



# **2019 Platform**

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**North Carolina  
Republican Party**

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## **PREAMBLE**

Ronald Reagan once said that “America is too great for small dreams”. Throughout this great nation, people from all walks of life have dreamed of freedom, opportunity, and the chance to leave this world a better place for the next generation. The North Carolina Republican Party unequivocally defends that dream.

We are the party of individuals and the institutions they create together—families, schools, congregations, neighborhoods—to advance their ideals and realize their dreams. We are the party that encourages equality for all citizens and embraces the inherent value of every single human being God creates—born and unborn. We are the party that defends the religious beliefs and rights of conscience of all Americans and safeguards religious institutions against government control. We are the party of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, and we affirm the fundamental principles of limited government, individual liberty, separation of powers, and the rule of law. We recognize God, not government, as the Author of these principles. We are the party that stands strong against tyranny, and will fight at home and abroad to protect the lives and fundamental liberties of all people. We are the party of a growing economy that gives everyone—regardless of background—a chance in life, an opportunity to learn, work and realize the prosperity that is made possible by the freedom we hold dear.

The Republican Party is committed to the values and ideals that are the true greatness of America, and we gladly join together to fight for justice, secure the blessings of liberty, and provide true opportunity and hope for generations to come.

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## **ARTICLE I. FAMILY**

- Our nation’s strength lies with the family. It is the first school of discipline, responsibility, and good citizenship. We embrace the principle that all Americans should be treated with respect and dignity.
- Traditional marriage and family, based on marriage between one man and one woman, is the foundation for a civil society. The success of marriage may impact the economic well-being of individuals. The lack of family formation not only leads to more government costs, but also more government control over the lives of its citizens. Furthermore, we support actions to return marriage laws to the states; therefore, we support the marriage amendment as part of the North Carolina constitution and encourage all efforts to defend it. We recognize and honor the courageous efforts of those who bear the many burdens of parenting alone, even as we affirm our support for traditional marriage.
- We affirm the authority of parental rights over their children’s welfare from conception to emancipation. We support laws that require written, notarized consent for medical treatments such as mental health treatments of minor children, drug and alcohol treatment, and counseling and services related to contraceptives, pregnancy and abortion. Government, however, should protect children from abuse and neglect, balancing parental rights with the protection of a child’s health and safety

## **ARTICLE II. THE ECONOMY**

- We support capitalism as the main economic system in the United States and will continue to ensure that this country does not become a socialist nation.
- Recognizing that wealth creation is the product of human enterprise, the free enterprise system is the most effective and just economic system in the world. It creates opportunity, rewards self-reliance and hard work, and unleashes productivity that other societies can only imagine. It is an engine of charity, making America the most philanthropic nation on earth. Government should encourage honest, productive work through elimination of both gratuitous regulations and excessive taxation.
- Economic freedom is essential to human liberty and dignity. It preserves the inherent right to liberty and ownership of private property. To protect this inherent right, government must provide an environment for individual initiative and enterprise. We support encouraging economic growth through reduced regulation and taxation, and we oppose corporate welfare.
- Government should tax only to raise money for its constitutional functions. We support a thorough review of expenditures each year, and we support a taxpayer's bill of rights. We support the continuation of reforming the tax code to encourage economic growth that moves toward a system that taxes the broadest possible base of economic activity at the lowest possible rates.
- We believe that capital gains, which are necessary for employment growth, should not be taxed as ordinary income. We believe dividend distributions should not be taxed, as that constitutes a double taxation on income.
- We support agriculture and agribusiness as a driving force in North Carolina's economy. We support legislation to uphold and protect agriculture, which is often hindered by burdensome regulations and frivolous lawsuits, as a primary source of income for our farmers.

## **ARTICLE III. INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY**

- Liberty is founded upon a belief in the inherent dignity of the human person and recognition that individuals possess God-given inherent rights including, but not limited to, the right to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness. The fundamental role of government is to protect those inherent rights as recognized in our Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, including its Bill of Rights, and the North Carolina Constitution, including its Declaration of Rights.
- We believe that America's Constitutional Republic form of government is the best system of ensuring freedom. Consistent with that belief, our government must enact, interpret and enforce laws consistent with a strict construction of our Constitutions.

- We support the free exercise of religion by all Americans. We oppose any restriction on the free exercise of religion such as removing prayer from governmental activities or the removal of “Almighty God” from our public documents and institutions. We oppose any attempt of government to establish a state religion, or to foster one religion over another. We oppose any governmental coercive action aimed at limiting the free exercise of religion. We support the right of individuals and corporations to uphold their free exercise rights consistent with the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. We support the right of all institutions, including hospitals and schools, to refuse to provide contraceptive, abortion, or other services of procedures inconsistent with their religious tenets.
- Government should treat all citizens impartially and equally under the law. Invidious discrimination is detrimental to freedom for all individuals and we oppose it in any form.
- The Second Amendment guarantees the right of the individual to keep and bear arms. We support the constitutional ownership, sale, purchase and carry of firearms by law-abiding citizens. Further, we support reducing the number of “gun-free zones”. Gun owners have a right to confidentiality. Personal information acquired by government agencies for gun purchases and permitting should be available to law enforcement for investigative purposes only and not for public record.
- Private property should not be taken by eminent domain except for a direct public use and upon prompt payment of just compensation.

## **ARTICLE IV. SANCTITY OF LIFE**

- We believe in the sanctity of all human life. Unborn children have constitutional rights to life and liberty and, as such, the government must respect and protect all innocent human life from conception to natural death.
- We oppose infanticide and urge the enactment of laws to require medical care for babies who survive abortions.
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- We oppose efforts to mandate the provision of abortion or to fund with taxpayer dollars organizations that provide or promote abortion services. We oppose public school-based health clinics that provide referrals, counseling and related services for abortion and contraception.
- We support requiring mandatory counseling before an abortion to ensure the pregnant woman knows all of the options and resources available to her and her baby including information about the possibility of reversing the intended effects of chemical abortion drugs.

- We support the right of medical professionals to refuse to participate in abortions. We support the right of pharmacists to refuse to dispense abortion inducing drugs. We believe that state funded institutions should not provide abortion training.
- We oppose all forms of euthanasia and assisted suicide, as they are the ultimate form of discrimination against persons with disabilities, including newborns, the elderly and infirm. We believe these individuals should be treated with love and respect, not as a burden. We also oppose basing the denial of life saving treatments on a perceived quality of life. We urge the General Assembly to enact legislation criminalizing assisted suicide.
- We support developments in biomedical research that enhance and protect human life. We oppose human cloning and the destruction of human embryos, and we strongly support adult stem cell research.
- We support criminal penalties for harming or killing an unborn child when the mother is killed or injured in a criminal act.
- We support laws which require written, notarized parental consent for an abortion and/or contraceptives for their minor children.
- We oppose the sale, purchase, possession, or use of fetal tissue or body parts obtained from induced abortions.

## **ARTICLE V. STATE GOVERNMENT**

- We believe that in a free society, power should rest in the hands of the people. We believe in a limited government which serves the people, rather than one that burdens them.
- We believe that government at all levels should not spend money it does not have and avoid passing on debts to future generations.
- Government retirement and pension plans should be privately owned and portable.
- We oppose unfunded state mandates for counties and municipalities, and excessive regulation on commerce and industry. All regulations should sunset and explicitly require re-authorization by the elected government.
- No State funds should be spent without an explicit appropriation. We oppose “slush funds” as rewards for political support. Raiding of dedicated funds should not be allowed except in an emergency as determined by law. Every bill heard in committee should receive a recorded vote. The budget bill should be made public at least two legislative days before the final vote in each house.
- We support the issuance of a driver’s license or state identification card only to those who are lawful residents of the United States.

- The mental health system needs to be reformed. The needs of patients must be the first priority. This requires diagnosis, comprehensive care, follow-up, and stiff penalties for those who abuse or exploit patients.
- We support efforts to ensure that habitual drug users are not on public assistance rolls. We believe that drug tests are appropriate if there is reasonable suspicion of illegal drug use.
- We affirm that the State of North Carolina is prohibited from taking discriminatory action against a person on the basis that such person believes or acts in accordance with a religious belief or moral conviction that: (1) marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman, or (2) sexual relations are properly reserved to such a marriage.
- We affirm that law enforcement should honor detainers for illegal aliens held on criminal charges.

## **ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS**

- A free society demands an honest and accurate election process. Our laws and our policies at every level of government should ensure both. We support one vote from every eligible citizen and we encourage all to register and to vote.
- We support legislation requiring election judges at all election sites, including early voting sites.
- We support enforced state-wide procedures for updating voter rolls to ensure accuracy. Current laws regarding absentee voting should be analyzed and tightened to ensure ballot security.
- We reaffirm our support of voter ID and oppose the reinstatement of straight ticket voting.
- We support compact, contiguous, single member districts for state legislative, county, school board, and municipal elections to help ensure minority representation through the voting process. State legislative districts should not split counties, except as required by federal law or the state constitution.
- We recognize the independence of the judiciary and oppose the appointment of state judges to full terms. To hold our trial courts accountable through direct elections is a valuable right.
- Voters should have timely information on candidates' campaign finances. We oppose funding election campaigns with public or foreign funds.
- We support partisan elections for all offices.
- We encourage state and federal prosecutors to promptly investigate and prosecute voter and election fraud.

## ARTICLE VII. EDUCATION

- All children should have access to an education that empowers them to reach their highest, God-given potential, allowing them to contribute to the betterment of our society. A North Carolina high school diploma should fully prepare students to enter college, technical school, or the workforce.
- We believe education policies and budget decisions are best made by local and state governments, rather than national agencies, to ensure that North Carolina students graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in today's global economy. The people of North Carolina support the highest, most rigorous educational standards that are developed through legislation by the NC General Assembly. All standards and reforms should aim to improve student achievement.
- We support English as the official language of the United States. Therefore, we support the expedited use of English as a Second Language in the classroom as an assimilation tool.
- Parents have the right to expect excellent public education. Parents also have the right and responsibility to direct their children's education, while students have the obligation to learn. Allowing choice and competition in education drives all schools towards quality outcomes. We applaud the expansion of vocational curricula and school choice in North Carolina. We support maintaining and expanding opportunity scholarships and education savings accounts that support the education of children with disabilities and open doors for students in need.
- We urge the NC General Assembly to enact legislation guaranteeing parental rights over sex and health education in NC. Parents must have access to all curricula and data about their children, including content that is stored electronically. Schools should not ask children to answer offensive or intrusive personal questionnaires without parental consent. We oppose sex education in public schools without parental consent. Public schools should not be used to teach children about homosexual behavior. No birth control devices or drugs should be distributed in public schools. We support teaching abstinence until marriage as the expected norm for sexual behavior.
- We applaud the Republican led North Carolina General Assembly for consistently increasing teacher pay. -Teacher compensation should be based on evaluations and market conditions. Teacher evaluations should be based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to, educational training, job longevity, administration-based performance measures, and student achievement.
- Support of civil liberties and patriotism is an important part of learning to become a good citizen. We support regular recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, displays of the American and North Carolina State flag, and use of our national motto "In God We Trust". Schools should teach students about the historical foundation and documents of the United States, including the Declaration of Independence and federal and state constitutions. Curricula must include civics so that students will be prepared to vote as informed citizens.

- Because we believe in religious freedom, we support the right of students and faculty to pray in school without censorship, as well as the respect for all religions. Schools should revitalize the Judeo-Christian values of Western civilization.
- We encourage both state and federal governments to help prospective students understand the real costs of lending and allow students to discharge their debts according to market principles. We support economic assistance for students that comes from both private and public sources using market lending principles.
- We applaud the efforts of the Republican led General Assembly in supporting community colleges, as these colleges truly open doors and remove barriers to accessible, high-quality education for all citizens. Community colleges play a vital role in developing our workforce and they provide much needed basic literacy programs, vocational training, and university transfer options for students from all walks of life.
- We believe it is a requirement of the state and county Boards of Education to insure all schools provide a safe learning environment. Schools should provide a level of security which protects students and faculty from harm, consistent with the 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution.

## **ARTICLE VIII. JUSTICE**

- One of the main duties of government is to maintain law and order, while securing for its citizens the freedom to pursue the blessings of liberty and the fruits of their labor.
- We honor the men and women in uniform who protect citizens of North Carolina at home and abroad. We are grateful for our state and local law enforcement as well as our first responders for their public service to our citizens.
- We call for mandatory sentencing for all violent crimes, especially crimes committed against those who are charged with protecting us. We support the death penalty for first degree murder. Suppliers of illegal drugs should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Those who drive or operate a water craft while impaired must face stiff punishment. We support the diversion of first-time, nonviolent offenders to community sentencing, accountability courts, drug courts, veteran treatment courts, and guidance by faith-based institutions with proven track records of rehabilitation. We call for the examination of mandatory sentencing for non-violent crimes to ensure fairness and justice in its application.
- We believe the state must protect the rights of victims and their families. We believe in a justice system that provides for restorative justice when applicable. Criminal justice reforms that reduce relapses by former offenders and assist them in seeking reentry as contributing members of society are applauded, including support for transitional housing for recently released inmates.

- Predatory criminals that exploit children or other innocents via the internet or in person destroy millions of lives. We deplore pornography, sex trafficking, human trafficking, and the abduction, abuse, and exploitation of children, both born and unborn. We denounce domestic violence. We applaud the efforts of government to protect innocent lives from predators everywhere.
- Prisons should focus on security, education, rehabilitation, and labor. Public officials must regain control of their correctional institutions so that every inmate is protected against cruel or degrading treatment. We encourage opportunities for literacy, vocational education, and substance abuse counseling to prepare prisoners for release into the community.
- We support tort reform, including a cap on awards for pain and suffering, and structured payments of awards for lost income.

## **ARTICLE IX. THE ENVIRONMENT**

- As we are stewards of our God-given natural heritage, we have a duty to wisely use the earth's resources. We support the wise use of the earth's resources and the environment.
- Our nation's economic security is dependent on reliable energy. We support developing all sources of energy within the parameters of market forces. The current renewable energy mandate in North Carolina be eliminated, as it artificially raises the cost of energy.
- We support federal revenue sharing with those states directly affected by offshore exploration and development in federal waters.

## **ARTICLE X. FEDERAL POLICY**

- The US Constitution is the supreme law of this land. As such, it outlines the foundational principles of this great nation. These principles include a legislature which creates laws, an executor who enforces laws, and a judiciary which interprets laws. To this end, we support the separation of powers and all efforts to maintain independent branches of government, based on a strict interpretation of the constitution's original intent.
- We call on Congress, the President and the courts to abide by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution and the Ninth and Tenth Amendments, which were added to order to protect the rights of the States and the people. We oppose encroachment upon all powers that the Constitution has reserved to the States or to the people.
- The sovereignty of the United States should never be weakened through fruitless allegiance or membership in international treaties and organizations that dilute our sovereign right to govern ourselves. We oppose attempts by foreign governments or international organizations to infringe on our sovereignty, including interference in our electoral process.

- A republican form of government is the foundation of freedom. We support the Electoral College as the constitutional mode of electing our President. We oppose tyranny in all of its forms
- Opposition to slavery is the foundation for the Republican Party. We oppose slavery, including human trafficking, in any form both foreign and domestic.
- National security being one of the first and most important roles of government we support a foreign policy of peace through strength. That strength can only be accomplished with a strong military supported both when abroad and at home with the full gratitude and resources of the United States. Strength only exists when our borders are secure and our enemies deterred.
- We oppose granting permanent resident status for those who, by violating the immigration law, disadvantage those who have obeyed it. Granting amnesty only rewards and encourages more law breaking. Employers should only hire those legally allowed to work in the United States.
- We are free because of those who have answered the call to serve. Our nation's veterans have been our nation's strength and remain a national resource. America has a sacred trust with our veterans, and we are committed to ensuring their and their families' care and dignity.
- We support policies which uphold the nation of Israel as a sovereign nation and Jerusalem as its capital.
- Economic strength is the foundation of the United States' greatness. We support free markets, fair trade, and capitalist principles at home and around the world. Threats to our economic strength should be met with sound market-based policies designed to enhance individual rights to life, liberty, property and the pursuit of happiness.
- Understanding that individuals and households are the basis for our economic system, we support free market solutions to societal problems. Market based solutions offer the most efficient use of scarce resources to solve public goods problems. We support individual's ability to choose private market based solutions to retirement, health care, all forms of insurance, worker's rights, or any other public goods or infrastructure issues.
- We support the principle of a "sound money" policy to sustain a stable US currency. The Comptroller General of the General Office of Accounting must perform an annual accounting of the Federal Reserve to ensure its transparency and accountability.
- We support policies protecting all innocent human life, and therefore we oppose government efforts promoting abortion and infanticide. We support actions that prohibit the distribution of federal funds to any organization that promotes or provides abortions.

## **CONCLUSION**

Thomas Jefferson said that "the price of freedom is eternal vigilance". We, the North Carolina Republican Party, are committed to remaining vigilant as we stand guard to protect the freedoms we hold dear. Ronald Reagan stated that a strong Republican Party is like a stool that stands on three legs: strong defense, free enterprise, and strong moral values. Together, we will turn back the tide of socialism and preserve our nation as beacon of liberty, hope, and opportunity for all.

This document is respectfully submitted by the 2019 NCGOP Platform Committee