

**JEFFERSON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY**  
**2016 PLATFORM**  
**Approved March 19, 2016**

**PREAMBLE**

The Jefferson County Republicans affirm our belief in and promote the principles expressed in the Constitution of the United States of America, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of Washington State.

**CONSTITUTIONALLY LIMITED GOVERNMENT**

We believe our constitutionally limited governments, designed to protect the blessings of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, must be fiscally responsible and moral as well as unobtrusive and as close to the people as possible.

We find that government at all levels has grown too big. Government costs too much directly in taxes as well as costing too much indirectly in excessive regulations and mandates. The size and burden of government at each level must be reduced to only that which is absolutely necessary to meet government's constitutional requirements.

Governments' primary functions are to protect the personal liberty and religious freedom as well as to provide security for all citizens. All levels of government must do better in executing these functions.

The Bill of Rights is an enumeration of rights that are endowed upon American citizens and those rights are not subject to the whim of government. The government's duty is to restrain itself and govern within the limits of the bill of rights. Competing rights declarations such as the UN Declaration of Universal Rights are irrelevant to American citizens.

Presidents from any party must respect our system of divided government. The growth of the Executive Branch needs to be rolled back and Congress must stop delegating their legislative duty to unelected bureaucrats.

There should be term limits for all political offices at all levels. All judges should have term limits too.

**ENCOURAGING JOBS, GROWTH, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL**

A free market, free enterprise, entrepreneurial capitalistic economy is the only proven engine for sustaining a productive society with personal liberty and economic wellbeing for all. Government intervention into the operation and excessive regulation of markets and private businesses hurts job creation and expansion.

Jefferson County Commissioners and Port Townsend City Council members must do more to provide an environment that encourages businesses to expand and provide more living wage jobs.

We require that Jefferson County adopt a Comprehensive Plan that: provides for the development and expansion of light industry on airport property and other business park property; provides additional zoning for apartments, town houses and condominiums; insures the viability of the county's major tourist, marine and paper industries; reestablishes forest harvesting as a major industry; and, reestablishes the building trades as a major industry.

The county should eliminate the onerous and unnecessary Shoreline Master Program updates. That includes the excessive increase in natural environmental designation, the No Net Loss provisions and blanket Conditional Use Permit requirements. These new regulations severely devalue shoreline property with no appreciable environmental improvement and increasing the tax burden on all other property owners.

We believe that more development of Federal and State natural resources including logging, grazing, farming, drilling and mining is needed, to provide more jobs and boost the economy.

## **UPHOLDING PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Republicans know that private property rights are fundamental to your personal freedom.

We believe government must equitably compensate property owners whenever their property is taken or devalued to accomplish a government action. Taking of private property must only be done for civic purposes and never when private enterprise can accomplish the desired goal.

We have learned that "Community" and "Sustainable" developments have become intolerable government control of private property.

## **TAXES**

We oppose any effort to enact a state income tax.

We support lowering taxes and simplifying the current Internal Revenue Service tax code to the extent of minimizing or eliminating the IRS.

We reject the use of tax dollars to provide grants, subsidies and venture capital as they are just redistribution of tax dollars from hard working people.

We support passing a State constitutional amendment to require a 2/3 vote of legislators to raise any state or local tax rate.

We expect all government agencies to exercise prudent use of the peoples tax dollars as well as to continually work to minimize waste, fraud and abuse.

## **SUPPORTING STRONG FAMILIES**

We know strong family units have been, and are, the basic building blocks of all free and moral societies.

It is the duty of parents, not the state, to guide their children to be responsible, productive and moral citizens. Government's responsibility is to uphold and encourage traditional values and institutions; to protect the elderly and children from the harmful elements of society; and, to defend the unalienable right of human life, from conception to natural death.

## **REFORMING SOCIAL SECURITY**

We require the Social Security system insure that those who have paid in receive the benefits promised.  
We support the development of various new options for those who are just starting to contribute.

We believe that non-citizens should not be eligible for Social Security benefits nor Supplemental Security Income.

## **PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION**

Quality public education is imperative to our nation's future wellbeing as well as competitiveness in the world economy. School choice, charter schools and home schooling must be made available to all students.

We believe parents have the ultimate responsibility for the education of their children. This includes skills, traditions, values, morals and knowledge.

We believe education is a state and local function, not a Federal function, with parents having a major say in the content and conduct of government provided education. The Federal Dept of Education must be eliminated, along with all the mandates (including Common Core) and funding.

We support the declaration of English as the official language of the United States.

We support the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the celebration of all Federal holidays in all schools.

We support a state requirement that all students in grades K through 12 study the United States Constitution, the Declaration of

Independence, the Federalist Papers, and the Washington State Constitution.

## **HEALTH CARE**

We require the repeal of ObamaCare. We believe free market solutions to health care will provide more and better options with true affordability.

We oppose any government mandate that citizens purchase health insurance and any tax or penalty for not obtaining health insurance.

We support medical savings accounts and oppose the placement of arbitrary financial limits on available procedures by any government.

We support medical tort reform in Washington State and health insurance portability.

Medicare is an intergenerational promise. In order to keep that promise Congress must restore funding that was stripped away from Medicare to pay for the Affordable Care Act.

Medicaid is an element of the social safety net and should be maintained to serve the most needy. The Affordable Care Act is putting more families, which previously had private health insurance, on Medicaid. The expanded Medicaid rolls will bankrupt the state when temporary Federal subsidies end. We will repeal the ACA and restore Medicaid to an actuarially sound and sustainable condition.

A concerted effort to minimize waste, fraud and abuse is required.

## **RESTRUCTURING WELFARE**

We believe that welfare is most effectively provided for those in need and in returning most, using welfare, to productive citizenship, when it is provided by local private organizations and volunteers. Public welfare should not become a permanent lifestyle for those capable of providing for themselves.

The Federal government should not be providing or dictating welfare, but should continue to maintain the charitable tax deduction against income or as a deduction against tax due, to encourage support of local charitable organizations.

Affordable housing should never be provided directly by government. However, local governments can insure that affordable housing is developed; with land use zoning that provides for apartments, town houses and condominiums; by promoting a viable local economic environment; and, by promoting local development with a reasonable permit process.

We support Washington State's 'Work First' program and other programs that require some civic work to receive aid.

Welfare should be given to legal citizens only and drug testing must be required with failures directed to rehab.

## **PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT**

Jefferson County Republicans believe that a clean and healthy environment is important to our families and to future generations.

We believe that the development of our domestic natural resources can be achieved in an environmentally friendly fashion.

We believe that local businesses such as the paper mill and marine trades as well as military bases and operations are run in an environmentally balanced fashion.

We know that the people who live on and/or farm the land are the best stewards of their land.

We oppose United Nations 'Agenda 21'. This includes implementation of any global climate treaties (Such as the Kyoto Protocol), "Cap and Trade", or local Climate Action Plans. We find these actions infringe upon the sovereignty of our country and your property rights. Further, they are based on highly disputed science, fail to adequately evaluate their economic impact and grossly exaggerate the risk versus the benefits.

## **PUNISHING CRIME**

Protecting citizens from criminals is a primary function of all levels of government.

We support our local law enforcement officers.

Our local law enforcement officers should cooperate and coordinate with federal law enforcement agencies.

We do not support "gun free zones" as this is just an invitation to violent people. School staff should be allowed to be armed.

We support swift, appropriate sentences for those found guilty of a crime, and support sentencing guidelines reform to reflect punishment commensurate with the crime.

We support the "Three Strikes You're Out" law, "Megan's Law", "Jessica's Law" and "Kate's Law".

## **RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS THE RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE**

We support the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment in protecting the individuals' right to bear arms.

We oppose attempts by all levels of government to circumvent the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment by excessive regulation, license fees or taxation of firearms, accessories and ammunition.

We believe citizens have the right to protect themselves and their families by any means, including deadly force, without fear of criminal prosecution.

Neither criminals nor their families have the right to sue a self-defender and/or victims for injury or wrongful death.

## **NATIONAL DEFENSE**

We commend our military for their proven excellence and dedication to this country.

We oppose placing our military under the command of the United Nations or any foreign nation.

We strongly support our military's role in ensuring a strong national defense and terrorist elimination with adequate funding levels.

We strongly support the Border Patrol and require the building of an effective wall along our southern border.

## **IMMIGRATION POLICIES**

To call America a "Nation of Immigrants" is a gross over simplification and misleading. This great country was founded and expanded by people who believed in limited government, the rule of law, private property, free enterprise and personal responsibility. Further, they either shared our Judeo-Christian values or accepted our laws, which are based on Judeo-Christian values, learned our English language as well as assimilated into our society. We welcome all legal and documented immigrants who share these beliefs and accept our values and laws. Also, they must have the skills and motivation to assimilate and become productive American citizens.

Sharia Law is not compatible with our laws and values.

We support a guest worker program and 'E-Verify'.

Children born to people who are not legal citizens should not automatically be given United States citizenship just because they were born in the USA. The 14th Amendment was never intended to be applied in this manner.

We believe that anyone found to be in the country illegally should be immediately deported. "Sanctuary Cities" should be fined and government funding immediately stopped. "Kate's" law must be passed.

## **REFUGEE POLICIES**

As a humane and caring country we seek to help care for refugees, or asylum seekers, by helping to find and provide for sanctuary in a county or area near their homeland with a similar climate, culture, laws, language and religion.

For the safety of US citizens, it is particularly important that refugees not be brought into our country when the refugee population is likely to have people hostile or likely to become hostile to our county, our way of life, our laws, and/or our citizens religions.