

WAPELLO COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY**Approved 2008 PLATFORM*****1. Agriculture***

Iowa agriculture is a model of efficiency and performance. We support the family farm and increased efforts to convert and incorporate farm products into value-added products. We believe agriculture should operate with the least governmental regulations possible while maintaining quality products and environmental safety. We support long-range policies that foster agricultural development through use of the free market system worldwide. We believe that by providing a consistent food supply, agriculture is the basis of a secure and stable nation. We encourage continued support for and use of bio-fuels and support the continuation of environmentally friendly initiatives that help sustain family farming operations.

1.1. We support making out-of-country foodstuffs meet USDA requirements and believe that all food products sold or processed in the U.S. should be labeled as to their country of origin.

1.2. We support the use of agricultural products as a foreign policy tool option.

1.3. We urge the enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

1.4. We support current laws that limit foreign ownership of Iowa farm land.

1.5. We believe that government should encourage the efficient use of renewable agricultural products.

1.6. We support the Freedom to Farm Act.

1.7. We support current regulations concerning large hog lots and poultry operations and believe that they should originate at the state level. We support state control of rules for siting, setbacks, waste handling, and odor control of livestock units.

1.8. While we believe in the humane treatment of animals, we oppose attempts to impose additional restrictions on present animal husbandry practices and the use of animals in medical research.

1.9. We believe that the separation distance for new rural residences from livestock facilities should be the same as for a new livestock facility from an existing residence.

1.10. We support policies and practices designed to protect prime farmland while respecting individual land owners' rights.

1.11. We support funding for USDA programs which curtail, control or eradicate livestock diseases, and believe that the surveillance of those diseases must be maintained through the establishment of a national animal identification system.

1.12. We support less federal government interference in state agriculture.

1.13. We support farm programs that allow individuals to raise a crop and sell it at a sufficient profit in order to eliminate the need for government subsidies.

1.14. We oppose efforts to impose a surcharge or additional taxes on all forms of meat, poultry, fish and dairy.

1.15. We support assessment of agricultural land and buildings based on productivity.

1.16. We favor strict enforcement of all Plant Variety Protection and Utility patents for seeds worldwide. We also believe that farmers should not be unfairly charged technology fees or prices that are not paid by farmers in competing countries that use the same technology.

1.17. We believe that in order to assure free trade, the federal government must require other countries to comply with commitments made in all trade negotiations.

1.18. We believe in supporting tax and other incentives that encourage retiring farmers to sell to beginning farmers.

1.19. We support the science based cost/benefit-ratio impact studies and statements on issues, rules and laws affecting agriculture.

1.20. We support increased research and worldwide consumer education concerning the safety and benefits of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's).

1.21 We believe that government payments should be abolished to those who are not actively involved in farming and working the land.

1.22 We support the constitutional rights of property owners and discourage the claims of eminent domain to take private property for profit.

2. Business and Economic Development

We believe the economic prosperity of business is the ultimate means by which we fund all other ends. The key to prosperity is an adequate return on an individual's labor, talent, capital and risk.

We are keenly aware that regulations, fees and taxes diminish that return. We strongly support the Iowa Right to Work Laws and the passage of National Right to Work Laws.

2.1. We believe that the focus of OSHA should be to work with, not against, business.

2.2. We support developing a better business climate in Iowa through reduced regulations and lower taxes.

2.3. We support restructuring bankruptcy laws to make filing bankruptcy more difficult and to encourage instead the restructuring of debt. The use of bankruptcy to avoid paying debts should be discouraged.

2.4. We believe that landlords should have the same rights as other business owners.

Nonpayment of rents should be considered a 'theft of service.'

2.5. We support a landlord's right to refuse leasing property and business owners' right to refuse service based on the individuals moral grounds when not covered by the Iowa Civil Rights Act.

2.6. We support "paycheck protection" that would bar corporations from collecting or using employee's money for political purposes without express written consent, and that would prohibit unions from requiring members to contribute to a Political Action Committee.

2.7. We support efforts to minimize regulations on businesses.

2.8. We resolve that Iowa should review and make changes in Workman's Compensation and other business laws to make Iowa more business friendly.

2.9 We believe the market place, not the government should set the minimum wage.

2.10 Agreements made concerning pensions or benefits between employees or retirees and employers should be untouchable. Promises made should be kept. We encourage the protection of retirement pension plans whether public or private.

3. Education

We believe parents are responsible for the education of their children. Therefore, parents should be afforded as many options as possible, including private, home or alternative based education.

Parents should also be allowed to educate their children from a strong moral perspective. We do not believe that more money ensures better education. We support incentives for parents who choose alternative methods of education.

3.1. We oppose a federal or state-run preschool system.

3.2. We oppose compulsory preschool, and any proposal to lower the age at which children are required to attend school.

3.3. We support the use of a school voucher system and/or tax credits to assist parents as they exercise their right to choose government, private, home or alternative educational programs for their children.

3.4. We believe that the local choice to teach creation science, or intelligent design science, should be allowed in government schools rather than exclusively teaching evolution as the only viable theory. We also believe that tax funded libraries should include creation science materials on their shelves.

3.5. We believe libraries must control access to objectionable content (print, audio, or video) by minors in keeping with acceptable community standards.

3.6. We believe that patriotism, citizenship, voter rights and responsibilities, and respect for our country and its symbols, along with an accurate portrayal of America's history should be taught in our schools. We support the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in its entirety including the phrase "under God."

3.7. We support the abolition of the Federal Department of Education, and the removal of this position from the Cabinet. In addition, we call for the downsizing of the Iowa Department of Education. We believe that the control of education should be left to the parents, teachers, and local school boards.

3.8. We support voluntary teacher or student led prayer in the schools and use of the Bible as a local option.

3.9. We favor posting the Ten Commandments in public schools.

3.10. We believe the state should prohibit school based health clinics from providing or recommending abortion or birth-control services or referrals.

3.11. We believe that educators should stress abstinence outside of marriage as the surest way to prevent pregnancy, the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, and the associated psychological problems. We also oppose the distribution of condoms in tax-funded schools.

3.12. We oppose the teaching of homosexual behavior as a normal, acceptable or alternative lifestyle, and oppose any scholarships or other preferential treatment based on sexual orientation.

3.13. We support the immediate expulsion of the Human Growth and Development K-12 Sex Education programs as defined in Iowa Code Sections 279.50 and 279.51 from our government schools.

3.14. We demand that the Board of Regents and the state government end the practice of allowing some of our state universities to offer instate tuition to illegal aliens.

3.15. We support fast-track teacher certification to allow competent professionals to teach in our schools.

- 3.16. We believe that teacher salaries should be based on performance rather than solely on tenure. We support programs that reward superior teachers and outline clear procedures to remove ineffective educators.
- 3.17. We believe Educators at all levels shall have comprehensive communication skills in English, and that English should be the official language used in all areas of the Iowa educational system.
- 3.18. We support reducing the reliance of funding for education on property taxes, and in reducing property taxes as a result.
- 3.19. We believe that any educational mandates not accompanied by sufficient funding should be declared null and void.
- 3.20. The Iowa legislature should allow educators more disciplinary tools or options when confronting disruptive student behavior.
- 3.21. We urge the Department of Education to eliminate the rule of proportionality, an unfair quota, as a test for Title IX compliance.
- 3.22. We believe that the ability of parents to open enroll their children should not be limited by the financial or ethnic concerns of the school they wish their students to attend. All state and local funds should be allocated to each student's school of choice.
- 3.23. We support the teaching of the documents and beliefs of our founding fathers, with emphasis on patriotism and U. S. history, including its religious heritage, and believe that the constitution should be interpreted according to the intent of the original Framers.
- 3.24. We urge legislation to set guidelines for the alternative schools state wide. We urge accountability for the performance of these schools.
- 3.25. Schools should adopt policies of zero tolerance for bullying, punishable by immediate suspension or expulsion.
- 3.26. JROTC provides a sense of discipline, military training, scholarship opportunities and a sense of belonging; therefore JROTC should be made available to all high school age students.
- 3.27. High schools should provide greater focus on academic achievers and provide an option to test out of subjects that are prerequisites for more advanced subjects.

4. Energy and Transportation

We believe the availability of an adequate supply of energy is essential to the economic strength of the U.S. We support the development of renewable domestic energy sources like ethanol. We further support the reduction of our dependency on foreign oil by increasing the use of domestic resources. We believe access to an adequate transportation infrastructure is necessary for our market economy to succeed and for our national security. We urge that all taxes related to transportation be used for the sole purpose of maintaining and building the transportation infrastructure. In order to provide for Iowa's energy needs now and in the future, we call for an overhaul of the current Federal system regulating the siting and building of new power plants.

4.1. In order to reduce our dependency on foreign oil, and to reduce the likelihood of dangerous tanker spills, we believe the environmentally friendly alternative of offshore drilling should be started, particularly in the oil-rich areas off Florida, Louisiana and California. We also urge the development of the oil and gas fields in and around the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

4.2. We oppose the Kyoto treaty on the environment and the language of the UN Kyoto Protocol, as it would put the US, its jobs, citizens, and businesses at an economic disadvantage. We support responsible environmental policy that recognizes the importance of existing as well as alternative sources of fuel for both developed and developing countries.

4.3. We support the implementation of a strong energy policy through the use of more renewable energy sources.

4.4. We believe that the speed limit on interstate highways and those that meet interstate standards should be raised to 70 MPH in accordance with neighboring states. We support raising the legal speed limit from 55 MPH to 65 MPH on all regular non-interstate highways.

4.5. We support the completion of the projects that would make U.S. Highways 20 and 30 divided four lanes across the state of Iowa.

4.6. We urge that all motor fuel taxes and motor vehicle registration fees be used to maintain both the rural and urban infrastructure of roads, streets, and bridges. We oppose any transfer of State Road Use Funds for uses other than building and maintaining roads and bridges. We support tax incentives for the continued and increased use of ethanol and soy diesel as motor fuels.

4.7. We support the right of refusal for counties, cities, and towns when the Department of Transportation moves to transfer highways to these local entities.

4.8. We believe the locks and dams on the Mississippi River need to be enlarged to enhance barge traffic and expedite barge movement.

5. Family Values

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

5.1. We believe the father of a child, born or unborn, has the same rights and responsibilities as the mother in all matters regarding the child.

5.2. We support adoption as an alternative to abortion.

5.3. We support legislation that would expedite adoption and make it less expensive for both the biological parents and the adoptive mother and father.

5.4. We call for requiring DHS to have a proper search warrant and a judge's order before entering homes or seizing children.

5.5. We insist that one accused by the Department of Human Services should be considered innocent until proven guilty.

5.6. We believe that an adoption where the natural father is not married to the natural mother may be carried out without the natural father's consent if the natural father is not known or cannot be found.

5.7. We support adoption only by heterosexual married couples, consisting of one man and one woman.

5.8. We believe no group or individual should be accorded "minority" or protected class status, or given the existing statutory benefits that come with the designation, based solely on sexual behavior or so called "sexual orientation."

- 5.9. We oppose any legislation or executive order granting rights, privileges, or status for persons based on sexual orientation.
- 5.10. We believe that parents are responsible for their children, and we support the rights of parents to discipline, protect, and educate their children.
- 5.11. We support welfare reform and adjusting the tax code, to assist, preserve and encourage two parent, one man, one woman families.
- 5.12. We encourage decreased dependence upon the government for food, clothing and shelter, and encourage faith-based organizations to become more involved in caring for the poor and needy.
- 5.13. We support the elimination of no-fault divorce.
- 5.14. We strongly oppose the UN "Convention on the Rights of the Child."
- 5.15. We believe that unwed mothers must declare the identity of the father of the child or be subject to denial of state and federal funding.
- 5.16. We believe that present laws should be enforced, new laws written and fines levied to prevent indecency and pornography.
- 5.17. We support new and innovative approaches to encourage and prepare people to get off welfare. We affirm that welfare should be a short-term safety net designed to elevate the recipient to a self-sufficient status.
- 5.18. We believe individual prayer in public institutions should be neither required nor prohibited. Restrictions on voluntary individual prayer should be removed.

6. Government

Republicans believe that limited government is the best government and is the best path to prosperity for all Iowans. We are concerned about the erosion of religious liberty, free speech, private property and gun ownership rights. We believe that governments are designed to perform only certain limited functions, as enumerated in our Federal and State Constitutions. We believe in free enterprise, competition, individual liberty, and personal responsibility. We respect our American heritage, and believe that our status is found in our citizenship not cultural factions.

We believe that our legal system has been subject to abuse in the form of frivolous lawsuits; and lawsuits that are intended to advance a political agenda. We believe government's role is to provide a friendly environment for both businesses and labor. We believe that getting tough with violent and repeat criminals can best reduce crime.

- 6.1. We believe in retaining the moral absolutes which our founding fathers derived from Holy Scriptures as the principal foundation of our laws.
- 6.2. We call on our courts to interpret and apply the First Amendment as the framers intended. The First Amendment prohibits the establishment of a state religion and permits the exercise of religious freedom. Neither the courts nor government agencies should misuse or misunderstand the First Amendment so as to create a barrier to the free voluntary expression of religious belief. We advocate freedom of public prayer and religious expression and ask that Congress pass a new Religious Freedom Restoration Act.
- 6.3. We assert that the phrase, "the separation of church and state" as is commonly used, contradicts the original intent and practice of the framers of the Constitution.
- 6.4. We oppose judicial activism.

- 6.5. We demand that the U. S. House of Representatives exercise its constitutional responsibility and duty to impeach activist judges who legislate from the bench.
- 6.6. We believe that voluntary prayer shall be allowed in all public facilities.
- 6.7. We call for an end to all forms of affirmative action.
- 6.8. We support English as the official language for the United States.
- 6.9. We oppose any further restrictions on gun rights, eroding our Second Amendment rights.
- 6.10. We strongly urge legislation requiring the county sheriffs to issue the Permit to Carry Weapons to any legally qualified applicant.
- 6.11. We oppose special rights based on social or economic grouping, and oppose "hate crime legislation" or quota systems designed to favor one group over another.
- 6.12. We support requiring a full senate vote on all federal judge nominations within 90 days of being nominated by the President.
- 6.13. We support campaign finance reform that would call for the full, prompt, and public disclosure of all contributions to a campaign, and that would allow individuals to contribute to campaigns in the amounts they see fit but would disallow all business contributions to political campaigns.
- 6.14. We oppose government ownership of any gambling facility or activity.
- 6.15. We support the effort to remove automatic teller machines from gambling establishments.
- 6.16. We support a moratorium on issuing gambling licenses and oppose government or commercial for-profit gambling in the state of Iowa.
- 6.17. We believe the State of Iowa should immediately discontinue funding "Vision Iowa" projects.
- 6.18. We oppose further attempts to remove any mention of God from our government buildings, monuments or currency.
- 6.19. All Federal Agencies must be prohibited from adopting or enforcing regulations that exceed the boundaries of the Constitution.
- 6.20. We support the continuation of the Electoral College.
- 6.21. We recommend the requirement of positive voter identification through such methods as a voter ID card or driver's license matching the voting roster before anyone is allowed to vote.
- 6.22. We believe that any Government action whether compelled by law, dictated by bureaucratic regulation or required by public need, which diminishes an owner's right to utilize private property, constitutes a "taking" of that property as defined in our Bill of Rights. Therefore, the government must provide just compensation for the amount the owner's property that has been seized.
- 6.23. We support a 100% income tax deduction for health insurance premiums under the current income tax system.
- 6.24. We call upon the US Congress to pass HR 2357, the "Houses of Worship Free Speech Restoration Act," which would restore the liberty of churches to participate in America's political life without fear of retaliation by the Internal Revenue Service.
- 6.25. We believe that no lawfully operating business or its agents should be sued by any individual, group, or governmental body for the intentional or criminal misuse of a non-defective product.

- 6.26. We support equal access for nonunion and union contractors to government and school district projects, without mandating that contractors sign project labor agreements.
- 6.27. We oppose the practice of lawmakers exempting themselves from legislation.
- 6.28. We support the principle that the business of sports, entertainment and the arts should be funded by users and voluntary donors, not by tax dollars.
- 6.29. We support legislation that would require all legislative increases in pay and/or benefits to go into effect only after the next general election.
- 6.30. We support limiting wages and benefits to local government employees so as to mirror the average of local private sector employees in the same area of work.
- 6.31 We believe the State of Iowa should recognize the concealed weapons carry laws of other states.
- 6.32 We believe the Iowa Constitution should be amended to recognize the individual's right to keep and bear arms.
- 6.33 We support the granting of the line item veto power to the President and Governor.
- 6.34 Conviction of a misdemeanor shall not preclude the constitutional right to bear arms.

7. Health and Human Services

While we understand that quality, affordable healthcare is of concern to all Americans; we recognize that services such as healthcare do not come without a cost. We believe the Social Security system must be maintained and supported for current retirees, and believe in the eventual privatization of the program. We also support a complete overhaul of our current Medicare system. We support decreasing the role of government in healthcare, and strongly oppose a nationalized healthcare system. In an age of advanced medical technology individuals need to prepare for healthcare expenses. Providers of service and providers of goods are entitled to compensation for their products. For those citizens that cannot afford private health insurance, emergency lifesaving care should be available. We further believe in the equality of all people and support the availability of healthcare for Americans including the pre-born.

- 7.1. We support protection of the privacy of medical records and prevention of the development of a national database.
- 7.2. We believe that life threatening contagious diseases such as AIDS or hepatitis should be reported to those who are at high risk of infection such as, but not limited to: immediate family, foster care providers, healthcare and law enforcement workers.
- 7.3. We support elimination of the designation of HIV/AIDS as a disability under the ADA when the designation is based solely on the diagnosis of HIV/AIDS rather than the individual's physical disability.
- 7.4. We support tax-free Medical Savings accounts that allow for personal control of medical care and saving for retirement at the same time.
- 7.5. We support changes that would allow citizens to opt out of the social security retirement system in favor of personal retirement accounts.
- 7.6. We believe that in order to receive social security benefits, including SSI, one must have paid in for a minimum of 40 quarters or be a citizen of the United States.

- 7.7. We support measures to ensure that parents' permission is necessary for any medical testing or treatment performed on their minor children, except in situations that are both serious and urgent, where the parents can not be contacted in time.
- 7.8. We favor spousal benefits for legal, heterosexual marriages only.
- 7.9. We support a cap on medical malpractice awards to help hold down healthcare costs.
- 7.10. We believe that healthcare is a privilege and not a right. Therefore we strongly oppose the adoption of any socialized national health care system.
- 7.1. We believe Medicaid reimbursements to Iowa should be increased to be similar to the levels paid to more urban states.
- 7.12. We support the patients' right to select their licensed healthcare provider.
- 7.13. We support increased penalties for Medicare and Medicaid fraud.
- 7.14. We support requiring facilities performing abortions or distributing drugs such as RU-486, to be required to meet state medical clinic requirements.
- 7.15. We believe Social Security benefits for people born in the years 1917 through 1926 (the "Notch") should be increased to be equitable to those born before 1917 or after 1926.
- 7.15 People on disability income such as Social Security should have a work incentive like that of people on retirement. For every two dollars of income, you would lose one dollar of disability.

8. Homeland Security and Immigration

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

- 8.1. We believe that current immigration laws should be strictly enforced and strengthened.
- 8.2. We oppose welfare support for illegal aliens and their dependents.
- 8.3. We support elimination of unemployment benefits, schooling, drivers' licensing, or voting rights to illegal aliens.
- 8.4. We oppose the granting of amnesty to illegal aliens. We call for the government to devote increased resources to seal the borders against illegal goods and people entering the U.S.
- 8.5. We support the deportation of all illegal aliens and encourage the imposition of severe penalties on individuals and industries that are found employing illegal aliens.
- 8.6. We call for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would prevent the automatic granting of (anchor baby) citizenship to children born in the United States whose parents are illegally in this country.
- 8.7. We believe that U.S. citizens charged with terrorist acts are entitled to counsel, a speedy trial, and an opportunity to answer charges leveled against them.
- 8.8. We believe the government should not reimburse families for the loss of a loved one due to an act of God, natural disaster, or terrorist attacks with the exception of the military.
- 8.9. We call for continued research and deployment of a strategic missile defense system.
- 8.10. We believe those serving in our military should not be allowed to serve under the United Nations or wear its insignia or uniform.
- 8.11. We believe that one of the government's primary roles is to maintain an adequate military force to secure the borders of the United States.

- 8.12. We oppose foreign aid to any government involved in genocide, euthanasia, or forced abortion.
- 8.13. We support efforts that promote a free and democratic Cuba.
- 8.14. We demand American laws, treaties, sovereignty, and the Constitution not be superseded by the United Nations or international law.
- 8.15. We believe the United Nation's International Criminal Court represents a grave threat to the Freedom and Liberty guaranteed every American by the constitution, and urge legislative action to ensure the safety of our citizens.
- 8.16. We oppose any tax levied by the UN.
- 8.17. We believe no United States soil should be under the control of the United Nations.

9. Law and Justice

We believe justice is grounded in personal rights in balance with public safety. To secure this end, we believe the job of government is to uphold the law, maintain order, protect the innocent, resolve disputes and punish crime. We support fundamental tort reform to reduce lawsuit abuse.

- 9.1. We support a ban on nuisance lawsuits against manufacturers.
- 9.2. We believe judges must respect the intent of the Framers of the Constitution and oppose the continued expansion of the judicial role into law making.
- 9.3. Our judicial system should not use precedents or rulings from any source outside the United States.
- 9.4. We support harsher punishments for violent crimes, including reinstating the death penalty.
- 9.5. We support legislation requiring juries to be informed of their sovereignty under Common Law and duty to consider both the facts and the law in reaching just verdicts.
- 9.6. We oppose laws expanding the government's power of search and seizure that violate the Fourth Amendment.
- 9.7. We support prison reform, including the limitation of prisoner rights and amenities. Convicts should be required to work. We recommend education and training in vocational, technical and social skills.
- 9.8. We believe a person convicted of driving while intoxicated should never have his record expunged.
- 9.9. We believe individuals, including juveniles, should be required to make restitution for their crimes.
- 9.10. The penalties for the manufacturing, possession, sale, or use of methamphetamine must be increased and enforced.
- 9.11. We oppose the legalization of controlled substances including marijuana.
- 9.12. We believe that law enforcement authorities should act promptly on arrest warrants.
- 9.13. We urge the swift conviction and punishment of those who commit serious crimes, and oppose deferred or suspended sentences for serious offenses or repeat offenders.
- 9.14. We support faith-based initiatives and services for prisons and other rehabilitative service providers.
- 9.15. We oppose judicial favoritism toward women in child custody cases, and encourage equal protection of paternal rights.
- 9.16. We oppose so called "hate crimes" legislation.
- 9.17. We support reinstatement of the death penalty.

9.18 We oppose any and all foreign countries/companies being in charge of security at any and all United States Ports. The United States should not sell out to foreign companies.

10. National Defense and Foreign Policy

We believe in our Party's long-standing commitment to a strong national defense, and support the President's use of military force in ridding the world of terrorists, wherever they hide, until the job is finished. We believe our foreign and domestic policy must be based upon our own strategic national interests and must always jealously guard our nation's sovereignty.

10.1. We urge continued economic and military support for Israel, our strong ally.

10.2. We support Israel's right to use military force to protect itself from terrorists.

10.3. We strongly urge the United States government to cease pressuring Israel to give its land to Arab nations, and to recognize that Israel clearly needs this land for its national defense.

10.4. We support the immediate and full U.S. withdrawal from the United Nations and oppose any U.S. funding of the United Nations.

10.5. We support the war on terrorism and believe in the policy of confronting and defeating those who engage in terrorist acts along with those nations, groups, and individuals who harbor or support them.

10.6. We believe restrictions should be placed on the transfer of sensitive technologies to foreign governments and corporations, to those who want to develop nuclear weapons, or are suspected of supporting terrorism.

10.7. We support better pay and benefits for our military.

10.8. We support legislation to return the manufacture of United States military defense equipment to United States soil.

10.9. We support an effort to avoid reinstating the draft.

10.10 We support allowing the federal troops to actively patrol our borders.

11. Natural Resources and Environment

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

11.1. We support continued research in energy technology such as fuel cell cars.

11.2. We oppose attempts to eliminate the hunting and trapping of wild game.

11.3. We urge the government to encourage strong soil, water, and wildlife conservation practices.

11.4. We should maintain an environmental policy that protects the rights of humans before other species.

11.5. Due to overpopulation of deer and turkey and the damage they do, their number should be reduced by longer seasons, encouragement of out-of-state hunters, and doe-only hunting.

11.6. We support lengthening the deer season and allowing landowners to harvest deer on their own land between October first and March first.

11.7. We believe that the Department of Natural Resources should stop the placement of cougars, bobcats, wolves, bears, porcupines and other dangerous animals in state parks or

timbered, private property, and that they should remove such animals when they are found.
11.8. We oppose confiscation of private property for environmental protection purposes, and oppose granting the Department of Natural Resources the power of eminent domain.

12. Right to Life

We believe the unborn child has a fundamental right to life, which cannot be infringed. We therefore reaffirm our support for a Human Life Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Iowa. This constitutional amendment should also recognize that life begins at conception. We also endorse legislation to make clear that the 14th Amendment's protections apply to unborn children. We oppose using public funds for abortion or funding organizations that advocate it. We commend those who provide alternatives to abortion by meeting the needs of mothers and offering adoption services. We reaffirm our support for appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of life.

12.1. We believe all life is sacred, and that euthanasia, assisted suicide, and infanticide should be banned.

12.2. We are opposed to human cloning and embryonic stem cell research, human fetal-tissue research from induced abortions and the commercial use or sale of fetal parts.

12.3. We support legislation requiring parental consent before a minor child receives an abortion or any other reproductive services and products.

12.4. We support the reversal of Roe vs. Wade.

12.5. We support umbilical cord and adult stem cell research.

12.6. We support the full dignity of a burial for all aborted human fetuses in their entirety.

12.7. We endorse efforts to provide information on alternatives to abortion, about possible mental and physical complications of abortion, about the biological development of unborn human beings, and concerning the procedure to be used.

12.8. We believe a one-week "decision period" should be required before an abortion is performed.

12.9. We support a Woman's Right to Know law whereby performers of abortion must provide complete factual information to the pregnant woman about the complications of abortion, the biological development of the unborn, and the availability of alternatives to abortion.

12.10. We support the recently enacted Partial birth abortion ban, and support its vigorous defense by the US Attorney General and Solicitor General in upcoming court challenges.

12.11. We support the confidential statistical reporting of abortion procedures to the State Health Department by all doctors and facilities performing abortions.

12.12 We believe that a person with a disability who cannot speak for him/herself be presumed to want food and water unless they had made clear instructions to certain exemptions.

13. Taxes and Spending

Since all government money is taken from the people, taxes should not place an undue burden upon them. We support every reasonable effort on the part of all governments and taxpayers to limit taxing and spending. We believe that the purpose of taxation is to fund the constitutionally mandated functions of government, not to "redistribute the wealth," or to fund ever increasing social programs. We believe private groups or benevolent

organizations better handle social problems not by the government. We believe the tax code should be simple and fair to all taxpayers.

13.1. We support making recent tax cuts permanent, repeal of the federal estate tax and retention of the stepped-up basis provision.

13.2. We encourage anyone who objects to any tax cut that has been enacted to give as much money as they desire back to the U. S. Government's general tax fund.

13.3. We believe that state and federal capital gains taxes should be abolished.

13.4. We believe the marriage tax penalty should be eliminated permanently.

13.5. We oppose the imposition of sales or consumption taxes on e-commerce. 13.6. We urge the prompt adoption of a U.S. Constitutional Amendment to require a balanced budget, and a limitation of federal spending using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, unless an exception is approved by a recorded vote of two-thirds of both houses of Congress with the President's approval. We oppose "balancing budgets" by raising taxes.

13.7. We believe that the state government should adopt a balanced budget without raising taxes, and that bonding should not be used as a means of balancing the state budget.

13.8. We believe the State of Iowa should reduce its reliance upon property taxes as a revenue source.

13.9. We support discounting Iowa income taxes to 5.72% of EARNED income, with interest, dividends, pensions, and Social Security being tax-free, or the ability to file on the basis of current deductions.

13.10. We call for an end to the "Alternative Minimum Tax."

13.11. We support adoption of the People's Right to Vote Amendment to the Iowa Constitution.

This proposed amendment to the Iowa Constitution would require any increase in state taxes or fees, (including state laws that have the effect of raising property taxes) that exceed one percent of the state general fund, to not take effect until it is approved by a 60% majority of the people.

13.12. We support current Iowa law that requires a 60% voter approval for school or local government-bonding proposals.

13.13. We call for elimination of baseline budgeting and call for all government agencies to operate on actual and real budgets.

13.14. We support lowering the top income tax rates in the State of Iowa to be competitive with neighboring states.

13.15. We strongly oppose the spending of federal, state, or local government money to construct and develop the proposed "Iowa's Child" project in Coralville. Large projects like this should be funded strictly from private sources. We urge our state and federal officials to redirect any such appropriations into growing our economy and offsetting current deficits in the state budget.

13.16. We call for all funding legislation to include a sunset clause.

13.17. We urge the Iowa State Legislature to adopt a 98% spending limit for the State Budget.

13.18. We believe that the "Social Security Trust Fund" should not be used, spent, or borrowed from for general government expenses. We recommend that Social Security remain an independent fund with a separate Board of Directors, and that the government use Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in all reporting of the Social Security fund.

13.19. We urge the Iowa Legislature to resist any attempts to use the Iowa Public Employee Retirement System Fund for any purpose other than providing retirement benefits for public employees.

13.20. We support the effort to replace the Internal Revenue Code with a consumption tax.

13.21. We want Congress to eliminate all taxes on Social Security.

13.22. We strongly request no government money be given to Planned Parenthood.

13.23. We strongly request that no government money be given to AARP.

13.24. The state should no be allowed to order property tax increase. It should have to be passed by a majority vote of the people in a general election.

14. Republican Party and Commendations

14.1. We commend President Bush for his outstanding leadership in the war on terrorism, for his efforts to strengthen national defense and homeland security, and for his part in renewing a spirit of unity and love for our country.

14.2. We affirm the position of the President as a moral and ethical force in the direction of our nation. This individual must be a positive role model in his public and private life, and be above reproach in his conduct. Our nation's children deserve no less.

14.3. We commend the men and women of our military for their willingness to put their life in harms way defending the liberties and freedoms we so much enjoy.

14.4. We commend the civilian aid workers and contractors who are working overseas for their brave roles in the war on terror.

14.5. We resolve to work to elect Republican candidates who support the party platform.

14.6. We commend our current Republican officials and urge their reelection.

14.7. We demand an end to gender-specific offices in the Republican Party.

14.8. We reaffirm that the Republican Party of Iowa and its officers should remain neutral in all contested primaries.

14.9. We support Iowa's First in the Nation presidential caucuses.

14.10. We commend all good Republicans for defending Republican principles of government.

14.11. We expect political campaigns to be conducted in a positive and truthful manner.

14.12. We are proud of the Republican Party's use of only elected delegates at the National Convention.

Approved by majority vote at Wapello County Republican Convention March 8, 2008