

The Platform of the South Carolina Republican Party

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“I go on this great republican principle, that the people will have virtue and intelligence to select men of virtue and wisdom. To suppose that any government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people is a chimerical idea.”

James Madison

PREAMBLE AND DEDICATION

The Founding Fathers of these United States of America set forth a framework for a federal government based on the consent of a free people. The South Carolina Republican Party is concerned that our cherished American heritage is too often taken for granted and not thoroughly understood. Often, only lip service is paid to the principles and traditions that have made our State and Nation great. There appears to be less emphasis on educating our children in such a manner as to allow them, when grown, to successfully govern themselves as a free people. For these reasons, we have chosen to highlight the Constitution of the United States by emphasizing the role it can play, when carefully and knowledgeably followed, in securing for our State and our Nation the liberties we hold dear.

The Constitution of the United States, which established a democratic republic, provided very specific and limited powers to the new government. Only those powers and duties specifically enumerated within the Constitution of the United States were granted by the States and the people, to the national government. Despite this specific limiting language of the Constitution, the Founding Fathers quickly recognized the need for further restrictive clauses. As a result, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, were adopted. Included among these was the Tenth Amendment, which directly and articulately states, “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

In founding this nation our forefathers recognized the need for a national government, yet at the same time understood the potential threats to the liberty of a free people that a large central government could pose. The resulting Constitution of the United States, with its federal system, is a brilliant balancing of the respective needs to establish order in a civilized society while yet protecting the God- given liberties of a free people.

The Founding Fathers were men of great faith, learning, dedication and loyalty to their communities, their states and their new nation. Nevertheless, they did not imagine that they could solve all of the problems of this new nation for years to come in a single document. They fervently believed the framework they established, in the hands of a learned, God-fearing, free people could be used to channel the powers of the national government so as to allow the ingenuity and free will of the citizenry to appropriately address all issues which might arise.

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In like manner, this platform of the South Carolina Republican Party is intended to identify and clearly establish those principles for which this Party stands. Unlike previous editions of the Platform, it is not intended to address every issue currently being discussed in the political arena. To the contrary, it is intended to be a continuing statement of foundational principles upon which the South Carolina Republican Party is based. Similar to the original intent of the Constitution of the United States, this Platform, when its principles are followed, should lead to an appropriate resolution of specific issues.

While the laws of man may change, the laws of nature and God are unchanging. To withstand the battering winds of common fads and short-lived ideas, to protect the liberties that we of this nation enjoy, and to secure the blessings of those liberties for ourselves and our posterity, we must learn the lessons of history and remain true to those principles upon which this great nation was founded.

The Republican Party of South Carolina believes that our State and Nation can only remain strong provided that our families remain strong. We recognize that by emphasizing the importance of family and personal responsibility, our society may reap peace for today and hope for tomorrow. Realizing that the governance of this great land will one day rest in the hands of the children we now raise, *We, the South Carolina Republican Party, dedicate this platform to the children of South Carolina in the hope and sincere belief that the blessings of liberty will be maintained provided the price of eternal vigilance is paid in full.*

- I -
To Form A
More Perfect Union

“The new nation...struggled into being...with something unheard of in the existing world, a written Constitution...a reaffirmation in the principles of...justice and liberty.”

Winston Churchill

We the People of the South Carolina Republican Party recognize that the ever enduring effort “To Form a More Perfect Union” is best realized when constitutional rights and responsibilities are clearly embraced and the allocation of power unquestionably seen as derived from the people.

Toward this end, the South Carolina Republican Party calls for:

- Continued efficiency and accountability in *Government Restructuring*
- Policies which restore public confidence in the *Judiciary*
- Constitutional adherence to *States’ Rights*
- A *Tax Policy* which promotes prosperity

GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING

The South Carolina Republican Party has long deplored the metastasizing and increasingly unaccountable state government bureaucracy which, entrenched in its own preservation, rendered itself inefficient in its service to the people of our State.

We praise Governor Mark Sanford for continuing in the legacy of Governor Carroll Campbell and calling for restructuring and streamlining state government. We support Governor Sanford’s attempts to further increase the efficiency of state government through increased government restructuring and call upon the legislature to cooperate with Governor Sanford and continue to reform state government structure and embrace the concepts of performance and regulatory audits to further identify and eliminate governmental waste. The Republican Party knows restructuring and rightsizing state government will save taxpayer dollars, improve public services, and return the appropriate balance of power, while reducing undue burdens to the people of South Carolina.

We urge the Legislature to give the voters the opportunity to amend the Constitution of South Carolina so as to delete from the list of state officers which must be elected so that they are appointed by the Governor, the following: Adjutant General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Comptroller General, Superintendent of Education and Commissioner of Agriculture. We support legislation that dissolves the Budget and Control Board and places all of its duties and responsibilities in the Governor’s office. We support a constitutional amendment to require the Governor and Lieutenant Governor to run as a ticket.

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THE JUDICIARY

The South Carolina Republican Party deplors the social engineering and “legislating” from the bench that the judicial activism of the United States Supreme Court has permitted and encouraged. Many of the problems faced by our society today, and the difficulties that we encounter in addressing those problems, arise from the Judiciary’s grants of power to the government of the United States above and beyond the specific powers enumerated in the Constitution. Consistent with the concept of strict construction of the United States Constitution, all federal judges and justices are urged to exercise judicial restraint in their rulings. We specifically call upon the Supreme Court to return to its historic role of interpreting and applying the Constitution as understood and intended by its Framers. We are thankful for the wise decisions of former President George W. Bush, who nominated Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justice Samuel Alito, to the United States Supreme Court. We applaud Senators Lindsey Graham and Jim DeMint for their strong support of Justices Roberts and Alito, and we urge them to oppose judicial nominees that do not share our position of judicial restraint.

STATES’ RIGHTS

South Carolina Republicans note with great alarm the continual erosion of states’ rights guaranteed in the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution and the regular usurpation of state prerogatives by the national government.

The Party applauds the stand taken by Republican Governors Sanford, Beasley, and Campbell and our Republican Attorneys General Henry McMaster and Charlie Condon to reverse unconstitutional federal mandates and resist federal coercion.

The party recognizes the courage of Justice Clarence Thomas in his dissent in *U. S. Term Limits v. Thornton* on May 23, 1995 where he wrote:

The ultimate source of the Constitution’s authority is the consent of the people of each individual state, not the consent of the undifferentiated people of the nation as a whole....

The Party encourages its Republican Congressmen to continue its efforts to devolve responsibilities from Washington back to the states. With a new commitment to Federalism, states will again be empowered to govern effectively and the national government can again concentrate on its constitutional duties.

TAX POLICY

The South Carolina Republican Party, the state party of opportunity, supports a tax policy designed to help the economy grow, not stunt the taxpayer. We realize that free people maximizing the power of free markets will do more to enhance the wealth and economic security of South Carolinians than any government program ever could. We therefore support policies that allow hardworking South Carolinians to keep more of their own money rather than be given to the State.

A massive body of scholarly evidence shows economic growth is stimulated or retarded by the levels and kinds of state and local taxes. Capital is attracted where it is welcomed.

The Party recognizes that high property and income taxes repel capital migration and therefore retard economic growth. We strongly support the successful efforts of Governor Sanford and former Governor Beasley and Republican legislators, which have repeatedly reduced property taxes over the past decade.

As we note that South Carolina's income tax rate is higher than most of our neighboring states, and is among the highest in the nation, The Party calls on the General Assembly to significantly reduce the income tax burden on our economy and our taxpayers. We recognize the research of free market economists like Arthur Laffer, whose research has shown permanent decreases in marginal tax rates cause behavioral changes in taxpayers. This change in behavior stimulates the private sector economy and as a result of increased economic activity, the public sector may realize increased tax revenues.

The Party calls on our Statehouse and Congressional delegations to stand firm in opposing new tax increases or the reversal of successful tax cuts, including the tax cuts enacted by Republican leadership that will expire without legislation extending them. We also call on our Representatives to do all they can to repeal the "death tax", which is a burden to working families, businesspeople, and farmers in our state.

The Party clearly understands that capital gains taxes are particularly pernicious in discouraging new investment and job creation. Empirical data demonstrate that taxes are second only to labor costs as a consideration in new business location decisions. Studies also show progressive income taxes are economically more harmful than flat rate taxes raising the same amount of revenue. A growth-maximizing strategy calls for low taxes and a low proportion of expenditures going for growth-inhibiting transfer payments.

With regards to local taxing powers, the Party supports the original intent of Home Rule. While S. C. Republicans support the concept of local autonomy, we recognize that an across-the-board support for unlimited Home Rule could result in taxation without limitation, importing Washington-style tax-and-spend government to our local communities. We recognize the authority of local governments to collect taxes, but only for purposes, which have been authorized by the General Assembly.

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- II -
To Establish Justice

“The administration of justice is the firmest pillar of government.”
George Washington

We the People of the South Carolina Republican Party readily acknowledge one of the chief functions of civil government to be the establishment of justice for the purpose of securing the inalienable rights endowed to the governed by their Creator. We understand the establishment of justice to be first a moral task, requiring the wisdom to recognize and discern good from evil; right from wrong. Against the tides of cultural relativism and the winds of political correctness, this Party chooses to anchor itself to the immovable rock of traditional values and moral absolutes which, for over three millennia, have guided men, women, nations, and governments to justice, freedom, and progress.

Toward this end, the South Carolina Republican Party stands for:

- An end to racial and gender *Discrimination and Affirmative Action*
- Strict adherence to *Ethics in Government*
- Governmental protection of *Constitutional Property Rights*
- Legal recognition of the *Right to Life*
- Freedom in the job market through *The Right to Work*
- Ensure the *Integrity of the Election Process*

DISCRIMINATION AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The South Carolina Republican Party reaffirms the words of Jefferson as written in the Declaration of Independence: “All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights....” Consequently, we hold to the dignity and intrinsic worth of all human beings.

With regard to legislative attempts to create preferential treatment for South Carolina’s citizens based upon race or gender, the Fourteenth Amendment could not be any more clear, “All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof . . . shall not be denied the equal protection of the laws.”

The equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and the words of the Declaration of Independence affirm that both discrimination and preferential treatment, now called affirmative action, are in direct conflict with the principles of our founding documents. It is the view of the South Carolina Republican Party that preferential treatment, quotas, or affirmative action devalue the intelligence and character of those they are intended to assist. We believe discrimination and preferential treatment should be resisted and opposed.

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The Party seeks membership and leadership from all citizens of South Carolina, who, regardless of race or gender, are committed to the principles of conservative government.

ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT

The South Carolina Republican Party recognizes that American democracy is built upon our faith and confidence in the goodness and capacity of our citizens. The Party expects our public officials to live within the confines of principle, virtue, and law. Our state and nation cannot long survive without such standards. As James Madison, “The Father of the Constitution,” himself has said “We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.” Accordingly, our legislators must continue to move with dispatch toward establishing the boundaries where ethical behavior leaves off and abuse begins.

As a Party, we oppose state and local agencies from employing taxpayer-funded lobbyists.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

The South Carolina Republican Party acknowledges the high position of property rights in a free society. “Republicans consider private property rights the cornerstone of environmental progress. That lesson has been confirmed in the tragic environmental record of communist rule and of socialist readiness in the less developed world. By safeguarding these rights, by enforcing the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment, and by providing compensation, we not only stand true to the Constitution but advance sound environmentalism as well” (1996 Republican National Platform p. 65).

With regard to private property, the United States Constitution’s Fifth Amendment could not be more clear: “No person shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.”

The South Carolina Republican Party believes the constitutional guarantee provided in this amendment is one of the pillars of our free society. Any attempt to encumber or weaken this guaranteed protection of private property should be opposed.

In light of the 2005 *Kelo v. New London* Supreme Court decision, the Party recognizes the Eminent Domain Statutes of South Carolina and opposes “takings” of any kind, physical or regulatory, without due process and just compensation.

THE RIGHT TO LIFE

The South Carolina Republican Party affirms the Jeffersonian declaration that life is the first inalienable right. We grieve the loss of over 48 million innocent lives lost to abortion since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. We acknowledge that all human life, born and unborn, has intrinsic worth. We believe that the unborn and the newborn child have a fundamental right to life which must not be infringed. Accordingly, we believe that the Fourteenth Amendment's protection should apply to unborn children. We support the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* through judicial action or through passage of a Constitutional Human Life Amendment. The Party is totally opposed to chemical, surgical, or any method of abortion on demand and the use of public revenues to pay for abortions or to fund organizations which advocate abortion. We find the procedure known as Partial Birth Abortion to be a particularly gruesome method of abortion/infanticide and we commend former President Bush and the Republican U.S. House and Senate for banning this atrocity, and the Supreme Court for upholding the ban. We extend compassion to women who have experienced abortion and support pregnancy care centers across South Carolina as they help women in need. We anticipate the day when our unborn children will be classified as legal persons rather than as legal property.

With regards to the emerging bioethical issues of Fetal Tissue Research and Human Stem Cell Research and Human Cloning, the South Carolina Republican Party holds firmly to its Pro-Life Position in the pursuit of medical advances. We oppose the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993 lifting the federal ban on the performance of fetal tissue transplant experiments using the victims of induced abortion. Since then, shocking evidence confirms that abortion clinics, medical schools, university research laboratories, and pharmaceutical companies are trafficking in the organs and bodies of aborted babies. We find such practices indefensible and unconscionable.

In 1992, then President George Bush proposed a private, non- profit fetal tissue bank established solely with tissue from spontaneous miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies. We applaud and support such efforts as both Pro-Life and Pro-Science. We urge both the United States Congress and the South Carolina General Assembly to pass legislation banning research on fetal tissue obtained from induced abortions. Since 1995 Congress has explicitly prohibited the use of federal funds for "research in which a human embryo or embryos are destroyed, discarded, or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death."

We oppose federally funded researchers conducting experiments on embryonic stem cells obtained from embryonic babies killed in privately- funded research facilities. We find such efforts to be illegal, unethical, and unnecessary. We oppose the decision of President Barack H. Obama to reverse the policy of former President Bush on stem cells, and believe it will lead to the destruction of human life with taxpayer dollars. We applaud the successful efforts to obtain human stem cells from such non-lethal sources as umbilical cord blood or adult neural and bone marrow stem cells.

Such promising research is both Pro-Life and Pro-Science. We urge the United States Congress and the South Carolina General Assembly to pass a complete ban on human embryonic stem cell research. With regards to human cloning, the South Carolina Republican Party affirms former President Bush's position that life is a creation not a commodity. We oppose public or private efforts to "create" a human being via cloning, as well as the appropriation of federal funds for any such research.

We oppose the use of taxpayer money to fund abortions at home and abroad. We affirm the rights of conscientious objectors, including doctors and other health professionals, who object to performing abortions as a condition of their involvement with non-profit organizations or employment.

The South Carolina Republican Party calls upon the National Party to ever hold fast the truth that an innocent human being has a right to life. We also beseech the conscience of America to stand up against the injustice of this Politically Correct Death. We applaud and support adoption as a loving and viable alternative to abortion.

Likewise, the Party is concerned about the plight of the infirm and disabled – many of whom are elderly – who are often neglected, euthanized, and pressured into assisted suicide.

The Party believes that the right to life, as stated in the Declaration of Independence and affirmed in the Constitution, is inalienable and foundational. Without the right to life there can be no other right. Therefore, the Party supports vigorous legal protection of life for all people at all stages of life.

THE RIGHT TO WORK

The South Carolina Republican Party affirms the values of freedom, self-discipline, and work.

We recognize the workingmen and women of South Carolina as the primary economic resource of this great state. Because the free enterprise system is the best way to provide jobs for hardworking South Carolinians, the Party supports the strengthening of this system, opposes mandatory union membership and dues, and supports the Right to Work law.

The Party also recognizes the unfortunate reality that too many in South Carolina's workforce are ill equipped to achieve their potential due to insufficient education, lack of ambition, or poor work skills. While we call upon our government to protect the Right to Work, we call upon our citizens to rise up, equip themselves to meet their potential, and to provide the quality workforce needed for global competition and a higher quality of life.

The Party supports an amendment to the South Carolina constitution that guarantees every worker the right to a secret ballot in a union organizing election. Workers deserve the privacy of a secret ballot when deciding to elect a union as their representation, and a secret ballot will prohibit them from unnecessary intimidation from a labor union or employer. We oppose any effort by the federal government to eliminate the secret ballot or mandate binding arbitration for employers if their workers choose union representation.

ENSURE THE INTEGRITY OF THE ELECTION PROCESS

We support efforts to promote the integrity of the election process in South Carolina. We support requiring a photo identification card, issued by the State of South Carolina, to be shown to vote.

We support allowing voters to designate a political party on their voter registration application.

We believe political parties have the right to choose their nominees; therefore, we support primaries that are open only to registered voters of that political party.

- III -

To Insure Domestic Tranquility

“We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion.... Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

John Adams

We the People of the South Carolina Republican Party understand that the assurance of Domestic Tranquility is a two- fold task requiring commitments both from the governing and the governed. The civil government, charged with protecting its citizenry from evil, must also encourage the same to seek goodness, and live justly. We recognize that Civil Law is often used as a moral guide. Conversely, citizens must recognize that the “pursuit of happiness” is not a license for all forms of hedonism, violence, and irresponsibility. We readily recognize that character counts, and private choices often have public consequences. Unfortunately, these points seem tragically lost on President Barack H. Obama and the Democratic Party.

Toward this end, the South Carolina Republican Party stands for:

- A swift, sure, and true *Criminal Justice* system
- Opposition to state-sponsored *Gambling*
- High regard for the institutions of *Marriage & Family*
- The abolition of *Pornography* in our society
- The valid role of *Religion* in our culture
- Tougher efforts to stop *Substance Abuse*
- A compassionate and moral approach to *Teen Pregnancy*

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The South Carolina Republican Party believes that economic distress is not the primary cause of crime. Rather, a lack of moral values, self-control and restraint, coupled with the breakdown of the family are the chief causes. “Let the punishment fit the crime” should be the prevailing rule. Criminals should be punished to the fullest extent of the law. Consequently, the Party wholeheartedly supports truth in sentencing. Parole for violent career criminals should be abolished for the sake of public safety. Restitution to crime victims is an essential and separate element from incarceration in reducing crime and bringing about justice.

We support efforts to abolish parole for career criminals in South Carolina and reform the judicial system to reduce recidivism rates in South Carolina that may result in a more efficient system at a lower cost to the taxpayer.

The Party recognizes that the victims of all crimes have rights and supports a state constitutional amendment establishing a Victim’s Bill of Rights so that the rights of victims are guarded just as seriously as those of the criminal.

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The Party laments the rapid rise in juvenile crime; we acknowledge that both parents share full responsibility for their minor children and should therefore share the responsibility of their delinquency. The Party supports prosecution of drug dealers as adults and making juvenile crime records available to the Department of Corrections. The Party is opposed to unsupervised furloughs for any incarcerated juveniles.

The Party recognizes the vital public safety functions performed by Law Enforcement personnel and pledges its total support of law enforcement agencies: city, county, state, and federal. It deplors coddling of criminals and applauds swift, sure justice at all times. The Party supports the death penalty as a deterrent to crime and deplors the fact that its effectiveness as a deterrent is diluted by appeals processes that can last many years.

Prison should be a place to which an inmate never wants to return. The Party supports the self-sufficiency of our penal system by requiring all inmates (both juvenile and adult) to work a portion of their waking day. Additionally, inmates should be judged on behavior and performance in every aspect of prison life.

GAMBLING

We do not believe that raising revenue by capitalizing on the foolish risks of needy people is a legitimate function of the State. With video poker being defined as contraband as of June 30, 2000, South Carolina has successfully closed a chapter of its history that we should not repeat. While South Carolina has unwisely adopted a state lottery, the South Carolina Republican Party is opposed to state-owned and operated video lottery terminals to include video poker, keno, and other highly addictive state-run and unregulated gambling; internet and offshore gambling; casinos; and gambling technologies yet to be developed.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

The South Carolina Republican Party considers the sacred institution of marriage as fundamental to the stability, betterment and perpetuation of our society. Many economic, emotional, and physical ills in our culture could be avoided if abstinence before and faithfulness in marriage were the standard of behavior. We oppose efforts to redefine the marriage unit to accommodate proponents of homosexual “marriages” and oppose any legislation which legally recognizes same-sex marriage, civil unions, or allows such couples to adopt children or provide foster care. Morally and pragmatically, the Party considers homosexuality a lifestyle detrimental to the health and well-being of individuals and therefore opposes its promotion as simply “an alternate lifestyle.” We applaud the state for prohibiting same sex marriage and adoptions, and consider such as detrimental to the peace and tranquility of our state.

The Party considers the traditional American family to be the essential unit of our society. We oppose any governmental actions which tend to weaken the family, the family being the social unit of wedded man and woman with their natural- born or adopted children. Numerous scientific studies demonstrate that divorce negatively affects the physical and mental health, welfare, and economic status of the adults and children involved. Therefore, we believe that the laws of South Carolina regarding divorce should be tightened not relaxed in order to stabilize society by strengthening the family unit and protect all children. We support the passage of legislation that would abolish common law marriages.

We oppose the efforts of the State Department of Education to redefine the meaning of family, through its suggested curriculums and call on that Department to uphold the traditional family as the model of behavior for children. We call upon all state agencies dealing with children to uphold the state's definition of family in placing all children in its care.

We oppose any legislation, which offers financial incentives for mothers to leave home for the workforce, or that creates a scenario in which the State becomes the parent. We support the Republican concept of across-the-board tax relief for all parents of young children and the elimination of the marriage penalty tax.

The Party is appalled by the increasing incidences of physical and sexual, child and spousal abuses, as well as the abandonment of families by one spouse. We offer our compassion and admiration to single parents, who carry out their parental duties in the face of great challenges. We call upon our legislators to protect such parents from further economic abuse through tighter laws and swifter means for collecting child and spousal support. We also encourage couples to make the commitment of marriage before they have children; studies show this commitment greatly benefits the children of that union.

The Party considers one of the extreme forms of familial abuse to be the killing of the defenseless unborn and the euthanizing of the elderly. We support legislation, which protects the family and, all of its members from the youngest to the oldest and hereby reaffirm our commitment to the Right of all human beings to live.

PORNOGRAPHY AND OBSCENITY

The South Carolina Republican Party condemns the publication and consumption of obscene, pornographic and sexually violent material, as a major contributor to moral decay and a fundamental threat to our domestic tranquility. We favor legislation to prohibit the distribution of obscenity and pornography by print, telephone, television, video, computer, the Internet, or any other means. The Party believes that obscenity and pornography as defined by state law are not protected under the First Amendment. We urge the state of South Carolina and all of its municipalities to strictly enforce all existing laws against obscenity and pornography.

We call upon and would encourage the attorney general and the circuit solicitors of our state to relentlessly prosecute such offenders, as we consider them a serious threat to our communities. We also support federal efforts to scientifically challenge the (Alfred) Kinseyan model of American Human sexuality, which, since 1948, has propagated as “normal” an indiscriminate and promiscuous view of human sexual behavior.

We call upon our institutions of learning to review the materials in their libraries and discard those obscene materials which are not protected by the First Amendment. We also call upon those public providers of Internet services and those state institutions which offer Internet services to the public to filter obscenity for their customers thus making the Internet a useful tool for all citizens. We would encourage our communities to eliminate pornographic and obscene establishments. We applaud Attorney General McMaster’s pursuit and prosecution of online sexual predators.

RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The South Carolina Republican Party recognizes the importance of religion throughout the history of our state and nation and opposes any attempts to regulate religious institutions, or impinge upon personal religious freedoms. As Alexis de Tocqueville has said, “America is great because America is good, and if America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.” The Party believes that every citizen has the Constitutional right to pray, read the Bible or any religious text, and discuss his or her faith in private and in public, including the public schools of this State. The Party recalls the profound words of President George Washington: “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness— these foremost props of the duties of men and citizens.” We recognize the Judeo-Christian ethic embraced by our founding fathers and call upon our State and Nation to return again to the values that made America and the American people great. We applaud the efforts of the S. C. General Assembly to permit the display of the Ten Commandments in public schools.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The South Carolina Republican Party recognizes that controlled substances are out of control.

The Party supports firm enforcement of existing laws against the abuse and distribution of controlled substances and favors severe penalties for driving under the influence. We particularly support vigorous prosecution of all drug traffickers as adults and oppose any effort to legalize the use of controlled substances.

TEEN PREGNANCY

The South Carolina Republican Party laments that historically our state has had one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in the Nation.

Unwed teen pregnancy must be addressed in a compassionate manner by the private sector and public agencies. However, we must teach our children that sexual chastity prior to marriage is the only proper and safe course. This is crucial to the economic, social, and moral stability of the community as well as the individual. The party also understands that children often follow the model of their parents with regard to sexual behavior. We therefore call upon the adult population of this state to act with moral integrity on this critical issue. We hold that birth control devices, medication, and implants must not be administered to minors without full explanation of the risks involved and only with written permission from parent(s) or guardian(s). We oppose any distribution of contraceptives, including condoms, in our public schools.

We are alarmed by the growing incidence of sexually transmitted disease in the teen community, especially HIV/ AIDS, which is no longer confined to the homosexual community and the “drug-abuse sub- culture.” We oppose holding out the myth of “safe sex” to our teens as it is morally debasing and medically questionable.

The Party also recognizes with alarm that the majority of illegitimate births to teen mothers were fathered by adult men. We strongly remind such men that minor girls cannot legally give consent, and to engage in such behavior constitutes criminal sexual conduct. We call upon our justice system to prosecute such actions.

Finally, we recognize the aforementioned problems involve “morals” and “values” and therefore cannot be addressed by governmental action alone. However, it is clear that such problems have been exacerbated by flawed and failed humanistic/relativistic attempts at solutions in our schools and other public institutions.

- IV -

To Provide For The Common Defense

“There is a rank due to the United States among Nations, which will be withheld, if not absolutely lost, by the reputation of weakness. If we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war.”

George Washington

We the People of the South Carolina Republican Party recognize that “wars and rumors of wars” will always be a constant reality in a world governed by human beings. “To provide for the common defense” a just nation must effectively protect her citizens from tyranny and foreign aggression as well as recognize their constitutional freedom to protect themselves.

Toward this end, the South Carolina Republican Party calls for:

- A commitment to *Peace Through Strength* in Foreign Policy
- A constitutional view of the *Right to Bear Arms*
- A high regard for *United States Sovereignty*

The South Carolina Republican Party recognizes that we are engaged in a war against Fundamental Islamic terrorists who seek to destroy our country, and we commend the leadership of former President George W. Bush in providing for the common defense.

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

The South Carolina Republican Party makes known our unwavering support for the United States Armed Forces. We believe a strong, well equipped, and fiscally empowered military is essential to “secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.”

We believe the strength of our military has been a significant factor leading to the failure of communism in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Bloc. The numerical and technological strength of our standing Armed Forces will continue to be vital to protecting our way of life from Fundamental Islamic extremists who will stop short of nothing less than the destruction of our country. We urge the current Administration and Secretary of State to never waver in their commitment to win the Global War on Terror.

We strongly encourage foreign policy which empowers democratic freedom fighters and counters terrorists and communist expansionism, especially in our hemisphere. We applaud former President Bush for supporting democracies throughout the world, including Israel and Taiwan.

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We applaud the leadership of former President Bush who recognized the threat of ballistic missiles possessed by unstable regimes. We urge the current Administration and Congress to continue his work to build a ballistic missile defense system to protect American citizens and those of our strategic allies.

We support a ready and disciplined military and endorse The Uniform Code of Military Justice as the law of the services, protecting and preserving the peace among those who honorably serve us in the military. It is for this reason that we oppose any policy which allows those who openly display homosexual behavior to serve in the armed forces: it's against the law.

We honor and owe a great debt to those who have defended our shores and come to the aid of our allies under siege. We support local, state and federal legislation which honor, educate, and empower military veterans and their families, especially those who gave the supreme sacrifice so that we might be free. We call upon the Federal Government to fulfill all of its promises and commitments to the nation's veterans and their families. We owe special gratitude to those service members who served the Nation under the selective service laws. We believe that it dishonors the Nation and defames the blood shed by those who fought to secure and preserve our liberty when those who refused to serve or deceitfully avoided selective service are elevated to positions of honor and power.

We honor all South Carolina and United States citizens who honorably served in the military. We appreciate and honor the service of all veterans of all wars, foreign and domestic. We support private efforts to preserve South Carolina's rich military history.

We believe the South Carolina National Guard must be trained and equipped with the state-of-the-art and maintained at maximum readiness— a ready resource for deployment by the governor of South Carolina in the event of civil unrest, natural disaster or other emergencies.

THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

The South Carolina Republican Party supports the 200+ year-old Constitutional right of the people to keep and bear arms. The Founding Fathers of our nation believed that the citizens of this nation had a right and a responsibility to the continued protection of themselves, their families, their property, and ultimately the freedom of their state and nation. The right to keep and bear arms is essential to our protection from both tyranny and foreign aggression. In securing the future safety of our nation, the Constitution's creators included the necessary provision that the militias of the States be similarly armed for their protection. This right includes the responsibility of individuals to protect and defend themselves and the state or nation if needed.

South Carolina Republicans support this right. Based on the indefensible increase in violent crime coupled with liberalism's attempt to run our lives from Washington, we understand that the Second Amendment's provisions are more important today than ever before in our nation's history. We support the right to keep and bear arms, to defend ourselves, our families and our property from those who would attempt harm. We support the right to arm ourselves to defend our state and nation in times of need and to augment the forces of the United States and the State of South Carolina as the militia that served our nation in the past. We ultimately support the belief of our Founding Fathers that individual responsibility held by the people of the states and the nation was the best form of protection of the rights in our Constitution.

We applaud the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller* that held that the 2nd Amendment as an individual right.

UNITED STATES SOVEREIGNTY

The sovereignty of the United States of America, if it is to continue to exist, must not only be recognized by other nations, it must be held in the highest regard by our own people. The sovereignty of the United States of America must never be abridged.

While the United States must maintain its role as leader of the free world and participate in trade and military alliances which serve our interests and the cause of justice, we must jealously guard our sovereignty in these agreements. This Party believes that U. S. troops should never serve under foreign command and that our nation should have absolute control over its trade policy and its economic system. While unilateral action is never preferred, This Party understands that "going it alone" is still preferable to the language and actions of defeat and failure.

No state or Union can retain its sovereignty or enforce the rule of law if it cannot secure its borders. The South Carolina Republican Party welcomes any and all people who wish to come to the United States to enjoy the freedom and opportunity this land offers as long so they comply with our laws regarding immigration and citizenship. However, the citizens of South Carolina are impacted daily by the endless breach of our borders by illegal immigrants. We recognize that these breaches have caused great and increasing harm to our security, our economy, our education and health systems, and the quality of our environment. We urge stricter state and federal enforcement of border control to the ultimate end of eliminating the grave burden such criminal activity perpetrates on our educational, social, economic, and natural resources.

The status of the millions of illegal aliens currently in the United States must be addressed and the South Carolina Republican Party adamantly opposes blanket amnesty for anyone who has not gone through the appropriate legal channels to enter our country. We also believe that the legal immigration process to becoming a United States citizen should include assimilation into American culture, including a prerequisite of proficiency in English. Furthermore, we call for the designation of English as the official language of the United States.

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To Promote The General Welfare

“Government is a trust, and the officers of the government are trustees, both the trust and the trustees are created for the benefit of the people.”

Henry Clay

We the people of the South Carolina Republican Party bring our time, our talents and our conservative ideals to the public square for the betterment of our state, our nation and our citizens. We strongly affirm that the great Preamble of our nation’s Constitution does not call for the establishment of government for the provision of the general welfare, but for its promotion. Toward that end, the South Carolina Republican Party supports:

- *A Balanced Budget and Eliminate the Deficit*
- *Transparency of Government Revenues and Expenditures*
- Incentives to make the *Economy* grow
- Increased educational options and a return to academic excellence in *Education*
- An effective and sensible policy on the *Environment*
- Consumer Driven *Health Care*
- An agenda to empower *Senior Citizens*

THE BUDGET, THE DEFICIT AND TRANSPARENCY

The 2006 and 2008 elections at the national level rightly chastised the Republican leadership in Congress for earmarking and the reckless growth of government spending. The South Carolina Republican Party deplores the irresponsible manner in which the state and federal governments have handled fiscal policy related to the budget; whether through the accumulation of a mammoth national debt which undercuts the general welfare of today’s citizens and future generations, or the irresponsible growth of state government spending at unsustainable levels. The Party calls on every level of government to return to sound fiscal management that provides effective and efficient government with a minimum amount of taxation.

To this end, the Party supports transparency and full disclosure of all government budgeting and expenditures. We support the effort to require online check registers for state and local governments as well as school boards.

Budget: Believing that government at all levels should live within its means; we support a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution. Our national government must return to its proper constitutional role as it relates to the general welfare. This role is to promote, not provide. We therefore call upon our national government to reduce entitlement spending and other expenditures it was not created to assume.

The same holds true of our state government. Rather than increase government spending at growth rates that are higher than our taxpayers ability to pay, our Party holds that these growth rates should be limited to the corresponding growth rates of inflation plus population.

The Party calls for the implementation of zero-based budgeting techniques at the state and federal levels that demand justification for continued funding for programs and for an end to unfunded mandates. This is especially true as the Democratically controlled U.S. Congress spends money at a greater rate than ever in the history of our nation. Government spending should be limited to essential government services and on the actual infrastructure needs of our nation and state.

Deficit: The Party believes that government expenditures should be kept within the actual revenue available. Revenue raised for a specific purpose should be used solely for that purpose. When legislators and bureaucrats waste tax money, they deserve to lose their jobs. When they save money, they deserve praise.

Debt: Years of unbalanced budgets and subsequent deficit spending on the federal level have brought us to a national debt that is a disgrace. We recognize our future is heavily mortgaged, and we cannot long afford to pay the interest on debt. The dire consequences of such a self-inflicted predicament combined with ever greater deficits in the public pension system are the devaluing of our dollar and the real possibility of national bankruptcy. We support the firmest resolve by national Republican leaders to bring America back to sound fiscal health.

THE ECONOMY

The South Carolina Republican Party recognizes that the general welfare is promoted most effectively by dynamic economic development through the free enterprise system. We understand:

- from freedom, comes opportunity for individuals
- from opportunity, comes growth and innovation
- from growth, comes improved quality of life.

Freedom, opportunity and initiative are the foundations for economic growth. Economic growth is essential to secure personal employment and advancement. Such growth depends on a business climate that encourages investment and the creation of new jobs. Therefore, the Republican Party is committed to effective limits on the tax burden imposed upon citizens and businesses as well as increased access to capital needed for business expansion and long-term investment. We support the concept of enterprise zones as incentive for job creation and cuts in the capital gains tax rate as incentive for expansion.

We recognize government regulations tend to restrict economic growth and entrepreneurship by creating costs, which are passed on to the consumer. Therefore, government at all levels should assess the economic impact of proposed regulations and subject them to the test of financial reasonableness. Privatization is an important alternative to higher taxes and reduced services. If private enterprise can perform better and more efficiently than government, let it do so.

South Carolina's major industries— Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Tourism must be nurtured and provided the necessary support and incentives to remain strong players in the employment of our people.

Agriculture: The Party stands with farmers against on- going efforts to dictate price levels and restrict production. We reject the notion that elected officials and bureaucrats make better farm managers than farmers.

The Party supports:

1. Favorable capital gains policy to promote investment;
2. Strengthening the role of U.S. products in world markets so that fair trade policies protect U.S. exports from unfair competition;
3. Continued investigation into new crops and livestock which make S.C. farms more productive;
4. Federal disaster assistance programs for the agricultural community;
5. Streamlined permitting policies for environmental regulations;
6. Standardized and reasonable, yet effective waste management policies to cover agricultural operations from the "family farm" to the "mega farm";
7. Continued work on biofuels research to promote greater potential uses for S.C. farm products;
8. Education on and promotion of South Carolina's vast agricultural products; and
9. Respect for the property rights of South Carolina farmers.
10. Support efforts to encourage consumers to buy products grown in South Carolina.

The Republican Party recognizes South Carolina must continue to create a more attractive climate for manufacturers to locate and expand. Toward this end, we support our Right to Work law and economic incentives making it financially feasible for companies to retool and update plants with American made machinery for lower corporate taxes, and for an enlightened regulatory policy that partners with industry to accomplish needed environmental controls. The Party absolutely opposes card-check legislation that would quash freedom of association, effectively remove the right to a secret ballot election and allow predatory, out-of-state interests to come into our state.

Tourism: The wealth generated through out- of- state and international visitors significantly improves the quality of life for South Carolinians and gives us the opportunity to share the natural beauty with which we have been so blessed.

The Party fully supports efforts to increase quality growth in our tourism industry. We oppose regulatory efforts of the tourist industry which go beyond reason and have as their real goal the reduction of visitation to our state.

EDUCATION

The Republican Party of South Carolina believes that the “general welfare” is significantly promoted when all are provided an opportunity to receive an education commensurate with their individual abilities. We acknowledge public schooling is a function of the State and support our history of state- sanctioned local control, but also believe that no student should be forced because of attendance zones to attend a school that is not serving them well. Every child in South Carolina must have access to an excellent education.

To this end, we support the concept of “school choice” and affirm the right and responsibility of parents to make the best education decisions for their children, whether they home-school their children or send them to private or parochial schools of their choice. We embrace the healthy competition that will result from a comprehensive school choice plan that includes the private sector, and believe such a system should be instituted from kindergarten through 12th grade. In addition to improving public school performance, a system of school choice that includes tax credits, scholarship granting organizations and vouchers would offer more compassionate and better opportunities for all children in South Carolina.

The Party applauds the Technical College system of South Carolina and encourages greater use of dual credit courses to provide greater educational opportunities for students across our state, improve the graduation rate and reduce the teacher shortage in science, technology and mathematics.

We recognize the primacy of parental rights and responsibility in the education of children and stand opposed to federal intrusions into local schooling. We commend teachers who work hard in the schooling of children and believe in advancing the teaching profession through alternative certification programs and rewarding teaching performance through a system of merit pay.

We support education funding in which funds are attached to the child and urge that such funds be spent at the classroom level and in addressing critical school building needs. Recognizing that adequate funds and buildings alone will not solve our educational problems, we support proven practices such as: intensive and systematic phonics reading programs, clearly defined academic learning standards, measurable assessments, competition, ability/achievement grouping, sequential teaching, and firm, loving, consistent discipline. We support the arts, but contend they are secondary to learning basic academic subjects. We also urge efforts to lower tuition for in-state students to our public colleges and universities.

The Platform of the South Carolina Republican Party

We believe children have the right to attend safe, drug- free schools – wherever they may be.. We applaud cultural sensitivity but oppose “multi-culturalism” as being divisive. We believe maintaining English as the standard language will enhance full participation of recent immigrants in our broad American culture and more effectively address their educational needs. As a reminder to children that our blessings as a free people stem from being “one nation, under God,” we call for the right to voluntary prayer and a requirement that the “Pledge to the Flag” be recited daily. We oppose any attempt to denigrate the historical role of religion in our history or to deny students the right to freely express religious convictions in the classroom.

We support traditional, family-oriented, parent-approved sex education in our schools that is based on Judeo-Christian principles. We affirm the rightness and practicality of abstinence-based programs that encourage postponing sexual activity until marriage. We reject contraceptive distribution to students and school- based “health clinics.” Although we support tolerance, we do not agree that unnatural or unhealthy sexual practices ought to be legitimized or promoted in the classroom. Clubs and observances that are based on sexual orientation are inappropriate for academic institutions.

THE ENVIRONMENT

The South Carolina Republican Party recognizes stewardship of the earth to be one of the chief responsibilities of mankind and therefore holds the preservation and protection of our natural resources as a sacred trust.

We approach our environmental opportunities and responsibilities with the following principles:

1. Environmental risks/ concerns must be faced accurately, neither exaggerated nor underestimated; environmental remediation must incorporate the concepts of cost/ benefit, risk analysis, and public/ private cooperation.
2. Environmental progress is integrally related to economic development as economic growth generates the capital to pay for environmental gains and as environmental preservation creates an atmosphere conducive to a high quality of life and economic development.
3. The right to own, use, and dispose of private property is a fundamental political tenet of all free nations. Property rights are not to be violated by the misuse or overuse of government regulation and should dictate due compensation when a taking occurs.
4. The United States, in the exercise of her sovereignty, should not “ratify any treaty that moves environmental decisions beyond our democratic process and transfers beyond our shores authority over U. S. property” (1992 Republican National Platform).

We support DHEC’s renewed commitment to: streamlined permitting, local solutions to local problems, environmental self-audit, and a risk based, cost-benefit approach using applied scientific knowledge when enacting regulatory authority.

The Party encourages reasonable and standardized policies to effectively and efficiently promote waste minimization, containment, and reuse (such as recycling, subtitle D landfills, and appropriate land application of solid waste).

The Party recognizes nuclear waste has been generated at the Savannah River Site during its more than forty years of service to the defense of the United States. The Department of Energy, which owns the site, has begun the arduous task of cleaning up contaminated areas. We insist DOE meet all of its cleanup commitments to the state of South Carolina including full utilization of the Defense Waste Processing Facility to vitrify the millions of gallons of high-level waste on site.

With regard to low-level nuclear waste, the Party calls upon all states to honor their interstate commitments and supports the action taken by South Carolina in 1995 to ensure safe disposal of low-level waste by enacting legislation to continue operation of the low-level waste facility at Barnwell. This legislation not only avoided waste storage at numerous sites around the state but also generated millions of dollars for crucial school building needs and a scholarship fund.

South Carolina is endowed with an abundance of natural resources vital to our economy and integral to our quality of life. The integrity of our air, lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, beaches, estuaries and underground aquifers must be reasonably yet soundly preserved for the sake of sustenance, economic development, agricultural advancement, recreation and posterity.

HEALTH CARE

The South Carolina Republican Party believes Health Care should remain in the hands of citizens, not government bureaucrats. We enjoy the highest quality of care in the world because incentives and rewards exist for the development of new procedures and products. A disruption of those incentives by government regulation and intrusion will reduce patient choice, quality of service, and curb the development of life saving procedures.

Our goals should be clear:

1. Guard the system that ensures patient choice, yet encourages patient responsibility for cost of services;
2. Transfer power from institutions and bureaucracies to individual patients and their doctors;
3. Restore competition and market forces to health care, including a state insurance pool;
4. Rein in out of control Medicaid spending and reduce the injustices of cost-shifting through state block grants and voucher programs;
5. Restructure tax policy to make medical care more affordable and accessible for millions of citizens through tax credits and full deductions of all health care expenditures, including out of pocket and insurance premiums.
6. Reduce the cost of healthcare by instituting tort reform and thereby reducing frivolous lawsuits that causes the practice of defensive medicine.

The Platform of the South Carolina Republican Party

Additionally, the public must also take responsibility for their health. We urge the prevention of disease through education and individual discipline. We support programs to help mothers and their babies get a healthy start in life through prenatal care and immunization; however, we also call for strong action to enforce parental responsibility with regard to alcohol, illicit drugs, neglect and abuse. While we are committed to respond to the AIDS epidemic through compassion, we stress that the spread of this deadly disease should be prevented through personal responsibility and the avoidance of high- risk actions, which transmit the disease.

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

The South Carolina Republican Party believes transportation in our state is at a crossroads. To make it through this juncture there must be a focus on maintenance and financial wherewithal for major projects across the State. At the same time, we recognize major systemic flaws with the current structure of the Department of Transportation that must be addressed before momentum for those needed projects can be established. Until the bureaucracy is reformed, simply throwing money at DOT will not result in the resolution of our infrastructure needs.

South Carolina remains a donor state in the amount of federal motor fuel taxes it sends to Washington, DC. The Party supports enabling legislation at the federal level to end the inequitable treatment of South Carolina and other donor states in the distribution of federal motor fuel tax revenues. The State's current donor status means that it gets back some \$920 million less than it collects over a 20-year period.

We support the continued use of privatization for transportation related projects. Private enterprise should also be encouraged to put its expertise and experience to work towards solving age- old transportation financial problems with new and innovative solutions. The Party also supports the end to the diversion of State Motor Fuel Taxes to non-highway purposes.

The South Carolina Republican Party supports SCDOT efforts to:

- Use federal funds with greater flexibility and leverage
- Provide efficient and coordinated alternative forms of transportation for people and goods
- Develop creative funding strategies
- Involve the general public and the private sector in transportation planning
- Encourage coordination between land use and transportation planning
- Strive for a transportation system sensitive to human needs and the environment
- Coordinate the intermodal system with other infrastructure needs to support economic development
- Enhance the safety of all transportation modes
- Strengthen coordination among all planners and providers of transportation services
- Eliminate the obligation ceiling on federal transportation funding

With regards to highway safety and automobile insurance, the Party recognizes driving is a privilege not a right. We support:

- Continuing to shift the cost from good drivers to bad drivers by removing all recoupment charges for those safe drivers
- Continuing the crackdown on uninsured motorists and habitual DUI offenders
- Recognizing insurance fraud as a major contributor to increased rates and basic insurance premiums
- Improving highway safety by requiring behind-the-wheel driver's education for all drivers under the age of 21 and classroom driver's education for drivers with violations
- Increasing the limits of liability to meet the needs of the insured
- Utilizing county prisoners to maintain those highways not otherwise maintained
- Tort reform as the basis for real automobile insurance reform
- Recommending a working cooperation between the Department of Insurance and the Department of Public Safety
- Call on the governor to enforce the statutes concerning uninsured motorists, which chronically drive up the cost of automobile insurance

SENIOR CITIZENS

The South Carolina Republican Party recognizes that senior citizens are a growing and important segment of the population of our State. Their vitality and energy, combined with ability, honed over a lifetime, contribute to the betterment of our State.

The Party urges the government and the private sector to continue to use the increasing productivity of our senior citizens not yet ready for retirement. The Party encourages senior citizens to continue participating in our workforce so that their wisdom, gained over time, can be appreciated and cherished by all.

Social Security plays a vital and strategic role in providing minimum benefits for retired and disabled working Americans and their dependents. Social Security, like all Federal Government Trust Funds, exists in name only. No money is invested in tangible assets but is spent immediately leaving behind IOU's to future workers. With a rapidly increasing ratio of retirees to workers, the system is in jeopardy. The South Carolina Republican Party believes that government in our free society must be honest with its citizens by confronting and correcting the problems of our Social Security system.

In addition, we commend those senior citizens who through the exercise of thrift and foresight, provide for their own retirement needs. The Party also realizes that Medicare is in dire straits and is facing an uncertain future with possible bankruptcy. Republicans believe we owe it to our senior citizens to save Medicare from bankruptcy, and we owe it to our children not to saddle their futures with our debt.

With high regard for our senior citizens, the Party favors governmental actions which will result in the following:

1. Providing re-entry of able retired persons into secondary employment programs
2. Removing Social Security penalties for wage earning senior citizens
3. Reforming Medicare to meet the Medicare trustees' own solvency test
4. Supporting cost effective methods of keeping the elderly in their homes and providing institutionalization only as a last resort
5. Supporting education, research, and training in geriatrics and gerontology
6. Establishing tax credits to allow family members to lovingly care for their own elderly

WELFARE REFORM

The South Carolina Republican Party believes in freedom, hope and opportunity for all South Carolinians regardless of their position on the economic ladder. These can be achieved through personal and parental responsibility, hard work, and diligence unhindered by excessive government intrusion. Citizens should be encouraged to reach their maximum fulfillment as individuals and should not be shackled to a lifeline of government dependency.

The Party believes the federal government should shift all social service programs to the states in the form of block grants, reducing the myriad of federal regulations that prevent the states from creatively meeting the needs of the poor in the most efficient and effective manner. Local governments can best solve the problems of local citizens.

The Party believes that true freedom and self- sufficiency for the poor can only be achieved through employment. Unencumbered by excessive government regulation, the American free enterprise system can provide jobs for every educated and skilled worker. Job training and education are the basic foundation of any welfare program. Job tax credits and public- private partnerships increase employment among the poor and offer the most efficient means for welfare recipients to move from relying on tax subsidized good-will to becoming contributing, tax paying members of society.

The Party believes that a secure, stable and loving family is the most successful factor in assuring success and avoiding reliance on governmental welfare programs. Penalties that work against savings and the establishment of two- parent homes must be eliminated.

Realizing that broken homes and financial strains are a fact of life in our society, the ideal of one parent staying home is not readily attainable for many. As stated previously, the Party supports across the board tax credits for parents with young children. This policy would encourage and help the poor in the area of childcare.

Should a break up of the family occur, the Party believes that parental involvement and support of the children should continue. Recognizing a deprivation of moral and financial support is a strong indicator of future reliance on governmental assistance, social service and law enforcement agencies are encouraged to vigorously and creatively pursue non- custodial parents who fail to financially support their children.

A shining example of the Republican philosophy of helping people to help themselves is the development of programs leading to ownership of public housing by current residents. Pride of ownership and freedom increases efficiency of operation, enhances the quality of housing and improves community morale, thus providing incentives for self-improvement. The Party advocates the replacement of subsidies and welfare projects with a voucher system aimed at returning public housing to the free market.

The Republican Party, in accordance with its philosophy of encouraging individuals to work and of providing an equal opportunity for all, supports programs which provide training and incentives for persons with disabilities to become employed, taxpaying members of society, less dependent upon the fiscal support of society. Such programs include supported employment, attendant care, transition services, training for high school graduates with disabilities, and on the job training. The Republican Party encourages industry, the Department of Education and human services agencies to work together to provide these opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

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To Secure The Blessings Of Liberty

“No free government or blessings of liberty can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality and virtue, and by frequent reference to fundamental principles.”

Patrick Henry

The blessings of liberty were not forever secured by the ratification of the Constitution of the United States. The price of liberty is often dear, and must be paid by each generation.

The South Carolina Republican Party recognizes that there are very real threats to the liberty of the people of the United States from sources beyond the borders of this country. Such forces exist today and will no doubt continue to exist, in various forms, in the future. Nevertheless, the greatest threats to our continued enjoyment of the blessings of liberty arise from within our nation. We enjoy a government of the people, by the people and for the people such that “the people” must not abrogate their responsibilities to government bureaucrats. Often we are offered what is alleged to be greater security through some form of government in exchange for a portion of our individual liberties. When we conduct those transactions, individual liberties are routinely lost but often the promised security is illusory. Rarely is the exchange of liberty for security a good bargain.

If this generation truly proposes to secure the blessings of liberty to itself and to its posterity, it must gain control of its government at all levels so that we as a people live within our means. The practice of deficit spending, creating the huge national debt we all now share, has resulted in the mortgaging of our future and the futures of our children. The continuation of that practice will prohibit us from securing the blessings of liberty for ourselves and for our posterity.

Limiting the national government to its specified constitutional functions, as opposed to using it as the engine for a welfare state, will go a long way toward allowing us to preserve and build upon the great American heritage we treasure. However, we must not be fooled into believing that prudence in our economic practices will in and of itself secure the blessings of liberty that we desire. Sound fiscal policies, as all levels of government, must be coupled with sound moral principles to ensure that our Nation not only survives, but thrives.

The South Carolina Republican Party firmly believes that sound moral and fiscal principles are complimentary to one another, not antagonistic. By emphasizing the importance of family and personal responsibility, and by focusing on what we can do for our communities and ourselves rather than on what government should be doing for us, we can strengthen the moral fiber of our society. It is our firm, God-inspired belief that the full implementation and application of the foundational principles set forth by the South Carolina Republican Party in this Platform will permit us to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and to our posterity.

The Platform of the South Carolina Republican Party