

REPORT FOR THE 2008 MUSCATINE COUNTY CONVENTION  
MARCH 8, 2008

2008 MUSCATINE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

1. We acknowledge that God has blessed our country and we acknowledge our continued dependence upon God, for apart from Him we can do nothing. We continue to seek His help and blessing.
2. We believe the sound philosophy of individual initiative, limited government, fiscal responsibility, free enterprise and equal right for all provides the best framework for responsible government at all levels.
3. We believe that since government does not create wealth, but only redistributes it, the proper function of government is to do for people those things that have to be done but cannot be done by the people, and the most effective government is a government closest to the people.
4. We believe that good government is based on each person's ability, dignity, freedom and responsibility. Governments should encourage people to work, save, invest, create jobs, support their own dependents and help persons in need.
5. We believe that sound money and a sound monetary policy should be our goal.
6. We believe in the equality of all people including the pre-born, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights and among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
7. We believe we must retain those principles, upon which this country was established.
8. We believe that Americans should value pride and preserve national strength and at the same time share with people everywhere a desire for peace and freedom and the recognition of human rights throughout the world.
9. We believe the Republican Party is the best vehicle for translating these ideals into positive and successful principles of government.
10. We believe that high moral character is necessary of public servants in order to provide fair and honest representation in a democratic society and that the character as displayed in private life is a good indicator of that to be exhibited in public.

11. We believe that the United States must maintain a strong military force to secure and protect our borders and enforce government policies and national interests.

## **AGRICULTURE**

1.a Governmental policy should promote the opening of local, national and international markets to all of our agricultural development through the use of a free market system on a worldwide basis.

1.b We believe that Iowa family farms are models of economic efficiency and performance, to be emulated by the world. We encourage efforts to promote their continued visibility, viability, and vitality. We strongly support increased efforts to convert and incorporate farm products into value added products. WE believe that the agricultural industry should operate with the least governmental regulation as possible while maintaining quality products and environmental safety.

- 1.1 We support laws that restrict foreign ownership of Iowa farmland.
- 1.2 We believe that livestock operations should be regulated on a state level to provide for a uniform policy for Iowa taking into consideration input from the affected areas and to balance environmental concerns and the need for modern livestock industry.
- 1.3 The Federal and State Governments shall support the use of ethanol or soy diesel products.
- 1.4 We believe in the humane treatment of animals, but we oppose attempts to impose excessive restrictions upon present animal husbandry practices and the use of animals in research. We oppose attempts to eliminate hunting and trapping wild game. We encourage strict enforcement of DNR rule and regulations pertaining to hunting and trapping.
- 1.5 We support a free world market in agricultural commodities.
- 1.6 We support the elimination of cargo preference laws for the export of agriculture commodities.
- 1.7 The livestock industry is vitally important to America's food supply, renewable fuels industry and the ability of our next generation to choose farming as a career.
- 1.8 The livestock industry plays a major role in the advancement of the bio-economy in Iowa. We urge the legislature to provide resources for state funded research to identify affordable odor mitigation practices that help achieve the ultimate goal of reducing livestock odor.

1.9 Today, 1- percent of commodity farmers receive more than 70 percent of all commodity payments while most farmers receive no support. We support the Dorgan-Grassley Payment Limits Amendment which puts a cap on commodity subsidy payments to a farmer to \$250,000.

1.10 National policy should protect livestock producers from unfair market practices and recognize a farmers' right to form business relationships that can reduce financial risk and provide include opportunities for farm families.

## **ECONOMY/SPENDING/TAXES**

2.a We believe all government money is that which was taken from the people. Therefore, taxes should not place an undue burden upon the people, and we support limiting the ability of government to tax and spend.

2.1 The government must balance its budget by reducing spending through prioritizing needs, decreasing the growth of entitlements and reducing bureaucratic overhead and a fair and equitable tax structure.

2.2 We urge prompt adoption of U.S. Constitutional Amendments to (1) require a balanced budget independent of the social security funds with no off budget expenditures allowed, and limit the growth of all federal spending and revenue to the rate of inflation plus population growth, unless an exception is approved by three-fifths vote of both House of Congress, and (2) require a three-fifths vote both Houses of Congress to increase taxes or government revenue.

2.3 We believe that any federal budget surplus should be used to reduce the national debt in combination with tax relief.

2.4 Iowa should have a tax structure that is lower than surrounding states.

2.5 We support maintaining the 60% majority vote approval requirement for bond issues.

2.6 The U.S. Congress should make permanent the 2001 tax reduction law. The congress should strictly control non-defense spending and promptly adopt further tax reductions that will help create more jobs and promote economic recovery and growth.

2.7 We strongly defend the right of all taxpayers to deduct their entire federal income taxes on Iowa Income tax returns.

2.8 We believe that all entities spending public monies must be required to follow generally accepted accounting principles.

- 2.9 We encourage the availability of personal savings accounts (PSA) as a supplement to Social Security that should be excluded from a calculation on net worth to foster thrift among the poor.
- 2.10 We believe that all mandated programs must be fully funded by the mandating government body.
- 2.11 We believe that the IRS should be encumbered with the same burden of proof as other bodies, institutions and individuals.
- 2.12 We oppose the use of any public revenues for abortions.
- 2.13 We encourage the State of Iowa and the U.S. Congress to attach sunset riders to all new programs and taxes.
- 2.14 We encourage our state legislatures to index state spending to reflect the rate of inflation and population growth.
- 2.15 We urge prompt adoption of the Taxpayers' Rights Amendment to the Iowa Constitution, a responsible limit on the growth of state and local government spending and revenue.
- 2.16 We support maintaining the current reciprocity agreements with bordering states on taxability of employee wages.
- 2.17 All congressmen and senators are to be put back into the present Social Security System, as their form of retirement and their pensions should be self funded and their health care should be privately funded.
- 2.18 There will be no new spending programs without a corresponding elimination of an existing program, dollar for dollar.
- 2.19 The Congress shall enact a change to the law to permit tax deferred retirement account funds to be rolled over, tax free, into tax-free medical and dental savings accounts.
- 2.20 The Congress shall pass an amendment to the Federal Income Tax Laws to permit capital gains on assets held for more than one year to be taxed on 50% of the gain.
- 2.21 Media should be held responsible by private citizens for accuracy in news.
- 2.22 We oppose a tax on marriage.

## **EDUCATION**

- 3.a We believe quality, meaningful, rigorous education is essential for:

- Maintaining our republican form of government
- Continuing success of our free market economic system
- Ensuring future success of individuals
- Providing society with social stability

3. b We support the teaching of traditional American values in our schools and colleges, such as honesty, integrity and respect for proper authority, human life and dignity. We believe we must institute high moral standards and rules of conduct in our schools. School should seek out the highest common denominator rather than the lowest and hold all student, teachers and administrators to that standard. We support the teaching of patriotism, traditional American and world history, systematic intensive phonics, the three R's, hard work, and respect for elders and property.

3.c We believe that parents, local school boards and teachers are best qualified to determine local educational needs and practices.

3.1 We support the idea of choice and competition through educational vouchers and/or tuition tax credits to assist parents as they exercise their rights of choosing public, private, home or alternative educational programs for their children.

3.2 We believe that the theory of creation should be taught in all public schools equitably with the theory of evolution.

3.3 We believe that voluntary individual or group prayer in public schools should be neither required nor prohibited and that access to school facilities should apply equally to religious and non-religious groups.

3.4 We recommend that schools stress abstinence outside of marriage as the way to prevent unwanted pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. We oppose the promotion of or referral for abortions and the distribution of condoms or other birth control by our schools as a solution to adolescent pregnancy. Schools should emphasize adoption as a viable alternative to unwanted pregnancies.

3.5 We support programs that reward superior teachers and provide firm procedures to remove ineffective educators.

3.6 We support the continuation of local school district talented and gifted programs.

3.7 We urge local school districts to develop and enforce guidelines whereby disruptive behavior in the classroom should not be tolerated.

3.8 We encourage the use of the Pledge of Allegiance in its entirety and the display of the U.S. flag in every classroom.

- 3.9 To ensure the ability of parents to open enroll their children is not limited by the financial or ethnic concerns of the school they wish their students to attend, all state funds shall be allocated to each student's school choice.
- 3.10 We call for legal protection of those who administer discipline within established guidelines.
- 3.11 We oppose social engineering in our public schools, designed to "normalize" homosexuality, or to present it as an equally acceptable alternative lifestyle in the name of tolerance, inclusion or diversity.
- 3.12 To combat grade inflation, schools and universities should adopt procedures to help ensure that student grades and grade levels accurately reflect academic performance.
- 3.13 We oppose the dumbing down of universities' entrance requirements.
- 3.14 Iowa should adopt a unified educational system, merging the Board or Regents into the Iowa Department of Education. Tuition should cover the full cost of higher education with generous subsidization of needy Iowa students from other states who agree to live and work in Iowa after graduation.
- 3.15 Schools should implement security systems, including surveillance and metal detectors, where necessary, to provide a safe drug free environment for students and staff.
- 3.16 We believe that English should be the language used in all areas of the Iowa educational system where a foreign language is not being taught.
- 3.17 We support expanding tax credits for Iowa school tuition organizations that provide scholarships to low and middle income students in non-public schools.

## **ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION**

- 4.a We believe that the availability of adequate supplies of energy is essential to the economic strength of the U.S. We believe that access to an adequate transportation infrastructure is necessary for a market economy to succeed and for national security to be served.
- 4.1 We encourage that all motor fuel taxes and motor vehicle fees be used to maintain both the rural and urban infrastructure of roads, streets and bridges. We oppose any transfer of state road used other than building and maintaining roads and bridges.
- 4.2 We support increased barge traffic on the waterways of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

- 4.3 We support the continued development of alternative, renewable and sustainable energy sources.
- 4.4 We support all gasoline outlets be required to have ethanol-blended fuels and other alternative fuels.
- 4.4a The State of Iowa should provide financial incentives for E85 and bio-diesel outlets.
- 4.5 We support the construction of new and upgraded river crossings in the Quad Cities, as they are necessary to facilitate economic development with Iowa.
- 4.6 Registration fee for all vehicles suitable for passenger traffic should be set solely on the basis of weight and value.
- 4.7 We believe cyclists, vehicle operators, transportation engineers and elected officials should work together to make roadways safe, reliable, and maintained for all users. We believe organized bicycle rides should not be denied access to Iowa's roadways by local government.

## **GOVERNMENT**

- 5.a We believe in a government limited in size and scope that recognizes its power comes from the citizenry. We believe that many government functions should be eliminated or transferred to the private sector.
- 5.b We believe that government must respect the rights of all Americans. We are concerned about the erosion of religious liberty, free speech, private property and gun ownership.
- 5.c We believe in the concept of citizen legislators. We believe that judges must respect the intent of framers of the Constitution. We believe that judges should not be free to enact their own ideology into the law.
- 5.1 The system of administrative law judges should be incorporated into the judicial branch. We call for increased legislative oversight of rule making by administrative agencies.
- 5.2 We believe that all elected officials must be bound by and subject to the same rules and regulations as the general public.
- 5.3 We oppose motor-voter and same day voter registration and other encouragements to voter fraud.
- 5.4 We oppose any expansion or government promotions of gambling.

- 5.5 We oppose statehood for the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.
- 5.6 We affirm that any form of desecration of the American flag or Religious symbols is not constitutionally protected speech and should be considered a hate crime.
- 5.7 We believe in state rights and demand recognition by the federal government of the Tenth Amendment, which reads as follows: “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.”
- 5.8 We believe that the infirm, elderly, and unborn child have a fundamental individual “right to life” which cannot be infringed. We, therefore, reaffirm our support for a human life amendment to the Constitution, and we endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment’s protections apply to the unborn children. We oppose the use of public revenues for abortion and support elimination of funding for organizations, which advocate or support abortion. We commend the efforts of those individuals and religious and private organizations that are providing positive alternatives to abortion by meeting the physical, emotional, financial needs of pregnant women, offering adoption services where needed. The State should reduce unnecessary barriers for adoption.
- 5.9 We reaffirm, and support the constitutional rights of responsible U.S. citizens to freely purchase, keep and bear arms.
- 5.10 We support the legislature’s action to limit the use of eminent domain for economic development.
- 5.11 The Federal Government shall enact term limitations of 12 consecutive years on our elected representatives and senators (6 terms for representatives and 2 terms for senators).
- 5.12 The Federal Government shall encourage normal trading of consumer and agricultural goods with all nations.
- 5.13 No military or technological goods risking the national interest shall be traded, sold or given away to hostile powers.
- 5.14 We support mediation within our court system.
- 5.15 We Support a shorter political campaign cycle.
- 5.16 Political and charitable organization should be subject to “Do Not Call” regulations applicable to businesses.
- 5.17 We support effective measures against identify theft.

5.18 Mental illness should be treated equally with physical illness for government paid treatment.

5.19 We support a federal line item veto.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS and SERVICES**

6.a We believe that all laws and regulations regarding human rights and services must have at the core of their consideration the potential benefit or harm to the traditional family. We further believe in the equality of all people including the pre-born.

6.1 We oppose the United Nations Treaty on the Rights of the Child.

6.2 We call for equitable federal reimbursement for rural hospitals and nursing homes for the same treatment offered in urban institutions.

6.3 We support the right of Medicare recipients to choose the type of doctor or recognized alternative medicine.

6.4 We support the phasing out and privatization of Medicare/Medicaid where feasible.

6.5 We favor improvement and strengthening of adoption laws and support the current law that does not allow unmarried couples to adopt children.

6.6 We oppose welfare support for illegal aliens.

6.7 We support Iowa's Family Investment Program in its effort to move individuals from welfare to self-sufficiency and support further efforts to transition government welfare programs to private and faith-based institutions.

6.8 We support outlawing research, which utilizes fetal tissue from an induced abortion. We oppose commercial use of fetal tissue from an induced abortion.

6.9 We oppose all research, development and practice of cloning human beings.

6.10 We support the Federal Marriage Amendment, which states that marriage is between one man and one woman respectively, and oppose all else.

6.11 The consent to adoption by a natural father, who has never been married to the natural mother, should not be required.

6.12 We support adult stem cell research as a means of medical advancement for the well being of humanity.

## **LABOR and BUSINESS**

7.a We believe economic prosperity of business is the ultimate means by which we fund all other ends. The key to that prosperity is an adequate return on the individual's labor, talent, capital and risk. We are keenly aware that regulations, fees and taxes diminish that return.

7.1 We strongly support Iowa's Right to Work Law.

7.2 We oppose any requirement of workers to pay any part of their union dues, fees or wages for political purposes.

7.3 We support tort reform to eliminate frivolous lawsuits and runaway punitive damages.

7.4 We believe auditors of companies should not be allowed to provide consulting services to the companies they audit.

7.5 We support President Bush's plan for temporary foreign workers as the best method for controlling our borders against illegal entry. Deporting all illegal aliens that fail to comply and impose severe penalties on individual and industries that are found housing and or supporting in anyway illegal aliens.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT and JUSTICE**

8.a 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 law and maintain order, protect the innocent, resolve disputes and punish crime.

8.1 We oppose the legalization of controlled substances including marijuana for recreational purposes.

8.2 We support prison reform including the limitation of prisoner rights and amenities. Inmates should be required to work for their room and board.

8.3 We favor an overhaul of our penal system to reduce the incidence of gangs, drugs, and weapons within the prison system. Prisoners should be subject to strict codes of dress, personal hygiene, conduct and free time.

8.4 We reaffirm the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment right of law abiding U.S. citizens to keep and bear arms. We also support laws that stress firearms safety classes and immediate background checks. We urge the state to adopt a published standard for concealed weapons permits.

- 8.5 We support the declaration of a War on Drugs through stronger laws and enforcement against illegal drug traffic. Longer prison terms without parole should be required for major drug dealers and heads of drug operations. We should actively work to eliminate drug demand through education, rehabilitation and strict penalties.
- 8.6 We call for strong enforcement of laws against obscenity and all pornography.
- 8.7 We support legislation that would allow jurors' pay to be increased.
- 8.8 We call for ability to immediately check for criminal background through state and federal computer systems.
- 8.9 Hate crime laws should be narrowly tailored so as not to infringe on rights of free speech and expression.
- 8.10 We encourage 5% surcharge on all criminal fines to be used for law enforcement training.
- 8.11 We believe strongly that the U.S. Constitution and laws should be sovereign to the governing of this nation and its people.
- 8.12 We believe the Judeo-Christian religion should not be discriminated against under the laws pertaining to diversity and/or the misuse and misinterpretation of the First Amendment.
- 8.13 Judges should not interpret general provisions of the constitution to write into it their own political philosophy.

## **NATIONAL DEFENSE and FOREIGN POLICY**

- 9.a We believe that one of the Government's primary roles is to maintain an adequate military force to secure the borders of the U.S.: and to carry out and enforce government policies; and protect national interest. To accomplish this we believe the U.S. should:
- Provide adequate funds to equip and maintain a military force capable of protecting U.S. sovereignty.
  - Provide an industrial base in the U.S. that is capable of supporting our national defense and global interests.
- 9.1 We urge that rules for fair and open trade be implemented with international trade partners.
- 9.2 We support the promotion of human rights and religious freedom in the formulation of foreign policy.

- 9.3 We support strengthening efforts to protect our borders against illegal immigration.
- 9.4 We oppose women serving in combat roles in any branch of the military.
- 9.5 We support the continued research on the Strategic Defense Initiative.
- 9.6 We affirm support of Israel and a homeland for Palestinians that is consistent with Israel security.
- 9.7 The United States must not adhere to or abide by treaties that compromise the sovereignty of the United States or that are prohibited by the Constitution.
- 9.8 The United States should continue to press for human rights worldwide.
- 9.9 The Congress shall not enact any law or permit the Department of Defense to enact any co-payment for treatments in any Government medical clinic or out-patient hospital clinics for the medical conditions of active duty military or their dependents for their medical conditions.
- 9.10 Family and all dependents of any National Guard and Reserve personnel called up for active duty shall receive the same benefits as active duty personnel.
- 9.11 We support in all out effort for victory in Iraq and Afghanistan, followed as quickly as prudent by a U.S. withdrawal. The United States does not want colonies.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES and the ENVIRONMENT**

- 10.a We believe that environmental policies should reflect sound ecological practices, unbiased scientific standards, risk analysis, national sovereignty, private property rights, common sense and a realistic view of economic impact.
- 10.1 We encourage citizens, industries and government to make greater use of recyclable materials and to apply new and improved methods of recycling to conserve and preserve our natural resources.
- 10.2 We support conservation of trees and forests in Iowa, including the reforestation of marginal land, the planting of trees, shrubs and other vegetation as barriers to erosion and noise pollution.
- 10.3 Environmental regulations should be based on sound science and cost benefit analysis.
- 10.4 The state should make a commitment to enhance water quality in Iowa by developing watershed plans and programs that encourage education and demonstration of proven, voluntary practices that protect water quality.

10.5 Because global warming threatens to raise temperatures and effect weather patterns, the Iowa agricultural economy stands to be threatened. Thereby, we urge participation in all global climate accords and a reduction of carbon emissions.

## **RIGHT TO LIFE**

11.a We believe the unborn child has a fundamental God-given individual right to life that cannot be infringed. We therefore affirm our support for a Human Life Amendment to the Constitution, and we endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children. We oppose using public revenues for abortion and governments must not fund organizations that advocate it. We commend those who provide alternatives to abortion by meeting the needs of mothers and offering adoption services. We affirm our support for appointment of judges who respect family values and sanctity of innocent human life.

11.b We believe in the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

11.1 We believe that abortion clinics must be regulated in the same manner as other health care facilities providing surgical procedures. This includes the collection and compilation of records on abortions just as it is done with other surgical procedures and statistics on maternal deaths and injuries.

11.2 We support legislation requiring parental consent before an abortions or birth control is provided to a minor child.

11.3 We support the reversal of Roe vs. Wade.

## **COMMENDATIONS**

12.1 We commend the men and women of our armed forces for their willingness to put their lives in harm's way defending the liberties and freedoms we so much enjoy.

12.2 We mourn the passing of Senator Dick Drake, a man who always did what he thought was best for Iowa. We urge all elected officials, Democrats as well as Republicans, to carry on this proud tradition.