



**PLATFORM OF THE  
CONVERSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY  
(Approved March 29, 2014)**

*Preface*

*This Platform, revised March 2014, is intended to state those broad principles and timeless truths the Republicans of Converse County, Wyoming believe are the foundation of our lives as citizens and public servants.*

*The future of our nation and its people, as well as our future as a party of the People depends on our Party defining the principles for which it stands, and then conducting itself according to those principles.*

*WE reaffirm that a republic, by definition, is a government controlled by the People, either directly or through representation, and that only a representative republic controlled by the People can equally protect the lives, property and liberty of each person.*

*Preamble*

*WE believe there are Guiding Principles that can still inform and direct us through times of changing circumstances, strategies, goals, or leadership.*

*WE believe that the Guiding Principles of the Republican Party are those uniquely American concepts of Liberty, Equality, Natural Rights, Consent of the Governed,*

*Religious Freedom, Private Property,*

*The Rule of Law, Constitutionalism, Self-Government, and Independence<sup>1</sup>.*

*WE believe that the primary purpose of government is first and foremost to protect and defend our unalienable rights to*

*Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.*

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<sup>1</sup> Spalding, Matthew. Introduction. *We Still Hold These Truths: Rediscovering Our Principles, Reclaiming Our Future*. Wilmington, DE: ISI, 2009. N. pag. Print. Reprinted with permission of ISI Books.

## **Liberty**

*The concept of Liberty in the United States recognizes that every individual has a right to develop his own potential, enjoy his own property, tangible or intellectual, and pursue his own interests. Families are the best, most reliable means of providing for the training of their children to develop their best potential as individuals and citizens.*

*Our concept of Liberty has its roots in the Judeo-Christian principles of self-discipline and accountability for our actions to a Power higher than any on earth.*

*Every individual has a responsibility to govern his life by a moral code of self-conduct and a prudent use of judgment, so that all can exercise and enjoy Liberty.*

*Life is sacred and protection must be assured before we are free to exercise any liberty. The right to life, as individuals, and as families, is inherent in the concept of liberty. To conduct our lives and build our family relationships without hindrance is a basic right.*

## **Equality**

*All citizens are **equally** granted by their Creator the rights to **life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness**.*

*All are equal under the law, that is, justice must be blind to the person.*

*All must have equal opportunities to freely exercise their rights.*

*The proper role of government is to provide equal rights not provide equal things.*

## **Natural Rights**

*Everybody is entitled to basic, inalienable rights which are granted to them by a Power beyond the authority of human institutions.*

*Rights not only protect the liberty of the individual, but also create an obligation for others to not infringe upon those individual rights.*

## **Consent of the Governed**

*The citizens of the United States hold the rights recognized in the Constitution and are the ultimate authorities to make law.*

*All citizens are equals, and their mutual agreements are the only basis for legitimate government. These agreements must be designed to defend and protect the Constitutional rights of all.*

*Equal, democratic participation in government by all citizens at the local level, establishes our consent. Ultimately, consent is collectively given by the people during elections.*

*Those we elect to represent us are by nature of their offices obligated to be bound by our declarations of mutual agreements. Any person who will not be bound must not run for office or must forfeit the office they hold.*

*Mutual consent promotes civil society, as all are actively involved in matters important in their lives.*

## **Religious Freedom**

*The ability to practice one's faith, free from the power or control of another is a fundamental principle of our government.*

*Respect for the practice of faith encourages moral behavior and development of character that helps secure the other fundamental bases of our national character.*

*Freedom to worship includes the right to abstain from actions counter to our religious beliefs.*

*Religion can be a unifying force, even amongst a religiously diverse group, encouraging responsible behavior.*

*The separation of church and state describes a prohibition of an official, state sanctioned church, not the expulsion of religion from public life.*

*Free exercise of our moral codes will allow us to meet our individual obligation to care for those who cannot take care of themselves.*

## **Private Property**

*Respect of rights to individual property is the foundation for our society.*

*Property includes your person, your intellectual and creative property and your tangible assets.*

*Every citizen must have an equal opportunity to own property.*

*The most prosperous economic system is one which harnesses self-interest for the benefit of society.*

*Economic inequity results from government interference in the use of private property.*

*The appropriate role of government is in enforcement of contracts and patents to ensure citizens receive due credit for their hard work and innovation. This hinges on the use of contract agreements in the use (enjoyment) of private property.*

## **The Rule of Law**

*WE ARE the government AND the governed.*

*We reject the old coercive rule of law, “he who holds the power makes the rules”.*

*Each citizen is equally protected by the law. Each citizen and each government entity should be equally subject to the law.*

*All laws, rules and regulations should be written in common language, following the example of the Constitution of the United States.*

## **Constitutionalism**

*Our Constitutional representative republic remains the best way to avoid tyranny, order our politics, define us and protect us.*

*Our Constitutions lay down the powers, processes and institutions by which we will govern ourselves.*

*The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land, and those laws, processes and institutions not found in the Constitution are reserved to the States and the People.*

*Natural rights are the only ones with any meaning and those rights cannot be taken away under any circumstances.*

*Constitutional laws are equally important and each absolute.*

*Constitutional law should be focused on national defense and the preservation of citizen’s rights. The United States must maintain national sovereignty in order to retain the consent of the governed.*

*The Constitution of the United States enables us to form a more perfect union, not by rejection of the Constitution as outdated or irrelevant, but by processes of correction provided within it.*

*Constitutionalism in the United States relies on checks and balances between the three branches of government to assure maintenance of equal rank.*

*Constitutionalism recognizes the ultimate authority of the People by putting the most power in the Legislative branch, the one closest to the people through their representatives.*

*As declared in the Declaration of Independence, only individuals possess rights, that governments possess powers derived ONLY from the consent of the governed.*

*Limits on government powers are necessary in part to prohibit them from creating new 'rights' through policy, declaration or law. Limits on government must be the focus, not limits on individuals.*

*The role of government should be limited to protecting life, liberty and property. Governing bodies must refrain from influencing results for private businesses or individuals.*

*Any new law, policy or regulation must comply with the Constitutional laws.*

## **Self-Government**

*Government is of the people, by the people and for the people, rather than inherited right of some to rule over others.*

*Government is charged with protecting our right to self-government. We in turn are obligated to be accountable for our actions and responsive to the rights of our fellow citizens.*

*Individuals are best prepared for self-governance when they are self-reliant, assertive, knowledgeable and disciplined.*

*We, like all nations, are a country of immigrants, and the willing migration to this country of like-minded people is welcomed. These immigrants must be provided the civic education which allows them to take their place in our society.*

*Civic education plays a vital role in the tradition of engaged, intelligent, patriotic and responsible citizens to occupy and influence our government institutions.*

## **Independence**

*The United States, as the world's primary superpower, has a responsibility to set an example by treating other countries with respect, justice and a peaceful temperament.*

Resources:

Levin, Mark. *Liberty and Tyranny*. New York, NY: Threshold Editions, 2009. 245 pg. Print.

Spalding, Matthew. *We Still Hold These Truths: Rediscovering Our Principles, Reclaiming Our Future*. Wilmington, DE: ISI, 2009. 267 pg. Print.

*The Federalist Papers*, ed. Clinton Rossiter. New York: New American Library, 1961. 648 pg. Print.

Zak, Michael. *Back to Basics for the Republican Party*. Gaithersburg, MD: Signature Book Printing, Inc., 2003. 242 pg. Print.

**CERTIFICATION**

*We do hereby certify that we are respectively the County Chairman and County Secretary of the Converse County Republican Party. It is further certified that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Platform of the Converse County Republican Party, adopted at a properly called Converse County Republican Party Convention held in Douglas, Converse County, Wyoming on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014.*

/s/

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

Kathleen D. Russell  
Chairman, Converse County Republican Party

ATTEST:

/s/

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

Gigi E. Leman  
Secretary, Converse County Republican Party