

## **Kossuth County GOP Proposed Planks for 2014 Platform**

### **County Convention, March 8, 2014, Burt Community Center**

Preamble: The Kossuth County Republicans hereby adopt and approve this platform. It articulates our beliefs and provides a guide for our elected representatives and nominees in putting our beliefs into effect.

#### Economy, Taxation and Budget

1. We support a balanced budget amendment and believe that the State of Iowa and the Federal Government should maintain a balanced budget by controlling spending and that the national debt should be reduced and ultimately paid in full.
2. We support that earmarked legislation should be eliminated.
3. We support requiring all tax, fee, or revenue-generating legislation require a 2/3 vote for adoption.
4. We resist government distortion of the free market through subsidies and bailouts.
5. We should audit the Federal Reserve system.
6. We should work to strengthen the United States dollar.
7. We should stop giving money to foreign countries unless they are friendly and work with us. .
8. There should be complete transparency in all donations made.
9. No fuel tax increase in Iowa until all pickup license fees are the same, including "business vehicles".

#### Education

10. We support the abolition of the U.S. Department of Education with return of educational support and monitoring of all levels of education to each state.
11. We support the display of the American flag in public school classrooms and daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
12. We support the display of the "Ten Commandments" in public school classrooms
13. We believe preschool programs should be optional.
14. We support that public school educators stress sexual abstinence outside of marriage to prevent unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and related psychological problems.
15. We oppose the distribution of condoms in public schools.
16. We oppose the promotion of homosexual life styles in public schools.
17. We believe that teachers' salaries should be based on performance rather than solely on tenure. We support programs that reward superior teachers and outline procedures that eliminate ineffective educators.
18. Faculty of public universities should not be allowed the protections of tenure.

#### Energy and Environment

19. We support the building of nuclear power plants, off-shore drilling, and energy refineries in the United States with safeguards for environmental protection without the use of government subsidies and by removing regulations.
20. We support construction of the Keystone Pipeline and others to increase oil availability and energy independence.

#### Agriculture

21. The USEPA should not be allowed to have regulatory jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act of regularly cropped but seasonally wet agricultural land.
22. The USDA should require no more than the mitigation of lost wetland functions in the conversion of farmed wetland under the farm program. Acreage replacement is excessive mitigation.
23. The endangered species act should be amended to take into account and mitigate adverse impacts upon people and their communities.
24. State water quality standards must promote the wise development and use of our abundant resources and not serve the agenda of environmental extremists.

#### Government and elections

25. We are committed to the principle of federalism in that families, city and state governments have certain powers and responsibilities before the federal government.
26. We believe that the US Congress should be strictly limited to the 18 enumerated powers in the United States Constitution and that all others should be left to the states and to the people in accordance with the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
27. We propose that the Iowa General Assembly enact legislation that seeks to reestablish the proper relationship between the State of Iowa and the federal government, as defined by the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution.
28. We support requiring candidates for state and federal offices in the state of Iowa to provide proof of citizenship by providing a "state government issued birth certificate with a raised seal".
29. We believe that active duty military personnel, including activated national guard and active reserves, should be exempted from paying state income taxes.
30. We believe that all items to be voted upon by any government body should be posted online 120 hours prior to their vote.
31. We believe in open and transparent government that is accessible and accountable to ordinary citizens and citizen-based organizations.
32. We believe that the budgeting process of the State of Iowa should be more open and transparent so that citizens have the opportunity to scrutinize individual line items.
33. We believe that we should reduce the size and scope of the state and federal governments.
34. We believe that there should be a 15% reduction in the costs of government.
35. We believe that the state and federal governments should focus on debt reduction and fiscal responsibility.
36. We believe that only citizens bearing proper voter ID should be allowed to vote and that proof of citizenship should be required for absentee voting.
37. We support the replacement of the current Social Security system with new private and voluntary retirement plans.

38. We believe the federal government should establish new rules for the EPA to reduce the undue burdens on domestic enterprise.

#### Guns

39. We support the adoption of the following amendment to the Iowa Constitution: "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed".

#### Healthcare

40. We oppose the nationalization of the health care system.
41. We support the "Conscience Clause" laws designed to protect healthcare professionals who, for moral or religious reasons, refuse to provide services such as abortion or birth control.
42. Health Care Payment Reform – Iowa's hospitals and physicians continue to earn the highest quality patient care measures in the nation while also generating the lowest average healthcare cost per Medicare beneficiary. Efforts to reduce overall health care costs including Medicare expenditures will be necessary in order to maintain the integrity of the system. We believe that a healthcare payment system should be based upon quality measures in two domains: the clinical process of care and the patient experience of care. We support revising payment methodologies so the program truly rewards the performance of those hospitals that provide high quality and efficient care.

#### Immigration

43. We believe only United States citizens and legal immigrants are entitled to Constitutional protections and government services.
44. We believe the federal government should stop supporting illegal immigration.
45. We encourage legal immigration and support efficient processing of applications.
46. We support cooperation among local, state, and federal agencies in identifying and processing illegal immigrants.
47. We support expansion of the worker-visa program to allow legal immigrants to work in the United States.
48. We believe that employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants should be fined heavily.
49. We believe English should be the official language of the United States and that all official documents be printed in English only.
50. We believe that only citizens and legal residents of the United States should be eligible to obtain a drivers license or make legally binding contracts.

#### International Trade

51. We support trade policies which provide fair opportunity to American producers and protects against the outsourcing of American jobs.

#### Judicial

52. We strongly oppose judicial activism and call upon judges at all levels to adhere, strictly, to the original intent of the United States Constitution and their respective state constitutions.

53. We should impeach judges who willfully create or change legislation from the bench.
54. We support efforts to eliminate frivolous lawsuits and cap liability.
55. We support appointment of judges who support the sanctity of innocent human life and who honor family values.
56. We assert that the Constitution of the United States is the highest law of the land and cannot be superseded by any international law, treaty, or agreement.

#### Life

57. We believe human life is a sacred gift from our Creator and is a fundamental right as is outlined in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. This includes the unborn beginning at conception, the elderly, the chronically or terminally ill, and the physically and mentally handicapped. No human life should ever be diminished nor arbitrarily taken from conception to natural death.
58. We oppose euthanasia, assisted suicide, and non-consensual withholding of treatment due to age, disability, or infirmity.
59. We support the reversal of Roe v. Wade and returning the regulatory authority to the states.
60. We support legislation requiring consent by parent and/or legal guardian before a minor child or ward receives an abortion or any other reproductive services or products.
61. We oppose using public revenues to fund abortions or for organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, which advocate abortion.
62. We support a ban on "partial birth abortion".

#### Media

63. We oppose the "Fairness Doctrine" regulating free speech on the radio.

#### National Security

64. We believe that the Department of Homeland Security should be adequately funded and should teach citizens what they can do individually to fight against terror.
65. We believe that the monthly testing of the Emergency Broadcast System should be expanded to include basic survival information.
66. We believe that trials of foreign terrorists, born or residing outside of the United States at the time of an attack, be tried in military rather than civil courts.

#### Marriage

67. We support a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman.
68. The Iowa legislature should allow a vote of the people on a constitutional amendment barring gay marriage.

#### Personal Rights and Responsibilities

69. We oppose granting special rights to groups of people based on race, sexual practices, or creed through "hate crimes" legislation.

70. We believe that equal opportunity is important but that equal outcomes can not and should not be guaranteed by any government as it infringes upon freedom

71. We support the Second Amendment to the Constitution and recognize the right of individuals to bear arms.

72. We support enforcement of current laws rather than creating additional legislation to reduce crime.

#### Religious Freedom

73. We believe the phrase "in God we trust" stamped on our currency is consistent with the Constitution of the United States of America.

74. We support allowing the placement of religious symbols on public property.

75. We believe that the Constitution provides the freedom to allow prayer openly in public schools.

#### Right to Work

76. We support Iowa's "Right to Work" law and oppose "Fair Share" legislation.

77. We support the repeal of minimum wage laws.

#### United Nations

78. We support United States withdrawal from the United Nations and moving their headquarters from US soil.