



# Spokane County Republican Party Platform: *Guiding Principles*

**Resolved**, that we, the delegated representatives of the Republican electors of Spokane County, in convention assembled, in discharge of the duty we owe to our constituent and our county, are united in our efforts to promote the following declarations:

## 1. Individual Rights

The Spokane County Republican Party reaffirms that our individual rights come from God.

We believe that those rights — and the responsibilities therein — are the foundation of a free society, embracing the U.S. Constitution as the cornerstone.

We recognize the right to life from natural conception to natural death as inalienable.

Just as the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were written to respect the individual citizen's basic rights, the Bill of Rights was developed to restrict and limit the role of government in our lives. Additionally, Article 1 of the Washington State Constitution specifies, "all political power is inherent in the people, and governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed and are established to protect and maintain individual rights."

## 2. Right to Keep and Bear Arms

The Spokane County Republican Party believes that guaranteed under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article 1 Section 24 of the Washington State Constitution is the right of all lawful citizens – free from government intervention – to bear arms in defense of their lives, their property, and the nation, from enemies both foreign and domestic.

## 3. Property Rights

The Spokane County Republican Party understands that private property is at the heart of American freedom and independence. We agree "at the center of a free economy is the right of citizens to be secure in their property. All persons have the right to acquire, own, use, possess, enjoy, and dispose of private property<sup>1</sup> as they see fit.

Republicans also stress that private property rights extend beyond issues of land use and ownership, and apply to the freedom to keep, spend and/or trade that which we earn, and the freedom to run our homes and operate our businesses according to our personal

values and without government interference.

## 4. Limited Government

The Spokane County Republican Party believes the proper role of government is to protect the rights of the people and to provide only those critical functions, in accordance with our U.S. Constitution, that cannot be performed by individuals or private enterprise.

We believe that government is best when it governs least and is closest to the people -- adhering to the principle of federalism. All government at all levels must live within its means and the means of its citizens.

## 5. Jobs, Economy, and Currency

The Spokane County Republican Party believes that American quality of life is best promoted through honest money not subject to manipulation. In addition, government regulation of the marketplace is counter-productive to a free society and ~~that~~ economies based on private enterprise and individual initiative will best foster an environment of job growth and economic prosperity.

Republicans support balanced budgets, reduced regulations, and limited taxation, believing that lower taxes stimulate investment in and by the private sector; reducing regulations eliminates a major road block to job growth; and balanced budgets promote fiscal responsibility leading to reduced deficits and debt.

## 6. National Sovereignty, Immigration, & Defense

The Spokane County Republican Party believes that America must have the strongest military necessary to

defend our borders, our homes, and our national interests according to the U.S. Constitution and its Bill of Rights. We endorse a foreign policy of peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, opposing the American role as policeman of the world.

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<sup>1</sup> From the 2008 RNC Platform

Republicans oppose all treaties and policies that sacrifice American sovereignty. We strongly assert that the interests of the United States must never be subordinate to that of any foreign nation or international body. ~~This includes attacks upon our sovereignty such as United Nations Agenda 21 or Kyoto Protocols.~~

## 7. Family Values

The Spokane County Republican Party believes that the State of Washington must act only in a fashion that protects all innocent human life in our state and we believe that the states must have the right to codify the sanctity of life from conception until natural death.

Republicans strongly support the right of families to be free to raise their children according to their personal morals, values, and spiritual beliefs. Furthermore, we firmly believe that at the core of a strong family is a traditional marriage comprised of one man and one woman.

## 8. Education

The Spokane County Republican Party is dedicated to reaffirming the importance of safety for students and staff.

We recognize that only through a rigorous “back to basics” curriculum as determined by parents and local school districts can we achieve the high level of education necessary to make us competitive in today’s global marketplace.

Education spending must firmly be focused in the classroom and not squandered on unnecessary administrative spending. We also assert that all public education expenditures must be regularly audited and open to public scrutiny.

## 9. Healthcare

The Spokane County Republican party believes that the best healthcare model is one with very limited government intervention, based around the principle of individual responsibility. The results of government inserting itself into the healthcare industry are rising costs, ~~and~~ lower quality of care; and frequent infringement upon individual rights, personal and religious beliefs, and conscience<sup>2</sup>.

## 10. Infrastructure

(Energy/Utility, Transportation, & Technology)

The Spokane County Republican Party understands that government must ~~continue to~~ invest wisely in infrastructure and ~~continue to~~ strive to be a leader in energy and information technologies.

~~Republicans oppose government intervention into the energy and technology sectors~~ Government must not interfere in these sectors with mandates, particularly where advances in these sectors can be accomplished through free market-based action. We believe that the free market, not government, can best decide where and how to invest our resources.

We believe that transportation projects critical to growth and safety should be our top priority. We encourage the use of specific user fees over broad taxation to pay for new infrastructure. We acknowledge the critical importance that transportation plays in our daily lives and that the movement of goods and services is pivotal to commerce and a strong economy.

## 11. Justice

The Spokane County Republican Party believes that strict adherence to the rule of law as laid out in the US Constitution is critical for America to continue as a leader in the world.

The American justice system exists to protect our liberties. Republicans believe that all people have a right to equal treatment under the law. We oppose inequality in the creation or enforcement of laws based on group characteristics.

With respect to this foundation, Republicans have utmost confidence in the Constitution of the United States of America and moreover, the higher laws set forth by our God and Creator.

**Finally**, having thus set forth our distinctive principles and views, we invite the cooperation of all citizens, however differing on other questions, who substantially agree with us in their affirmation and support.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6026970/>



# Spokane County Republican Party Platform: *Supporting Policies*

The Spokane County Republican Party believes the following policies will provide the best opportunity to achieve our vision for society and government.

## 1. Individual Rights

*Republicans:*

- a) Support the active enforcement of the original Bill of Rights as written and intended by the Founders.
- b) Oppose any policies limiting our inherent right to free speech, including but not limited to, electronic and/or other new technologies, peaceable assembly, religious freedom, right of belief, and individual privacy, including any unwarranted collection of or distribution of personal information to or by any public or governmental agency.
- c) Oppose the enactment and/or enforcement of any policy, no matter how well intended, that places any restrictions on the individual rights of American Citizens. Some items as set forth by the State and Federal Constitutions, within the Patriot Act and the Indefinite Detention provisions within the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) are prime examples of such policies.
- d) Support actions up to and including secession from the State of Washington in the event our State Government continues to infringe on our Constitutional rights or the Spokane County Republican Party Platform, per Art 4 Sec 3 of the US Constitution.

## 2. Right to Keep and Bear Arms

*Republicans:*

- a) Support the repeal of all weapon registration efforts.
- b) Support ~~passage of the Washington State Firearms Freedom Act.~~ passage of legislation which would protect all our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights in all categories; support repealing all laws or regulations which are invasive, restrictive, and controlling in all categories related to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights.
- c) Oppose any limitations on the types of arms people may own, or the manner in which they are carried.
- d) Oppose licensing or permitting as a requirement to purchase, own, or carry arms.
- e) Oppose any regulations or taxes placed on owning,

selling, and/or reselling (new or used) firearms, ammo and components.

- f) Oppose any attempts to require trigger locks or other restrictions that may limit accessibility to firearms when needed.
- g) Oppose all efforts to inquire into or require the divulgence of firearms ownership or possession of such by any educators, healthcare professionals, and/or Federal, State, or local agencies.

## 3. Property Rights

*Republicans:*

- a) Support compensating and/or providing tax relief to property owners when regulations limit the use and value of their private property.
- b) Support taking private property through eminent domain when deemed necessary only for compelling 'public use' and when 'just compensation' and fair market value are met and provided to the property owner.
- c) Support highly restricting the power to impose land use controls and limiting that power to local jurisdictions.
- d) Support reforming the Endangered Species Act to require human and economic factors be taken into account.
- e) Support a clearly defined and speedy appeals process available for any regulatory violation.
- f) Support requirements that all regulations be created transparently through the legislative process and based on hard scientific facts demonstrated by qualified and licensed individuals in that respective field.
- g) Support replacing regulatory controls that mandate high densities such as Washington State's Growth Management Act or urban growth boundaries with policies that allow market factors to encourage or restrict private development.
- h) Oppose government control of a property owner's water and/or mineral resources.



# Spokane County Republican Party Platform: *Supporting Policies*

## 4. Limited Government

*Republicans:*

- a) *Support* enforcing the separation of powers, and continuing the Constitutional checks and balances among the branches of government by confining the legislature to its defined powers, limiting executive orders to only emergency situations, with inclusion of a thirty (30) day expiration date of such emergency powers, to be extended only by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote of the Legislature, and prohibiting judicial legislation from the bench.
- b) *Support* enforcing the separation of powers between the states and the federal government by using the principles of federalism as directed by the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment to our U.S. Constitution.
- c) *Support* the U.S. Supreme Court rulings in New York vs. United States & Printz vs. United States that ruled the Federal Government cannot compel the states to enforce federal statutes such as those contemplated by a national ID card, nationalized health care and/or nationalized cap & trade programs.
- d) *Support* the use of “sunset provisions” to eliminate unneeded, ineffective or obsolete government programs.
- e) *Support* upholding the Enabling Act passed by Congress in February 1889, which states that Washington State was to be admitted to the union “on an equal footing with the original states,” by ensuring public lands are returned to the State from the federal government.
- f) *Support* spending and fund transfer transparency, mandatory implementation of performance audit recommendations, and immediate publishing of all audit findings and corrective actions taken at all levels of government.
- g) *Support* a requirement to show proof of legal status when applying for any state issued identification card or when registering to vote.
- h) *Support* ~~a return to a poll-based voting system that maintains a physical paper trail (in addition to any technological based voting apparatus) and requires the presence of a state issued photo identification card.~~ removing all internet-capable machines, computers, and software used for election management, ballot processing, and vote tabulation; replacing universal mail-in voting with single day in-person voting, requiring legal identification to be shown, ballots to be hand

counted at the precinct level with final results to be reported on election night.

- i) *Oppose* limited use ‘special’ elections. All ballot propositions must be placed on the designated Primary or General election ballot with exceptions made only for Presidential primaries and elective vacancies.

## 5. Jobs, Economy, and Currency

*Republicans:*

- a) *Oppose* any government regulation that limits job growth by placing an undue burden on American businesses, such as, mandates for minimum wage controls and/or minimum per hour wages.
- b) *Support* a balanced budget amendment to the US Constitution.
- c) *Support* a reasonable and simplified tax code that keeps taxation low and ensures our corporate income tax rate is competitive worldwide.
- d) *Support* a requirement that all regulations are to be written and voted on by elected officials.
- e) *Support* the use of a commodity backed currency as a legal alternative to (fiat) Federal Reserve notes.
- f) *Support* A full 100% audit of every aspect of the Federal Reserve System.
- g) *Support* the repeal of the Davis-Bacon federal prevailing wage laws.
- h) *Support* ending any union monopoly on public employee jobs and instead endorse ‘right to work’ policies that promote worker freedom over compulsion to pay union dues.
- i) *Support* a private option Worker’s Compensation system.
- j) *Oppose any state individual income, capital gains or death tax.*
- k) *Oppose any State or Federal Centralized Digital Currency.*

## 6. National Sovereignty, Immigration, & Defense

*Republicans:*

- a) *Support* honoring all past and present obligations to our troops and veterans.



# Spokane County Republican Party Platform: *Supporting Policies*

- b) *Oppose* all federal subsidies, grants, or other payments to any municipality or public institution that forbids the presence of military recruiters.
- c) *Support* protecting our country's borders against illegal entry by supporting the use of border protection agencies and permitting only legally documented immigrants and natural citizens to have access to legal services, voting rights, and tax---payer funded programs such as education, medical care, and public assistance.
- d) *Support* ~~limiting the participation of the United States in the United Nations to a passive role focused only on conducting diplomatic discussions. removing the United Nations headquarters from United States soil.~~
- e) *Oppose* ~~all sovereignty eroding agreements included within NAFTA, CAFTA and the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (S.P.P.), Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). international trade and governmental agreements which may erode the sovereignty of the United States, including agreements with such organizations as the World Health Organization, the World Economic Forum, and the International Court of Justice.~~
- f) *Oppose* all non-binding military and trade agreements made by the executive branch and not presented to Congress for open and public debate.
- g) *Oppose* allowing major components of infrastructure such as ports, bridges, and interstate highways to be owned and/or operated by non-US based companies.
- h) *Support* a return to America's original policy of requiring Congressional Declarations of War for all hostile commitments of US military personnel abroad.
- i) *Support* stockpiling a three-year supply of all minerals of strategic importance not available within the proper boundaries of the United States.
- j) *Support* ensuring U.S. owned/controlled manufacturing capabilities for all necessary military hardware within the United States as a precaution for wartime (including banks and automotive companies).
- k) *Support* the convening of a congressional board to re-evaluate the mission and scope of US bases overseas in order to streamline our modern-day military and ensure the most effective and necessary military spending.

- l) *Oppose* placing United States Armed Forces under the control of any other government or controlling non-state entity.
- m) *Oppose* allowing foreign troops to operate on U.S. soil; neither should foreign governments or their entities be permitted to purchase or own public, private, state, or federal lands.

## 7. Family Values

### *Republicans:*

- a) *Support* the rights of the states to determine laws regarding abortion and marriage.
- b) *Support* laws recognizing that life begins at conception.
- c) *Oppose* all instances of public funding for elective abortion and any mandates on private institutions to provide insurance coverage of abortifacients or abortions.
- d) *Support* parental consent laws for abortions for Education
- e) *Oppose* requiring a marriage tax/fee be paid to receive a marriage license.
- f) *Oppose* human cloning.
- g) *Oppose* the breakdown of parental rights by the imposition of any laws restricting parental rights to make all decisions relative to the health and wellbeing of parents' under-age children.

## 8. Education

### *Republicans:*

- a) *Support* the requirement of parental notification and decision making in all matters involving a minor child.
- b) *Support* returning control of curriculum decisions to local school districts and parents, allowing for the freedom of the teacher to teach as best fits the teacher, student, and parent.
- c) *Support* parental choice in the method of education for their children: public, private, charter, or home school, including tax exemptions.
- d) *Oppose* a universal pre---Kindergarten system, government run birth through age 5 education, and



# Spokane County Republican Party Platform: *Supporting Policies*

burdensome policies over private childcare and preschools.

- e) Support K-12 initiatives that promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education.
- f) Support curriculum with Civics courses that focus on the Declaration of Independence, the Federal and State Constitutions, and the Bill of Rights, as a mandatory part of K-12 education, including review that the United States is a Constitutional Republic and not a Democracy.
- g) Support increasing opportunities for “Gifted and Talented” students to excel.
- h) Support a return to taxpayer accountability by reinstating a super majority requirement for levies and bonds.
- i) Support the rights of parents in single-subject homeschooling, allowing parents to remove their children from classes that they find objectionable, including a requirement that written parental consent be obtained for any child’s participation in sexual education or other non-coursed activities.
- ~~j) Support the repeal of language<sup>1</sup> in the Washington State Constitution known as the “Blaine Amendment.” We support school choice in both public and private education.~~
- j) Oppose automatic deductions of union dues as well as any mandate that restricts a teacher’s right to opt out or leave their union.
- k) Support publicly auditing all school districts and annually refunding school system surplus funds back to the taxpayers, ensuring that debts are paid as quickly as possible, and a prudent “rainy day” fund is set in reserve.
- l) Oppose all nationalized controls, student data tracking systems, and/or teaching standards including, but not limited to Common Core.

## 9. Healthcare

*Republicans:*

- a) Support the pursuit of market-based approaches to healthcare reform.
- b) Support the immediate repeal of Obamacare

(Affordable Care Act).

- c) Support implementation of a 100% tax deduction for all medical expenses and elimination of employment-based advantages for health insurance pooling.
- d) Support legalizing the sale of insurance policies across state lines to increase competition among insurance companies.
- e) Support eliminating state and federal insurance mandates.
- f) Support reducing frivolous lawsuits and encouraging tort reform (with the exception of criminal negligence) as a meaningful way to reduce the cost of healthcare.
- g) Oppose any obstacles or regulations restricting access to holistic and nutritional alternatives for current medical care.
- h) Oppose forced vaccinations or medical procedures upon a person or one’s dependent.
- i) Oppose the introduction of fluoride into public water systems.

## 10. Infrastructure

### A. Energy/Utilities

*Republicans:*

- a) Support the removal of restrictions on American energy resource exploration, drilling, and extraction.
- b) Support a free-market approach to alternative energy investment, by repealing Initiative 937<sup>2</sup>, and recognizing that hydroelectric power is a renewable energy source.
- c) Support restricting the federal Environmental Protection Agency’s power so that polluters face their victims in court and not merely pay a fine to the EPA
- d) Support significantly refocusing the mission of the State Department of Ecology back on the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).
- e) Oppose job-destroying carbon taxes, or “Cap and Tax (trade)” systems, including the Climate Commitment Act, as well as any other environmental use fees or



# Spokane County Republican Party Platform: *Supporting Policies*

taxes having no provable scientific benefit.

- f) Oppose all efforts to remove in full or part, any of Washington's dams vital to inexpensive energy production.
- g) Support the development of small modular nuclear reactors as a source of baseload power.
- h) Oppose any state mandate prohibiting natural gas usage in any new or existing businesses or residential homes.

## B. Transportation

*Republicans:*

- a) Support competitive contracting and market-based wages for all transportation projects.
- b) Oppose regulatory mandates and delayed permitting which serves only to increase the cost to the taxpayers.
- c) Support the elimination of federal gasoline taxes.
- d) Support the privatization of Amtrak and the Washington State Ferry System, as well as allowing private companies to bid on providing all public transit services.
- e) Oppose the Transportation Safety Administration's (TSA) unconstitutional searches and seizures.
- f) Support the return of transportation dollars from the state and/or federal government without mandates or strings attached.
- g) Support the use of user fees such as tolling as a means of funding transportation projects. However, these dollars must be used solely for the project being tolled.

## C. Technology

*Republicans:*

- a) Support encouraging broadband service growth into rural areas through market forces and not government intervention.
- b) Support practical use of 'teleworking' for state employees.
- c) Support deregulating telephone and cable franchises to give consumers more choice and lower costs.

- d) Oppose the use of 'red light' cameras.
- e) Oppose using fees placed on telecom services for anything other than their originally intended purpose.
- f) Oppose any attempt at regulating Internet access or content through policies like 'Net---Neutrality,' 'SOPA,' or 'PIPA.'
- g) Oppose re-implementing the fairness doctrine on the airwaves.

## 11. Justice

*Republicans:*

- a) Support replacing "hate crime" with equal penalties for equal assaults.
- b) Support legislation that includes protection from political discrimination consistent with The Equal Protection Act defined in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
- c) Support maintaining the death penalty as an option for capital crimes.
- d) Support the use of incarceration facilities that present an effective deterrent to recidivists and the use of alternative sentencing options where deemed appropriate economically and societally.
- e) Support the immediate deportation of illegal aliens detained by authorities, unless placing them in prison or jail better ensures public safety.
- f) Support expansion of the castle doctrine, which allows one to use deadly force to protect their lives and/or property, in order to prevent and deter crime.

