should be established by statute as a check on judicial power. Specifically that includes:

- A judge's signature on all rulings, orders, and opinions.
- A documented finding of fact for each order.
- Making transcripts available from the appellate court.
- A limit on gifts.
- Having all administrative documents open and available to the public.

Respecting the Rule of Law

We support: the nullification of unconstitutional federal law in accordance with state sovereignty, restoring states rights under the 10th amendment of the U.S. Constitution, reinstating the Constitutional separation of powers, and the election or appointment of strict constructionist judges who adhere to the principles of the U.S. and Minnesota Constitutions.

We oppose legislation by executive order, judicial rulings, or unelected regulatory agencies.

We oppose the implementation of foreign law on American soil.

We recognize that "sanctuary cities" are a violation of federal law and support withdrawal of all state and federal funding for those cities.

Asset forfeiture should be abolished except upon criminal conviction and where the asset is directly related to the crime.

Section 8 –

Enjoy and Protect our Natural Resources

We believe that proper stewardship of our natural resources and agricultural lands is best achieved through sound science and adherence to constitutionally guaranteed property rights.

We believe that economic development of natural resources can be balanced with environmental stewardship and should not be obstructed by radical environmentalist concerns. We oppose policies and mandates based on the Theory of Man-Made Global Warming, as well as any energy policies arising from it. Therefore, we support:

- Repeal of Minnesota’s Next Generation Energy Act of 2007.
- Research and development of alternative forms of energy by private initiatives.
- The building of clean coal-fired and nuclear power plants.
- Requiring the federal government to meet its obligation to store or recycle nuclear waste.
- Eliminating government subsidies or mandates for any specific energy source.
- Repeal of the “Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment.
- Oil pipelines over rail transport as a matter of public safety.

Those that cause the pollution should bear the cost of environmental clean-up.

We should follow commonsense practices in forest, wetlands and wildlife management, and promote multiple uses of natural resources in most cases. Republicans encourage free enterprise in the agricultural economy, and support technological advances in the creation, processing and use of agricultural products and natural resources.

The Republican Party of Minnesota opposes efforts to put all land or water under the control of the government. We support:

- Reducing or restricting government ownership of our land to no more than 40%.
- No net gain of land by the federal government, the Minnesota DNR, or nonprofit land trusts.
- All conservation easements having a sunset.
- Prohibiting the DNR and Soil and Water Conservation Districts from purchasing land using bonding.

Make Government Smaller and Better

We support keeping government functions in state, local or private hands, electing honest and responsive legislative bodies, advocating for fair election processes, and generally making government smaller and better.

Keep Government Functions in State and Local Hands

We believe government functions should return to the hands of state and local governments where they will be carried out more efficiently and with greater accountability than at the federal level. We reject Congress’ practice of coercing state and local governments by withholding funds if states do not give the federal government jurisdiction. We:

- Reject the federal government offering “bailouts” to the States.
- Advocate a constitutional amendment giving the President of the United States a line-item veto.
- Would eliminate the Metropolitan Council.
- Would eliminate Local Government Aid.
- **> Add this point:** The Minnesota Legislature shall create a statewide matching grant program that provides guidance and annual financial support to reduce the physical burden and liability on local governments due to the emerald Ash Borer an invasive species devastating effects on our trees.

Section 9 –

Republicans believe that we should abolish the U.S. Department of Education, and oppose centralized educational authority, such as Common Core, at the expense of local school boards.

We believe that cities should not be allowed to annex townships without approval of the affected residents. Also, townships and counties should decide on where to place feedlots and logging roads.

Elect Honest and Responsive Legislative Bodies

Republicans support reinstating a citizen legislature in Minnesota by:

- Holding regular legislative sessions only in alternate years.
- Denying Legislators additional pay and per diem during special sessions.

We hold our elected officials accountable by:

- Supporting codes of conduct for all Minnesota elected officials requiring resignation and loss of pension and benefits upon conviction of a felony
- or any crime involving dishonesty or moral turpitude.
- Federal and state Constitutional amendments for an effective recall procedure for all elected officials.
- Supporting term limits for all elected officials.
- Limiting all elected officials' compensation to salary during service, with no retirement benefit beyond Social Security.
- Requiring State and federal lawmakers to live by the same laws they pass.

- Adopting an initiative and referendum law in Minnesota.

Advocate for Fair Election Processes

We support the current Electoral College system and oppose electing our president based on the national popular vote. We promote a change in the way Minnesota casts its votes in the Electoral College, so that the votes from the individual Congressional districts go to the winner of that Congressional district. We support fair redistricting without gerrymandering and with Senate districts that do not cross Congressional district boundaries. We must improve polling place procedures, specifically voter registration practices, including requiring:

- Voters to be registered at least 30 days prior to an election.
- Voters to present a valid proof of U.S. citizenship and residency.
- A photo ID at the time of registration and when voting.
- Voting machines to provide a printed receipt.
- Opposition to any voting schemes that violate the principle of “one man, one vote” including “Instant Runoff Voting.”

- All school district elections to be held on General election days.

We oppose public financing of campaigns and political parties.

Streamline Government

All new federal regulations must have a positive cost-benefit analysis and be approved by Congress.

We support limiting new biennium State spending to no more than the previous biennium's revenue.

Any new government program must include the program's purpose, cost and estimated completion date, with measures of performance and termination procedures if found ineffective.

All proposed legislation must include either a specific reference from the U.S. or Minnesota Constitution authorizing it, or a credible reason why none is needed.

Public worker compensation packages (including salaries, pensions and medical benefits) should be no better than those of private sector workers.

We support a State employee hiring freeze and contracting out of services as much as possible.

Section 10 – Defend America at Home and Abroad

We believe that we can maintain peace by having a strong national defense, securing our borders and by seeking principled international relationships. **Strong National Defense**

- We believe America's military must be well prepared, well armed and ready to protect our national security interest. Thus we:

- Will deploy American troops overseas only to further American interests or to defend a faithful ally, and

Under the command of American officers.

- Only commit to overseas actions when victory is clearly defined.

- **Add this point:** We support a legal path to citizenship for officially registered Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) (Submitted by Coon Rapids W1P2)

We reaffirm our support for our troops, including active duty members, Reserves, National Guard, veterans and their mission.

We believe that:

- Active duty members' military income should be State income tax exempt.
- Retired and disabled veterans' benefits should be protected.
- Minnesota law should recognize retired military personnel as veterans.

We will continue to support efforts to keep our nation safe and fight the Global War on Terror, and oppose calls to "cut and run" until the job is finished. As Republicans, we support:

- Denying foreign aid to any country that protects or supports terrorists.
- Continued development and deployment of defense systems and Strategic Missile Defense.
- Trying enemy combatants and non-U.S. citizen terrorists in military tribunals and not granting them U.S. Constitutional rights.
- Protecting our electrical grid from EMP attack.

- Ending the Iran deal.

Protect our Borders

We support immigration reform that first strengthens our borders against criminals, terrorism and illegal immigrants, but see no need to offer amnesty or a pathway to citizenship for illegal aliens to get it. More specifically we support:

- Increased border patrol funding and completion of the border fence.
- Opposition to any program allowing illegal aliens to remain in the United States.
- Continued deportation.
- An end to birthright citizenship.
- More extensive background checks before issuing visas.
- Making English the official language in Minnesota and the United States, and
- Printing all government forms in English only.
- Limiting access of illegal immigrants to employment, public benefits, scholarships, subsidies of any kind, driver's licenses, permits, identification cards or taxpayer identification numbers.
- Stopping un-vetted Syrian refugees from entering the country.

Support International Relations

We reaffirm our commitment to free market economics, including free and fair international trade. We seek to maintain commercial, cultural and diplomatic ties with many nations while also promoting American industry and commerce. We should maintain trade policies that encourage other nations to seek democracy, capitalism and individual freedom for their citizens.

We should continue our efforts to become less dependent on foreign oil, including:

- The development and conservation of all fuel sources, including nuclear power.
- Opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other domestic sources.

We believe foreign aid should, in most cases, be in the form of American goods, commodities and services.

We oppose any surrender of U.S. sovereignty or liberty through the United Nations or its initiatives, such as:

- The Law of the Seas Treaty (L.O.S.T.).
- Agenda 21.
- The UN Rights of the Child Treaty.
- The World Bank and International Monetary Fund.
- All United States participation in the United Nations.

We continue to support the right of the State of Israel to exist and to defend itself.