

2011 MARTIN COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM GUIDE

This document is a guide for Registered Republicans in Martin County on how they may participate in the drafting of the Martin County Republican Party Platform.

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Welcome

Welcome, and thank you for taking the time to find out how you as a registered Martin County Republican can participate in the drafting of *"The Martin County Republican Party Platform"*.

A Political Party Platform is a document that expresses the views, beliefs and ideals of that Political Party. The Martin County Republican Party Platform will reflect the views and ideas of those Republicans that contribute to the document. So you as a Martin County Republican will be able to submit your ideas, also known as planks, for consideration.

Here are a few frequently asked questions about the process.

Do I have to be a Republic to participate?

Yes, you must be registered as a Martin County Republican voter to participate in this process.

Can I read the current platform?

Yes, further in this document you will find the current base platform that we will use.

What if I think something needs to be in the platform that is not already there?

Step one: Write it down. Get your ideas/ planks on paper or in an e-mail

Step Two: Get it to us. You may either e-mail us at platform@martingop.org or you may drop it by our offices.

Be sure to include your full name, address and a contact number so we may contact you to discuss your ideas / planks.

What if I think something should be revised or removed from the current base platform?

Step one: Write it down. Get your ideas/ planks on paper or in an e-mail

Step Two: Get it to us. You may either e-mail us at platform@martingop.org or you may drop it by our offices.

Be sure to include your full name, address and a contact number so we can contact you to discuss your ideas / planks.

What happens to my ideas once I contribute them?

Once we have verified your voter registration, you will be contacted by one of our Precinct Committee Persons to discuss the idea. After you have discussed your ideas with our representative it will be presented to the entire body of the Martin County Republican Executive Committee at a special

meeting. Once your idea is presented, it will be debated and voted upon. If your idea is voted on in the affirmative manner, it will become part of the platform document.

How many ideas / planks may I submit?

You are not limited to the number of ideas / planks that you may submit.

When is the special meeting to debate the ideas / planks to be held?

The Special meeting of the Martin County Republican Executive Committee is scheduled for May the 14th, 2011.

How soon do I have to have my ideas to you?

We need to have received your ideas / planks no later than April 25th, 2011 to be considered for inclusion into the platform.

What will the Martin County Republican Party do with the final platform?

1. Education – we will get the platform out to as many people as we can to further educate them on the Republican philosophy.
2. We will provide elected Republicans and Republican Candidates with the platform to outline the Republican philosophy.
3. Training – we will use the final platform to train new Martin County Republican Executive Committee persons.

Where do begin?

On the pages to follow you will be able to read ideas / planks that are already part of our Platform. Take a few minutes to review them. If you think that there is something missing then that is a good place to start. If you disagree with something in the platform then we want to know that as well.

To be a part of this process, simply follow the steps that we have outlined above. That's all there is to it.

We welcome your input.

What are the contact addresses I use to submit my ideas / planks for consideration?

You may e-mail us at → platform@martingop.org

Or you may drop it off or mail it to us at:

MCREC Headquarters

1111 SE US Hwy 1, Suite 134
Stuart, FL 34994

“The beliefs and principles outlined in this platform are the primary beliefs and principles of the Republican Party of Martin County. We do expect our candidates running for office and elected Republican officials to support these principles. It should be understood that not every party member supports every principle listed in the platform. Anyone who believes in and desires a majority of these principles is therefore considered a like minded Republican and we welcome your support and participation.”



Statement of Principle

“God who gave us life gave us liberty.” – Thomas Jefferson

The United States has attained its position as a world leader and champion of freedom by protecting our God-given liberties.

We believe our rights come from our Creator. We believe in the unalienable rights of the individual. It is a government’s first duty to protect these God-given rights: to life; to liberty; to property; to the pursuit of happiness.

Government is but one institution among many that exist to serve the common good. Families, religious communities, businesses, the press, and a host of voluntary societies have their roles to play in meeting the needs of society. As Republicans, we seek to reform government so that it performs its proper role with excellence and efficiency, while leaving room for the other institutions of society to thrive.

We believe that today’s government is too large and intrusive, exceeding its proper scope, doing things for which individuals and private organizations are best equipped. We believe families, communities, and institutions of faith can best teach the American values of honesty, responsibility, accountability, hard work, compassion, and mutual respect.

We believe that the functions of government should be handled at the level nearest and most accountable to the people.

The Martin County Republican Party seeks to apply these time-honored principles at all levels of government:

- Faithful adherence to the U.S. Constitution as originally intended;
- The sanctity of human life, from the moment of conception to its natural end;
- The equality of all people before the Law
- Public integrity – enforcing and administering the laws justly, in the fear of God;
- Restoring and preserving Judeo-Christian morality in our culture;
- Respecting the dignity of each individual and the integrity of families;
- Fiscal responsibility and restraint;
- Defense of property rights;
- Promotion of free markets, free trade and freedom throughout the world.

At the Federal level, we call for maintenance of a strong national defense, protection of our freedom of religious expression, and protection of our rights as law-abiding individuals to keep and bear arms.

We support the right of Americans to retain their hard earned wages through the substantial reduction of the federal income tax rate and the establishment of a fair system of taxation.

We believe in personal responsibility and individual accountability. We desire to limit government involvement in the lives of families and individuals. We believe that a sound, traditional family unit is essential to the strength, stability, and success of our nation. We will defend the institution of the family against those who seek to use the levers of government to undermine or redefine it.

We believe inefficient government programs have displaced individual responsibility, compassion, and involvement in our communities. We will work to reform or eliminate impersonal, inefficient and redundant programs, while encouraging individuals, families, and private organizations to exercise their civic responsibilities, act with genuine compassion and offer assistance and care to people in need.

We believe that individuals have certain rights to do with their property as they choose without the interference of Government. These rights are unrestricted as long as their actions do not harm the health safety or welfare of the general public. These rights are constitutionally granted and should be protected at all levels of Government.

We believe it is the right and responsibility of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children, without interference, regulation, or penalty from the government. We therefore support the right of parents to choose the method of schooling for their children, whether public, private, charter, home schooling, or other means of education, without interference from the government at any level.

We believe the best choices are not always the easiest, and that decisions which take commitment, sacrifice and perseverance result in more honorable, longer-lasting solutions. We believe the Republican Party provides the best opportunity to translate these ideals into positive and successful principles of government.

Family

Preamble:

Traditional marriage, consisting of one man and one woman, is meant to provide for each family member's physical, emotional, financial, spiritual, and social well-being. Both parents are needed to support and encourage happiness, health, and a good education for their children, creating the next generation of citizens who are constructive members of society. Multigenerational families foster mutual respect and cooperation while providing support for extended family members and forming enduring relationships. We believe God is the Author and Creator of human life and that each individual should be treated with dignity and compassion.

Marriage

We affirm the state's recognition that marriage between one man and one woman is a covenant relationship, instituted by God, not to be entered into casually, and is fundamental to our very existence and survival as a nation. Therefore, we strongly support a U.S. Constitutional Amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman.

Children

Children are a special gift from God, and their safety and protection are paramount. We support strict adherence to due process of law during child abuse investigations. We oppose the immediate removal of children from responsible family members unless abuse allegations are confirmed or the child is in immediate danger.

Adoption

We encourage an adoption process that recognizes the rights of parents while maintaining safeguards for the children. Except for adoption by a qualified relative (as defined by existing law), we support adoption only by traditional families.

Right to Life

All innocent human life must be respected and safeguarded from fertilization to natural death; therefore, the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We affirm our support for a Human Life Amendment to the Constitution and to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protection applies to unborn children.

Medical Ethics

We support individual choices of broad medical options without government intervention. We believe that Medical Science and Health Care should be wholly dedicated to prolonging and improving natural life.

We support stem cell research, with the exception of embryonic stem cells. We staunchly oppose the use of aborted babies for all medical research or commercial purposes.

We oppose human cloning.

Healthcare

We oppose mandatory universal healthcare. We urge passage of health care reform which results in more affordable healthcare through a market-based, competitive, open and transparent health care

system, including tort reform, interstate competition and genuine accountability and oversight, where American's families chose their own doctor and health care plans.

Religious Freedom

We believe the First Amendment's Establishment Clause was intended to prevent a state-sponsored religion rather than a separation of God from our government. All Americans, whether as private citizens or public officials, should be entitled to acknowledge God. This acknowledgement includes the freedom to display religious symbols in public areas.

Education

Preamble:

We acknowledge our dependence upon Almighty God and ask His blessings upon our students and their parents, teachers, and nation. It is the right and responsibility of parents to direct their children's upbringing and choose the method of education whether public, private, charter, or home school, without interference, regulation, or penalty from the government.

The primary goal of public schools should be to teach proficiency in the basic subjects mostly of phonics based reading, written and oral communication, mathematics, sciences, traditional history including our founding documents, the Godly heritage of our nation, and critical thinking skills.

Locally elected school boards should have the authority to determine and implement all public school curricula, policies, and procedures for their districts. We demand excellence and accountability from all tax-funded institutions of education in Florida. The federal government has no constitutional role in education; furthermore, we support the creation of a free market education system. We believe Florida's students are among the best and brightest and deserve a quality education.

Early Childhood Development

The Party opposes programs which are designed to bring about a comprehensive, taxpayer-funded, federally controlled and regulated system of educational, psychological, and physical development for all children (such as Early Childhood Development and Parents as Teachers).

Discipline

The Party recognizes that peace and order are prerequisites for an environment conducive to education for both the student and the teacher. We therefore recommend that local school boards and classroom teachers be given more authority to deal with disciplinary problems.

Support for Classroom Teachers

The Party continues to support quality education by:

- A. Recognizing the need to maintain and attract competent professional teachers in the classrooms of Florida public schools to the end that every student will receive the best possible education;
- B. Recognizing the need for teacher involvement in educational planning and program development for the betterment of education at the local level;

- C. Recognizing the need to minimize administrative reports and excessive paperwork by teachers not directly conducive to excellence in teaching;
- D. Supporting spending the majority of school education funds for teacher salaries and those needs which directly relate to education;
- E. Supporting teacher incentives through monetary and recognition rewards established at the local level.

Traditional Values in Education

We support faculty in public institutions to instill and encourage traditional American religious, moral, political and economic values.

Tenure

We support the elimination of tenure in all public schools, but support rewarding competent teachers with monetary incentives, and provide firm procedures to remove ineffective educators (teachers and administrators)

Private and Home Education

The Party believes that parents have the primary responsibility for education of their children, and the State should not have the power to force any parent or guardian to send their children to public school.

We believe that parents and guardians may choose to educate their children either in a private school or home without government interference.

Pledge of Allegiance in Public Schools

The Party believes that students should be led in the Pledge of Allegiance and patriotic songs on a daily basis so as to ensure that the loyal and patriotic spirit of America's past is preserved and passed on to our children.

School Prayer

We believe that School Prayer should be encouraged and exercised.

Textbooks

We call upon state legislators to make an ample quantity (minimum of three) of proposed textbooks conveniently available to interested citizens and to guarantee public hearings before the State Board of Education as a component of the textbook review process.

Parental Rights

We recognize recognizes that parents have the fundamental right to direct the education and upbringing of their children and Whereas parental rights and responsibilities are inherent and protected by the U.S. Constitution, parents have the right to make educational decisions for their children, including the right to view mandatory public school tests after they are given, health decisions for their children, including responsibility and authority regarding sex education and other essential decisions without government intervention. Be it resolved that parents, not government, have the God given responsibility and right to raise their children.

School Funding

School districts should be required to publicly publish their budget and expenditures for the prior year and proposed budget for the following fiscal year before receiving funds for the next fiscal year.

TITLE IX

Title Nine athletic spending should be awarded per person regardless of sex.

State

Preamble:

We believe all persons are responsible and should be held accountable for their actions. We believe in transparent and honest government with minimal intrusion, providing protection for all citizens with fair and equitable treatment, enforcement, and justice. We realize without economic freedom there is no political freedom. We believe the greatest incentive for the creation of wealth lies in the respect for private property rights and in the free enterprise system, which allows for the best and most efficient distribution of resources.

Economic Development

We support the promotion of free enterprise with minimal government intervention and burdensome regulation.

Immigration

Secure and protect our country's borders against illegal entry and invasion by supporting the use of the National Guard

Insurance

All insurance companies should be allowed entrance into the State, giving the free market system an opportunity to flourish and drive down costs due to competition, provided they can prove the minimum standards set by the State for their respective lines of insurance to include but not limited to: health, property and automobile.

Transportation

We support legislation requiring that all state fuel and vehicle taxes and tag fees go to state, county and local transportation infrastructure.

We support the state and its citizens maintaining control of all transportation instead of selling or leasing control of that right to foreign entities, corporations, private/public partnerships, or other states.

Taxation

We advocate for balanced Federal, State and Local budgets. We oppose a State Income Tax.

Federal

Preamble:

The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land and should be interpreted according to the original intent of the founding fathers. We call for reaffirmation of our God-given rights enumerated in the first ten amendments, the Bill of Rights. Our founding fathers based the Declaration of Independence, our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and early laws on traditional Judeo-Christian principles and values. We believe that these documents are the basis for law, order, and behavior, allowing individuals, including government officials, the freedom to involve God in all activities according to their consciences.

The Legislative, Judicial, and Executive branches, are separate but equal, and are bound by the powers granted them by the Constitution, which limits the powers of the federal government and protects individual rights from illegal and excessive encroachment by the government. We support foreign policy that acknowledges the sovereignty of the United States and places the interests and values of its citizens above those of the United Nations or any international organization, public private corporation/partnership or any private corporation. We believe in a strong national defense and support for our military.

Defense

We believe that a strong, well-funded military is essential to our safety and preservation as a people and a nation.

Foreign Policy

We believe our foreign and domestic policy must, by design, be based upon our own strategic national interests and must always jealously guard our nation's sovereignty.

United Nations

We believe that the United States Constitution is the supreme law of the land and that no other laws shall supersede it, including conventions, resolutions, rulings, treaties, mandates or any other laws or policies written by the United Nations or any other international organization.

Constitutional Issues

We call for each federal or state legislator who proposes a new law or agency must cite the exact section of the state or federal constitution at the beginning of the bill that empowers the legislature in that area, and must identify sources of funding necessary to implement the bill. We oppose unfunded government mandates from Federal to State levels, and State to local levels.

Social Security

We are committed to putting Social Security on a sound fiscal basis.

Agriculture

We believe that preservation of the family farm, primary producers of produce, crops and livestock, is vital to the economic condition of our communities, state and nation. Family farms should be allowed to operate as free, independent, responsible producers and not be encumbered by onerous regulations.

Immigration

We support Legal Immigration. Republicans support the opportunity to earn U.S. citizenship for all who enter the country legally. Illegal entry threatens the security of, and dilutes the rights and privileges of all citizens and those here legally.

Election Reform

We support modifications and strengthening of election laws to assure ballot integrity and fair elections. Specifically, we support a federal or state government-issued photo ID at in-person voting; increased scrutiny and security in balloting by mail; prohibition of internet voting and any electronic voting lacking a verifiable paper trail; prohibition of mobile voting; prosecution for election fraud with jail sentences.

Energy

We encourage a comprehensive energy policy that allows more development of domestic energy sources and reduces our need for foreign energy. Energy policy should be cooperative, economically viable, and environmentally safe, but not restricted by overzealous environmental activism. We encourage use of wind, coal-fired plants, solar, and nuclear power. We oppose government restrictions such as windfall profits and severance taxes, and regulations that restrict construction of refineries, power grids and location of gas and oil drilling, or mandating alternative fuel use for vehicles. We oppose any legislation that supports any type of “Cap and Trade” policy, or ceding any energy policy authority to any world agreement. We support the abolition of the Department of Energy. We support an immediate end to the deep water drilling moratorium in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

Taxation

We demand fiscal responsibility at all levels of government and that government operate within the structure of a balanced budget and without using borrowed or emergency funds.

Over the long run, the mammoth IRS tax code must be replaced with a system that is simple, transparent, and fair while maximizing economic growth and job creation.