

2010 Alaska Republican Party Platform

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Alaska Republican Party is to promote the principles upon which this country and our State were founded; advocate fiscally-sound, common sense solutions to the unique challenges facing Alaska; and serve as Alaska's leading grassroots political organization. We also seek to elect and appoint to public office Alaskans with integrity who are committed to enacting solutions consistent with these principles.

Statement of Principles:

Alaska Republicans Believe:

The United States of America and State of Alaska were founded on the fundamental principles of life, liberty and freedom;

Government must preserve individual freedom by protecting its resident's constitutional rights and observing its own constitutional limitations;

Our country, our people, and our constitutions must be honored, respected and defended;

The values that strengthen our nation are family, faith, personal responsibility and accountability;

In the sanctity of human life, from the time of conception until natural death;

A well-educated population is fundamental to the continued success of our State.

Parents have the primary right, as well as the duty, to control and direct their children's education.

The free enterprise system is the most successful means of achieving economic justice;

The entrepreneurial spirit, which forged our State, should be nurtured and not burdened by excessive governmental regulations;

Our national defense must be strong, viable and second to none;

Alaska's stewardship of its resources demonstrates that responsible development and environmental protection can be compatible.

The Alaska Republican Party strongly supports high ethical standards, transparency and accountability in government for its elected and appointed officials.

Platform Planks:

I. JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

- A. We support the free enterprise system.
- B. We oppose government entities providing those services that can be more economically provided by the private sector.
- C. We support lowering federal taxes and keeping Alaska free of a statewide income and sales tax. Taxes must be Constitutional, fair, simple, less burdensome and more transparent.
- D. We encourage economic investment in the State by providing stability, sustainable resource development and fair and balanced taxation that keeps Alaska competitive.
- E. We support expansion and significant improvement of Alaska's transportation infrastructure to encourage development and better access to more areas of the state. We must nurture Alaska's role in global transportation.
- F. We support the development of energy and technology infrastructure to facilitate business investment in Alaska.
- G. We recognize that international trade is important to Alaska's economy, and support increased trade between Alaska and foreign countries.
- H. We support protection of the Permanent Fund, inflation-proofing and continuation of the dividend payment and encourage no significant changes to these without a vote of the people.
- I. We support continued legal immigration, but believe illegal immigration harms our country and demeans its rule of law. Blanket amnesty for illegal aliens should not be offered.
- J. We oppose spiraling deficit spending at the federal level believing that Alaskans, indeed all Americans, will suffer the consequences from it.
- K. We support equal access for non-union contractors to government and school district projects without mandating that contractors sign Project labor agreements.
- L. We oppose inflation through balancing the budget and trade surplus rather than expanding the money supply.

II. NATURAL RESOURCES

- A. We support active management, access to and reasonable incentives for the responsible development and commercialization of all Alaska's resources.
- B. We support the utilization and development of National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPRA) and the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) [Chukchi Sea], and the opening of the Coastal Plain of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas exploration, development and production.
- C. We support accessibility to Alaska's fish and game resources and their management by the maximum sustained yield principle. We support subsistence harvesting and the rights of all Alaskans to hunt and fish. We oppose farmed salmon and halibut and foreign interception of Alaska-bound salmon on the high seas. We support active management of predator-prey relationships to achieve established population and human harvest objectives through the most responsible means available.
- D. We support an Alaska Natural Gas delivery System for the development of Alaska resources, industry, and consumer use.

III. EDUCATION

- A. We support parental choice of public, private, charter vocational and home-based educational alternatives for Alaska's students. Parental involvement, high academic standards and innovative competition improve education. We support tuition tax credits and vouchers to expand educational options and parental choice.
- B. We support accountability in public education, including measurement of student academic achievement and cognitive ability by standardized testing in reading, writing and mathematics. We support local control of public education provided it does not limit competition or parental choice. WE oppose all federal control of or influence on education. We support the parental right to have access to all educational information reaching their child.
- C. We support daily recital of the Pledge of Allegiance, including the words "under God", proper display of the United States and State flags, and active promotion of patriotism in our schools. We also support teaching the accurate historical Judeo-Christian foundation of our country and the importance of our founding fathers, the Declaration of Independence, federal and state constitutions, and other founding documents.
- D. We support requiring active, written parental consent prior to teaching any sex education curricula. Any such curriculum must be age appropriate and abstinence based. We also support teaching prenatal development. We oppose teaching or promoting alternative lifestyles as legitimate or desirable.
- E. We support teaching various models and theories for the origins of life and our universe, including Creation Science or Intelligent Design. If evolution outside a species (macro-evolution) is taught, evidence disputing the theory should also be presented.
- F. We support legislation that would allow competition in the state's education system, including but not limited to alternative authorizers, elimination of tenure, and allowance for merit-based pay compensation for public school employees. We support strong right to work laws. We support the elimination of administrators' unionization.

IV. HEALTH & FAMILY

- A. We affirm the family, defined as people living together related by blood, marriage or adoption, as the foundational unit of society. We embrace the definition of marriage in our State constitution as the union of one man and one woman and support reserving certain benefits to this union alone.
- B. Parents have the ultimate responsibility for their children, including the right and duty to appropriately discipline and the right to require active, informed prior consent for all medical care, psychological testing and counseling, including access to abortion.
- C. We support actively combating social dysfunctions in Alaska, including but not limited to fetal alcohol poisoning, abuse, domestic violence, promiscuity, suicide, substance abuse, and pornography.
- D. We support fiscally responsible policies that minimize government intervention and control of the family.

- E. We support adult stem cell research. Human embryos are complete human beings at the time of conception; therefore, we support a ban on embryonic stem cell research. We oppose human cloning.
- F. All people have worth regardless of their age or ability. We support measures that maintain individual freedom of choice in healthcare. We reject assisted suicide and deprivation of food, water, or care to hasten death.
- G. We believe expansion of gaming and gambling is detrimental and oppose it.
- H. We support health care reforms to address spiraling costs, improve availability, and reduce the number of uninsured people by embracing consumer choice, personal responsibility, and reduction of unnecessary regulation and liability costs to include tort reform. To improve health care and reduce health care expenses, we support competition and free enterprise by limiting government involvement, further use of health savings accounts, and any restriction on private competition.
- I. Individuals have the right and responsibility to decide, direct, and control their own health regimens including the right to choose or reject any supplements, vaccinations, allopathic or alternative health care providers, alternative medical treatments, and diet.
- J. We endorse the Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Man is made in the image of God; therefore, we embrace the sanctity of life from the moment of conception until natural death. We heartily encourage our elected officials to use every legal means to protect the unborn and recognize the worth of even the smallest members of the human race.

V. JUDICIARY, LAW & CRIME

- A. We support capital punishment for certain heinous crimes. We further support strong mandatory minimum prison sentences for all persons, including minors, convicted of committing crimes with deadly weapons or force.
- B. We support strong mandatory minimum penalties for all violent felony crimes, especially first-time sex offenders. We support public registration for persons convicted of child molestation, and vigorous enforcement of laws to prohibit production, sale, and distribution of child pornography.
- C. We support Alaska's constitutional provision that criminals, regardless of age, make restitution to their victims. We support sentencing convicted criminals to meaningful work as part of their obligation to provide restitution.
- D. We believe in a judicial system that supports a strict, literal interpretation of the United States and Alaska Constitutions and recognizes the sovereignty of our laws and state's rights without references to foreign precedent
- E. We support limiting governments' eminent domain powers to public use only. This must not include forced transfer of property from one private party to another.
- F. We support a change to the Alaska Constitution that would eliminate the practice of the Alaska Judicial Council to limit the list of potential appointees to only those it finds "qualified." The council could still give its rating, but the Governor could choose a nominee from all applicants.
- G. We support providing victims of crime and the Alaska Office of Victims' Rights standing to be heard in criminal proceedings.
- H. We oppose criminal use of marijuana.

- I. We support the right of the accused in jury trials of criminal cases to argue both the facts alleged, and the merits of the law under which they have been charged. Mark Campbell (D16) seconded.

VI. NATIONAL DEFENSE

- A. We support peace through strength, believing that a strong military helps ensure a free United States. We support all who serve or have served our country and commit to support them and their families.
- B. We support an active, aggressive worldwide war against terrorism.
- C. We recognize Alaska's strategic military location and unparalleled training opportunities and welcome the expansion of forces in Alaska, including our Active Duty, Reserves, Alaska National Guard, naval Militia, Coast Guard and Alaska State Defense Force.
- D. We support the operation and further development of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System in Alaska as part of a layered ballistic missile defense that protects all 50 states.
- E. We strongly believe in the readiness of our homeland defense and recognize that every citizen has the responsibility to support and defend our way of life. We support securing our national borders as an essential component of our national defense.
- F. We support developing, producing, deploying and using weapons and equipment advanced through active research and development so our military forces will be properly equipped and protected.
- G. We believe compensation and conditions for our armed forces should be sufficient to attract and retain quality men and women as we honor our promises and commitments to veterans, retirees, and their families.
- H. We oppose any modification of the application of the current "don't ask, don't tell" policy as adopted in 1993 to implement Public Law 103-106.

VII. CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

- A. The right to life, liberty, and property is bestowed by our Creator and every human being deserves protection under the law from the moment of conception until natural death.
- B. The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms. The Alaska Constitution does the same, underscoring this as an individual right. We oppose Federal, State, and local laws that infringe upon this right for law-abiding citizens, including registration or licensing of firearms or firearm owners.
- C. The Ninth and Tenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution reserves to the states and to the people all rights not expressly granted to the federal government. This reservation gives the State of Alaska sovereignty and management authority over all land, navigable waters and resources within its boundaries. We oppose all federal laws, regulations, mandates, actions, and executive orders that exceed the powers granted to the federal government.

- D. Accepted by maker: We support and defend equal access to development and utilization of natural resources for the maximum benefit of all Alaskans, as guaranteed in Alaska's Constitution.
- E. We support the preservation of private property and access rights of all individuals.
- F. We support just compensation for any regulatory taking.
- G. We support the right of Alaska's citizens to own subsurface mineral rights.
- H. We recognize the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects as guaranteed in the 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; recognize the right of the people to be secure from any search or seizure that violates the 5th Amendment right against self-incrimination; and oppose legislation that violates these two Amendments including, but not limited to, any Act, and the Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act. Furthermore, we propose that those sections of these acts be repealed immediately.
- I. Statutes should not refer to rights in the Constitution as privileges.