

This Platform is dedicated to:

*The youth of America who will endure the
struggles of growing up today and becoming the
responsible citizens of tomorrow.*

*“What is their task? To make America
a fit country for heroes to live in.” **

*paraphrasing from a speech by David Lloyd George, Early of Dwyfor - Nov. 24, 1918

**THE LAKE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
2009 PLATFORM
PREAMBLE**

This Platform was written by members of the Republican Party and citizens of Lake County. It was developed by consensus after considerable research, discussion and debate.

We believe that the ideas and positions stated in the Platform reflect not only the ideals of the Republican Party but also of the vast majority of Americans as well as those of our Founding Fathers. Listed below are the values adopted by those who established the Republican Party:

Family first
Equal justice for all
Fiscal discipline
Limited government
Strong defense
Lower taxes
Moral integrity
Free enterprise
Personal responsibility

We are proud to present this Lake County Republican Party Platform to our friends, neighbors, relatives and fellow citizens of Lake County, Ohio on this 29th day of August in the year of our Lord, 2009.

We offer this Platform with optimism and the courage to stand united behind the positions stated herein. We also stand behind these insightful words written in 1916 by the Reverend William J. H. Boetcker.

“You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging the weak or by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man’s initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.”

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HISTORY

America is “the Shining City on a Hill.” This *‘Spark of Liberty’* began with the founding of Jamestown and continues today, wherein the systems of free enterprise and legislative representatives were conceived in this land. Building blocks were laid upon these foundations by the Founding Fathers. The Constitution, established as our Rule of Law, is the document in which the constraints of government and the freedom of the people are absolute!

Through the years, great conservative Republican statesmen have kept the Constitution as a bulwark for this “Ship of State.”

The priceless gifts of freedom and liberty are ours today because of our unique history and, as we enjoy these God given unalienable rights, we have been given stewardship over them. Thus, mandated by history, we must protect and defend these freedoms of ... “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” ... now and for future generations.

The United States Constitution clearly states the principles and values which have guided our country in the past and are relevant in guiding our country today. These include:

- Government officials elected to represent the people – NOT to dictate.
- Limited federal government
- The principle of separation of powers.
- Federalism – the 9th and 10th Amendments, which uphold States’ rights.
- Bill of Rights, which means that individual rights take precedent over government rights.
- No taxation without representation.

When the Constitutional Convention was concluded, it has been said that Benjamin Franklin, the delegate from Pennsylvania, was asked .. “Sir, what was accomplished in there?” In reply, Franklin stated:

“We have given you a Republic, if you can keep it!”

This is our challenge today and for the future... Can we, indeed, keep our Republic?

YES, WE MUST!

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

We, the Lake County Republican Party, hereby publish our platform as a statement of both the general principles and specific policies which we support and those which we reject. We adopt the platform of the National Republican Party and offer the following additions: We:

- Support the principle of limited federal government based upon a separation of powers as delineated in the Constitution of the United States.
- Look to the text of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, as originally understood, for interpretation of their meaning.
- Object to the expansion of the federal government into matters of daily living and call for a more limited role for the federal government.
- Believe that the authority and legitimacy of the government rests solely in the will of the citizens of the United States as expressed by our democratically elected officials. Acknowledge the Judeo-Christian tradition upon which our country, its institutions and our Constitution are founded.
- Call on our fellow citizens of the United States to support adherence to our Constitution as intended by its authors, including its amendment.
- Further call for our elected officials, especially Judges and Justices, to be held accountable for any violation of this sacred pact with ourselves and our forefathers.

The First Amendment: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

We believe that the First Amendment jurisprudence emanating from the Supreme Court of the United States has hopelessly convoluted two of the rights guaranteed here; the right to religious freedom and the right to freedom of speech. This Amendment does not mandate a “separation of church and state”, as that phrase appears nowhere in the Constitution. Every citizen has the right to participate in and express his/her religious preferences and live in “One nation under God”.

The First Amendment protects “speech”, strictly defined, and political speech in particular is to be accorded special protection. Physical actions such as flag burning, nude dancing and other such activities are not “speech” and thus are not protected by the First Amendment. We call for:

- Supreme Court nominees who will be willing to undo decades of misdirected jurisprudence in this area and who will interpret the Constitution and all amendments according to their original meaning and without reference to foreign or international law.

We oppose:

- The publication of texts of the Constitution that alter the original language and delete references to God or the Lord.
- Any attempt to remove religion from the public sphere. Any person who, knowingly and with intent to misrepresent, alters the text of the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence or any other historic document should be held criminally accountable.

The Ninth Amendment: “The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people”

We acknowledge this passage means that the United States Constitution explicitly recognizes certain rights that are held by the citizens of the United States. However, rights that are inherently held by the citizens, i.e., the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, as enumerated in the Declaration of Independence, are still recognized despite not having been explicitly mentioned in The Constitution and cannot be abridged by any legislative, executive or judicial act.

The Tenth Amendment: “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.”

The Tenth Amendment recognizes that there are limits of the federal government. It specifically provides that the federal government may not utilize powers not explicitly delegated to it. Therefore, if the Constitution does not identify a federal power, the federal government has no authority to exercise that power

We believe:

- That the federal government has, over several decades, abused its authority in numerous areas, most importantly in its “enforcement” of regulations pursuant to the Commerce Clause of Article I Section 8.
- That federal implementations of unfunded mandates on the various states is unconstitutional and a violation of this Amendment.

We call for a strict judicial interpretation of this amendment and adherence to its original meaning.

The Fourteenth Amendment – Section 1: “All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the States wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property within its jurisdiction of the equal protection of the laws.”

We believe that the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment Section 1 must be clarified. We must recognize the historic fact that its intended purpose relates only to freedoms and rights that were to be afforded to former slaves.

EDUCATION

The Republican Party has long supported the basic principles of our nation's educational system and its continued progress. Our Party is committed to these principles and the continuation of the transmission of a commonly held set of values that prepare future generations for responsible citizenship in a free society.

Our Party is also committed to restoring the civic mission of schools envisioned by the founders of the American public school system. It places classroom and service learning at the cornerstone of American public education. That mission, as originally conceived, is central to any future school reform efforts.

We encourage the youth of Lake County and Northeast Ohio to become involved in government and community service now and in the future.

We agree with and embrace all principles and recommendations for educational reform written in the 2008 Republican National Committee's Platform in the chapter titled: **Education Means a More Competitive America**. More specifically, we agree that:

- All children must have access to a world class education that empowers them to secure their own freedom and contribute to the betterment of our society.
- A world class education requires world class teachers and world class learning environments with high standards allowing all students to reach their potential.
- Education is a parental right. Parents should have options such as home schooling, charter schools and learning environments that are best for their child.
- Parents also are empowered to have choices with regard to curriculum content.
- Education is a state and local responsibility as the Constitution assigns no role in local schools to the federal government.
- Education is a national strategic interest.

In addition, the Lake County Republican Party strongly emphasizes that:

- School board candidates should be committed to the Republican Party's national and local platforms.
- Family involvement should be encouraged in the education of children.
- School vouchers should be expanded to support competition in education.
- There should be accountability of students, teachers, administrators and school board members for student performance.
- Balanced, accurate and judicially reviewed educational materials used in the learning environment must be available, which will allow parents, teachers and school board members to make informed decisions that will benefit students.

- It should be possible to use merit pay as a percentage of base pay to reward exemplary performance of teachers and administrators.
- Local school boards should apply careful and diligent expense oversight on payroll and benefits, building maintenance and other costs that impact school budgets.
- School districts should demonstrate more public disclosure and scrutiny of its finances in the school districts.
- Academic performance standards must be increased for all students participating in any extracurricular activity. .

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM REFORM

The Lake County Republican Party supports the positions outlined in the 2008 National Republican Party Platform in the chapter titled **Health Care Reform: Putting Patients First** with further emphasis on the following recommendations.

We believe:

- The goal must be to lower out-of-control costs, increase the quality of care, lessen illness through wellness and preventive programs and make health care and related insurance more affordable, accessible and tax deductible.
- The current system is broken due to excessive government intervention which has driven up costs and inefficiency. More government takeover of our health care would be disastrous. An overview of the Veterans Administration (VA) exemplifies this statement.
- That market solutions are necessary to achieve our goals, increase creativity and expand technology. Lasik and cosmetic surgery are prime examples of how the free market works. In both cases, neither the government nor a third party payor is involved, and the results have produced dramatic reductions in costs coupled with increased quality and technological advances. In addition, a whole array of businesses has been created.

True reform would:

- Simplify and expand Health Savings Account (HSA) rules so that every American citizen, employer or business could have this option and benefit.
- Cut health care costs by eliminating federal, state and county mandates.
- Use tax incentives or vouchers, such as easier deductibility or credits, to promote wellness and patient responsibility and allow every American citizen to choose his/her doctor and insurance plan.
- Increase implementation of tort reform! Out-of-control malpractice claims astronomically increase health care insurance costs and force doctors out of private practice. This would lead to rationing of care and a shortage of health care professionals. To control this, we call for capping rewards and imposing penalties for frivolous lawsuits.
- Reform Medicaid in Ohio so benefits for the truly needy are not compromised by abuse, waste, fraud and inefficiency.
- Reinstate the "Conscience Clause" so that no health care professional (doctor, nurse, pharmacist) or organization would ever be required to perform, provide or refer a health care service against his/her conscience for any reason.

- Improve efficiency through increased use of electronic records and design one standardized form for all insurances.
- Promote competitiveness by allowing insurers to cross state lines.
- Encourage even more transparency and accountability by hospitals and doctors
- Enhance and prolong life at all stages of development.
- Not use government funds for drugs and procedures that cause the destruction of human life.

IMMIGRATION, NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE RULE OF LAW

We support the positions outlined in the 2008 Republican National Committee's Platform under the chapter heading as shown above. We support and wholeheartedly welcome all ethnic groups and people of diverse cultures who enter, or have entered, our country legally.

We agree with President Theodore Roosevelt, who reportedly said in 1907: *"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American and nothing but an American ... There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American Flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language ... and we have room for but one sole loyalty, and that is a loyalty to the American people."*

Our Lake County Republican Party's platform is based on principles of law and fairness. We call on Congress and the President to:

- Reform our immigration laws and bureaucracy to reflect, and work in concert with, our national security interests and concerns, including enforcement while assisting those striving to legally immigrate to, or work in, the United States.
- Provide law enforcement at all levels, including our courts of law, the tools necessary to enforce all of our laws (federal, state and local) related to national security and immigration.

The RNC Platform of 2008 states the following:

- Immigration policy is a national security issue ...
- Experience shows that enforcement of existing laws is effective in reducing and reversing illegal immigration.
- Our commitment to the rule of law means smarter enforcement at the workplace against illegal workers and lawbreaking employers alike, along with those who practice identity theft and traffic in fraudulent documents.
- ... we must empower employers so they can know with confidence that those they hire are permitted to work. That means that the E-Verify system, which is an internet based system that verifies the employment authorization and identity of employees, must be reauthorized.

- The rule of law means ... enforcing the law against those who overstay their visas ... imposing maximum penalties on those who smuggle illegal aliens in the U.S. ... requiring cooperation among federal, state and local law enforcement and real consequences, including the denial of federal funds for self described sanctuary cities, which stand in open defiance of the federal and state statutes that expressly prohibit such sanctuary policies and which endanger the lives of U.S. citizens ... correcting court decisions that have made deportation so difficult ... and guaranteeing to law enforcement the tools and coordination to deport criminal aliens without delay.
- The rule of law does not mean driver's licenses for illegal aliens, nor states giving in-state tuition rates to illegal aliens; nor does it mean that illegal aliens should receive social security benefits or other public benefits except as provided by federal law.
- We oppose amnesty.
- We celebrate the industry and love of liberty by those fellow Americans who are today's legal immigrants.
- It is a national disgrace that the first experience most new Americans have is with a dysfunctional immigration bureaucracy defined by delay and confusion; we will no longer tolerate those failures.
- In our multiethnic nation, everyone – immigrant and native born alike – must embrace our core values of liberty, equality, meritocracy, respect for human dignity and the rights of women.
- One sign of our unity is our English language. English empowers, and we support English as the official language in our nation. English is the accepted language of business, commerce and legal proceedings, and it is essential as a unifying cultural force.
- It is also important ... that our schools provide better education in U.S. history and civics for all children, thereby fostering a commitment to our national motto, *E Pluribus Unum (Out of many – one)*
- We are grateful to the thousands of new immigrants, many of them not yet citizens, who are serving in the Armed Forces. Their patriotism is inspiring; it should remind the institutions of civil society of the need to embrace newcomers, assist their journey to full citizenship and help their communities avoid patterns of isolation.

Our platform addresses the following issues for Lake County stating that:

- We applaud all the officials in Lake County who have shown their commitment to these principles outlined above on Immigration, National Security and the Rule of Law. Enforcement of our laws is essential for national, state and local security and community safety as well as the preservation of our liberty and freedom.

Any lack of enforcement, coordination of enforcement or unequal enforcement of laws in Lake County should have **real consequences**.

- We call on our officials and fellow citizens to bring public attention to any type of discriminatory activity going on in Lake County, including security and safety concerns so that the proper officials can rectify the egregious behavior and the perpetrator(s) be held accountable.
- We encourage our schools in Lake County to provide the teaching of English to those who do not currently speak our language; however, this should be done at a day and/or time that does not disrupt the regular school day curriculum or compromise the resources of the school.
- We strongly support the prosperity of our small and large businesses in Lake County and recognize that there is sometimes a need for non-American workers to supplement the needs of employers. To that end, we support legal programs such as work visas and E-Verify technology that will lead to smarter enforcement at the workplace. We support extending the E-Verify program and the passage of Ohio H.R. 184, which addresses, among other issues, the hiring of legal workers.
- We support the celebration of all cultures in our wonderfully diverse country. To that end, we believe that no state or local government entity in the U.S. shall pass a law celebrating any specific cultural group unless it is to celebrate *all* cultural groups.

REFORM OF TAXES

In March, 2009 the Republican Party of Cuyahoga County published its Platform. That document included an excellent discussion about the effects of taxes on people and businesses. Cuyahoga County concluded that “taxes should be lowered in a way that best accomplishes the following principles:

1. Fairness – A single rate ensures fairness. Progressive rates cause unnecessary volatility in government revenues. By definition, progressivity means the tax burden automatically ratchets up in periods of national economic expansion, thereby limiting our participation in economic growth.
2. Simplicity – The tax system should impose the lightest possible burden on its subjects to comply, file and pay taxes.
3. Efficiency – The cost to administer, enforce, collect revenues should be as low as possible relative to total taxes collected.
4. Transparency – Theoretically, you should be able to walk down the street knowing that each stranger you pass or each business you pass is also paying their fair share.
5. Impose the lightest possible burden on production – Private sector production ultimately finances every single dollar of government expenditure, at every single level of government. From the government’s standpoint, private sector production is the goose that lays golden eggs. The goose should be protected and nurtured, not beaten.”

We support the above principles of the Cuyahoga County Platform. With regard to federal taxes, our Platform for Lake County supports:

- Maintaining the current tax cuts and making them permanent.
- Considering Fair Tax and Flat Tax proposals versus lowering current rates.
- Eliminating the Federal Estate Taxes.
- Providing relief and support to families by giving larger child credits.
- Eliminating education subsidies in favor of giving generous education tax credits for school tuition so that administration costs and collection of student loans can be eliminated.
- Eliminating taxes on interest, dividends and capital gains for families with an adjusted gross income less than \$200,000.
- Rolling back “Alternative Minimum Tax” and adjusting for inflation.
- Minimizing or eliminating corporate income taxes.
- Eliminating barriers that discourage repatriating funds invested and earned by corporations abroad. (approximately \$13 trillion)

- Keeping tax deductions for real estate, interest expenses, health care, education expenses and charitable donations if a Fair Tax or Flat Tax is not enacted.

With regard to the State of Ohio, we support:

- Eliminating or reducing Ohio income and estate taxes in a reasoned way.
- Expanding school vouchers to support competition in education.
- Eliminating the marriage tax penalty.
- Eliminating taxes for apparel.

With regard to Lake County, we support:

- Reviewing the tax structure at the county, city and township levels.
- Reducing expenses at the county level in the collection, administration and providing of essential services such as maintenance, etc. so that taxes already levied can be lowered.
- Using automation, private corporations and streamlined methods to reduce the overhead of running local government.
- Minimizing the competition of local government with private enterprise.

REGIONALISM, COUNTY ISSUES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

The Republican Party was founded by independent thinkers who were deeply committed to individual liberty. We are still committed to that ideal. Accordingly, we welcome all, regardless of race, gender or ethnicity, whose goals are liberty and personal responsibility so that they work toward the betterment of Lake County. Achieving those goals will make Lake County a nationally recognized community of excellence and exceptional quality of life.

We cherish the diversity of the many cities, townships and villages of Lake County and Northeast Ohio and have no desire to eliminate the differences among them. However, we believe that there are some definite fiscal advantages of working together in certain aspects of local government.

We encourage communities to work together instead of competing by sharing costs and resources. We support innovative ideas/plans that reduce the county government and its spending without making it ineffective or inefficient. Examples of cooperative efforts would be re-evaluating property, condensing county jobs and developing minimum standards in areas that are needed.

The positive outcome of cooperation among regional communities would be:

1. Business growth and attraction of new business
2. Talent development and retention
3. Prosperity through economic inclusion of all persons
4. Government efficiency

We also support:

- The development and advancement of alternative and renewable energies, recycling and other conservation options.
- The economic development initiatives such as the Lake County Coastal Development Plan, the US/Canadian Ferry Project and mass transportation in Northeast Ohio that maximize our greatest assets of tourism, commercial trade and Lake Erie.
- The original intent of the Great Lakes Compact (protection of the Great Lakes) and Ohio's continued involvement.

Elected officials are directly accountable to the constituency who elect them. All government agencies should be transparent and provide information to the citizens. This would include publishing meeting dates, agendas, and approved Minutes using all accepted means of communication with sufficient time for public consumption.

Failure to be accountable should and must be addressed by whatever means is described by local ordinances and state statutes. The electorate has the right to rescind powers granted to public officials and elected bodies of government when necessary for the good of the people. The populace has the responsibility to convey their opinions and solutions to their elected representatives in a timely and appropriate manner.

PLATFORM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<i>NAME</i>	<i>RESIDENCE</i>
David Bennett	Mentor
Sue Betteley	Painesville
Jan Clair	Painesville
Dale Fellows	Willoughby Hills
Chris Galloway	Concord
Barbara Garwood	Painesville Township
John Hamila	Eastlake
Anne E. Hassoldt Fenoff	Willoughby Hills
Jane Jeffery	Mentor
R.Douglas Kepp	Painesville Township
Curt Lau	Mentor
Becky Lynch	Mentor
Loretta Medved	Willowick
Nancy Milanich	Painesville Township
John Muzik	Painesville Township
Rosemarie Palker-Havel	Mentor
Carolyn Villar Patton	Willoughby Hills
Robert A. Patton	Willoughby Hills
Barbara Pickel	Eastlake
Richard Radcliffe	Leroy
Amy Sabath	Concord
Liberty Schindel	Eastlake
Thomas Seymour	Mentor
Rick Zaleski	Mentor

**LAKE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM
SUB – COMMITTEES**

PREAMBLE

Committee of the Whole

HISTORY

Carolyn Villar Patton
Robert A. Patton
Rick Zaleski

THE CONSTITUTION

Dale Fellows
Becky Lynch
Geoffrey Weaver

EDUCATION

Anne E. Hassoldt Fenoff
R. Douglas Kepp
Richard Radcliffe

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM REFORM

Dale Fellows
John Hamila
R. Douglas Kepp
Nancy Milanich

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