

**2024 PLATFORM, COMMENDATIONS  
AND RESOLUTIONS  
OF THE WALLA WALLA COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY**



Approved by the Walla Walla County Republican Party

On Feb. 24, 2024

written by the  
Committee on Platform, Commendations and Resolutions

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## PREAMBLE

We, the Walla Walla County Republican Party, affirm and support the foundational principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land and is to be interpreted according to original principles and in the context of the ideals of the Declaration. These documents ensure our freedom from a tyrannical government and oppression and shall never be superseded by any foreign government and/or treaty. We support the conservative principle that the powers of government derive from the consent of the people. As article 1, Section 1 of the Washington State Constitution states, "All political power is inherent in the people, and governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and are established to protect individual rights".

Government's primary responsibility is to protect the freedoms and God given rights of its citizens; therefore, we support a government with limited jurisdiction.

We are proud to remember that our republic and our Republican party were founded with acknowledgement and reverence toward God. We continue to hold these ideas as essential to the true success of our nation.

Liberty is an essential part of what it means to be human and we unequivocally defend the rights of our citizens. America is a diverse land of opportunity, in which everyone is empowered to reach his or her full potential, regardless of race, religion, or sex. The key to America's progress is the freedom, inventiveness and ambition of its people. Thus, achievement of the American Dream depends on personal responsibility, courage and talent.

THEREFORE, we support the following principles:

### FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Freedom of speech is not only a fundamental God given right of every American but also essential to the health of our politics and our society. Government shall not be involved in policing speech, even under the guise of preventing "disinformation." The use of the Department of Homeland Security to monitor political speech is wrong as well as the use of so-called "hate crime" legislation to silence dissenting voices.

Corporate entities who are functioning as utilities, which the special privileges granted thereunto, should not be able to determine who is able to access their platforms for the purpose of transmitting speech. Therefore, we support the amending of Section 230 so as to remove liability protection from those corporations who fail to provide neutral access to their platforms.

### ECONOMY/JOBS

A free, open, and competitive market is the natural and proper order for economic exchange. The extent to which the free market can function effectively is limited by the degree of government intervention. Therefore, government should not subsidize or "bail out" failing organizations. Monopolies, price control, and extensive subsidies hinder and destroy the free market system.

Reducing taxation, paperwork, and regulations will encourage competition, entrepreneurship, and small businesses which will create jobs and must be implemented.

To increase sales tax revenue which is the primary generator of income for Cities, we support the continued efforts to densify the retail option within the County. Also, to foster economic growth and stability we encourage all people within the county to buy local.

Equitable and reasonable regulation of the financial system should be instituted including an accountability audit of the Federal Reserve.

If social media platforms limit political free speech, then they should lose protection under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act.

**Retaining our dams has a positive effect on trade and commerce, affecting our workforce in many areas: agriculture, marine transportation, trucking, flood control, and power.**

Public union bargaining negotiations should be completed in open public meetings and shall be posted for the public to see at least 72 hours before any governing body can approve the contract.

On the local level, County and City governments are asked to monitor local planning and development agencies regarding processing building/development applications. Delays in processing has resulted in businesses leaving Walla Walla County to locate in surrounding counties thus increasing the tax base of adjacent counties or local business and landowners

from developing property in a timely fashion within our County. This leads to loss of tax revenue and the loss of living wage job opportunities within Walla Walla County and Cities.

### HEALTH CARE

Health care decisions are best made by the individual in conjunction with health care professionals. The world class health care system that we enjoy today cannot survive with intense government management in all aspects of health care. Government is wholly inadequate and incompetent to manage health care decisions; thus, government intervention must be restricted to only supporting and protecting free and open market solutions to reduce the cost of drugs and health care. While we want less oversight the Sunshine Act does allow patients to evaluate if their doctor is recommending a product or procedure due to receiving financial reward.

We encourage the state to foster more competition in the private insurance market and believe that a single-payer system would limit the access and quality to the health care system. The increase of catastrophic plans along with published cash prices at the provider's office should be supported.

Washington State Long Term Care Coverage Act needs to be repealed.

We believe that legislation should be developed so that American Independence in basic medicinal needs be accomplished by private enterprise located in America.

### TAXES

The power of taxation is granted from the people to the government for limited purposes. Tax revenue shall be used only to fund such legitimate and constitutional government activities. Fines, fees, tolls, and assessments shall not be sources of general revenue, but shall be set to cover only those costs directly associated with the services provided. Government should be good stewards of tax revenue and must limit spending to reduce unnecessary expenditures and waste. Legislators and government agencies shall not issue or authorize unfunded mandates and/or pass the responsibility for raising the taxes onto the County/Cities.

The Business and Occupation Tax is an inequitable burden on small businesses and should be repealed. Gas tax and cap-and-trade are an inequitable burden on small businesses and families.

Taxation, at all levels of government, that is derived from the death of an individual is duplicative and must be repealed. No government should place a tax on an estate or an inheritance.

We support a balanced budget by all levels of government and the elimination of federal debt. We call for a balanced budget amendment to the United States constitution.

We oppose the formation of an Income Tax in the State of Washington and support the voter-approved two-thirds majority requirement to raise state taxes, becoming a Washington State Constitution amendment for future generations. We oppose any capital gains tax in Washington State.

We support reviews of taxation on business to reduce regulations enabling businesses to compete in national and international markets.

Any proposed new tax must have a specific targeted purpose and a mandatory review date or date of elimination.

### ENERGY

Energy independence is crucial to national security and prosperity. Energy independence must be an urgent state and national priority. Government must protect and encourage a robust and multifaceted national energy industry.

All forms of North American energy production must be vigorously developed based on economic viability and market demand that are independent of tax subsidies.

**We support the Columbia and Snake River dams that produce renewable and carbon free power and call for the completion of the McNary Dam powerhouse.**

We support the approval of safe and efficient pipelines for American energy independence including pipelines from Canadian energy resources.

### ELECTIONS, INITIATIVES, and REFERENDUMS

**Fair, secure and accurate elections are the foundation of a democratic representative republic. Preventing fraudulent voter registration of non-citizens and persons whose voting rights have been removed must be a priority. Government-issued identification and proof of citizenship must be required to vote. There should be no same day registration. Violators must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the Law.**

A voter's ballot should be turned into an official county election ballot box or post office by the voter. Ballots received after voting day should not be counted. Ballots should be counted in full public view, expeditiously and continue without pause until all ballots have been tabulated.

Voting shall be in person or absentee ballot verified by a notary. We oppose automatic voter registration systems such as E.R.I.C.

States should enter into interstate voter registration crosscheck programs to identify voters registered in multiple states. They should verify the accuracy of their voter registrations, by comparing voter rolls with jury forms, DMV files, and other government records to identify noncitizens so that they can be removed from voter rolls. The federal government should cooperate with state efforts to clean up their registrations, and make Department of Homeland Security and other databases available to state officials for this purpose.

No taxpayer money should be used to support or finance political campaigns.

The Washington State Constitution allows for a direct voice of the people in the form of initiatives and referendums, which should be supported and respected by the legislative and executive branches.

#### FAMILY

We support and recognize the traditional family unit, mother, father, and children for its continued contribution to our nation; its time-honored principles are the foundation of our society. Stable marriages and children being raised in intact households are the surest predictors of economic and personal success. Thus, marriage and family should be supported, encouraged, and protected by the government.

Recognizing the importance of safe spaces for women, the State of Washington must rescind access to public restrooms and showers based on gender expression and identity instead of biological sex. Public restroom and showers should only be entered by persons whose biological sex matches the assigned designation of the facility. Exceptions may be made for those whose gender expression involves appropriate surgical change and who have been thus medically certified.

Recognizing the importance of fairness in athletics, biological differences between the sexes, and the determinative nature of puberty in body shape, strength, endurance, etc., female athletic competitions, including college-level sports, should be restricted to women who have gone through female puberty.

#### RIGHT TO LIFE

The constitution's guarantee that no one can, "be deprived of life, liberty or property" deliberately echoes the Declaration of Independence's proclamation that "all" are "endowed by their Creator" with the inalienable right to life therefore, government must protect all innocent human life from conception to natural death.

## EDUCATION

Children are precious and the future of America and thus we need to promote the teaching of personal responsibility, accountability, and a strong work ethic. Public schools should act as a learning institution where personal responsibility, accountability, and a strong work ethic is valued and encouraged.

Parents have both the right and responsibility to be involved in the education of their children. A child's education is, first and foremost, the responsibility of the parent(s) therefore government should neither deny nor limit parental involvement in their child's education. The goal in educating children is excellence for each student whether this is in public schools, home schooling, or private schools. School Choice creates a more competitive educational system without the undue influence of government and national or state teachers' unions.

Education standards should allow each child to achieve their unique potential. Local schools in conjunction with parents should set these standards. We encourage merit-based management and competitive education models.

Educators should teach children how to think, not what or when to think. Elementary and secondary education must focus on the foundations of reading, writing, mathematics, sciences, United States history, and American government. A thorough knowledge of these subjects is vital for the successful transition of students into adulthood and their understanding and appreciation of their citizenship.

Citizenship includes appreciation of our flag, Pledge of Allegiance, and our constitution.

Higher Education (technological institutes, community colleges and four-year universities) is a cornerstone to an advanced society and thus should be prioritized in the upcoming years. All students should be educated to understand what training and education is available after high school.

Public schools should not include discussions of gender and sexual orientation in the school curriculum, library, or classroom. The rights of children to remain innocent of adult concerns, and the rights of parents to instruct their children in these topics according to the values of the family, must be respected and not undermined by schools. Teachers and students must be

protected from sexual misconduct and accusations of sexual misconduct by refraining from conversations concerning gender and sexual orientation and by preserving single-sex bathrooms and locker rooms. All sexual abuse and any physical attack reported to the school(s) must be mandatorily reported to law enforcement.

### PROPERTY RIGHTS

The right of the people to be secure in their ownership of private property is guaranteed by the Constitution and is fundamental to our form of government. Secure property rights preserve economic stability, free markets and most importantly, principles of self-determination. The determination of land uses, zoning, water rights, and divisions of land varies from community to community and the regulation thereof must remain local rather than with the state or federal government. Eminent Domain should be dictated solely in the case of imminent public “necessity and good” and subject to just and timely compensation.

We call for the strong limits on the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Ecology to only fact based and peer reviewed regulations.

### NATIONAL SECURITY

Government shall secure our borders and protect the lives of citizens from foreign aggression and terrorism, with a strong, well-equipped, and combat-ready military.

We support using taxpayer dollars in defense of our nation and to eliminate waste.

We support the implementation of patent infringement and copy right law protections from foreign intellectual theft. We encourage more guidelines in the owning of agricultural lands from non-friendly foreign countries, while at the same time balancing the constitutional right and freedom of property right owners. We further support the protection of our infrastructure against foreign cyber-attacks and the like.

No action of the government shall infringe on the constitutional rights of citizens. Specifically, only offshore communications should be monitored for criminal and or harmful acts about the United States.

An essential part of modern warfare is intelligence gathering to discover the activities of our enemies which threaten the security of our nation. Government must promote cooperation among security agencies, intelligence departments and law enforcement.

The federal government should not forget the individuals that have served honorably this great nation and should support the VA Hospital system and programs so that we can take care of the individuals that have taken care of us. A system shall be established by which private care facilities and doctors can be utilized for Veterans care when necessary to increase access.

We support and acknowledge the importance of maintaining the VA Hospital and facilities in the Walla Walla Valley at their current level of provided service.

We strongly support building the wall between the United States and Mexico to deter illegal immigration, as well as human and drug trafficking.

#### PERSONAL SECURITY

The constitutional right of individual citizens to keep and bear arms must be held inviolate by the Supreme Court and all other branches of government. History shows that the first order of the tyrant is disarmament of the people.

Our liberties are protected in the Bill of Rights and reaffirmed in Article 1 of the Washington State Constitution. We support the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms without infringement or impairment from federal, state, or local governments.

#### CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Government's responsibility is to assist individuals, protect life, liberty, and property from criminal activity, therefore government laws should not infringe upon law enforcement's ability to provide these protections and services. Local governments are responsible for providing adequate police protection for this purpose. The prosecution of individuals who commit crimes must be vigorous while simultaneously protecting constitutional rights and guaranteeing equal justice under the law.

We support our law enforcement. We believe in adequate budgets for law enforcement and do not support defunding policies. We have zero tolerance for attacks on police officers, looting businesses and damaging personal property. The straightforward concept of "you do the crime; you do the time" needs to be brought back to our courtrooms. Sentencing guidelines should reflect the severity of the crime. We support the fundamental premise that justice is blind.

We believe there shall be no qualified immunity or judicial immunity afforded to any government official, law enforcement officer, or judicial officer when abandoning their oath of office or when violating any constitutionally protected right of any citizen or of the people. Justice shall be equally administered to government officials, citizens, or the PEOPLE.

Each year more and more people are immigrating to America illegally. The illegal aliens that commit a crime while in this country should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law and then deported to their country of citizenship.

We support capital punishment.

### IMMIGRATION

America's greatness flows from our history of inviting greatness from all nations. This invitation continues to all who desire to join this nation through lawful means. We understand we are a nation of immigrants sharing a desire for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Our country will always attract good, honest people from throughout the world, looking for opportunities to build a better life. America is a stronger and better nation because of the hard work and entrepreneurial spirit of immigrants.

We support reforming and enforcing the immigration process to ensure it is legal, safe, orderly, and humane. We support helping new immigrants assimilate into American culture, with a path to citizenship, including learning the English language.

Legislators must expand and enact programs for the temporary lawful entry of foreign workers with a system of verifiable immigration status. We support legal immigration to meet the needs of the American workforce by issuing seasonal work permits to permit temporary and agricultural employment and limiting permanent residency (i.e., Green Cards) to immigrants who have needed skills.

To ensure fairness and order, executive and judicial entities must enforce the laws written by the legislature. It is in the national interest to know who is in the United States and no foreign national should be present in the country without a visa, temporary work permit, or other form of authorization. We support securing our borders to stop the flow of illegal immigrants. There should be no "sanctuary cities and/or state". We urge the municipalities in Walla Walla County to continue to abide by Federal immigration laws.

### AGRICULTURE

A nation's security and prosperity depend on its ability to supply the food, fiber, medicinal, energy and environmental needs of its populace. Government must protect agriculture and oppose burdensome regulations, unfair trade practices and the usurpation of agricultural water rights. There needs to be a balance between respecting personal property rights and the sale of agriculture property and businesses to unfriendly foreign entities. Stock water has always been exempted from permitting and should remain so.

Family and small farms are major contributors to economic prosperity and must be relieved from excessive taxation, excessive paperwork, and excessive regulation. The Death Tax needs to be repealed on both the state and federal levels.

The Columbia/Snake River System's dams are necessary for sustainable agriculture in the State of Washington and therefore must remain in place with the appropriate maintenance and upgrades to meet current needs.

## ENVIRONMENT

The responsibility to protect and best preserve the environment rests with individual citizens and government at the local level. Environmental regulations must be based on unbiased, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence. Science is only as valid as those practicing and promoting it, and the further removed from the local level it is, the higher the standard of scientific proof required.

There is no peer-reviewed scientific evidence that removal of the four lower Snake River dams will save even one fish, thus this option should be removed from consideration. Plus, the Columbia and Snake River dam system is the source of the largest carbon free base load power in the Pacific Northwest.

There is no better way to be good stewards of our natural water resources than to keep and maintain our system of dams and reservoirs.

## FOREIGN TRADE

A foundation of national economic growth is the opportunity for people to market their goods to other nations. Foreign trade should be encouraged with nations that want to engage in fair and free trade.

We wholeheartedly support domestic production first, foreign trade second. To protect the security, wellbeing, health and safety of Americans, America should strive to be independent in energy, basic medicinal drugs and equipment, computer chip manufacturing, battery manufacturing and in the production of agricultural fertilizer.

Energy and agriculture are two important commodities we need to trade. Free Trade zones can be powerful tools for us.

Domestic policies must enable American trade to be competitive in a global free market economy. Unilaterally amending trade agreements can destroy substantial numbers of Washington jobs.

No adversarial foreign government or corporation controlled by an adversarial foreign government should be able to purchase American land.

## TRANSPORTATION

Government is responsible for providing and maintaining a suitable and safe transportation infrastructure. Funds collected to meet this responsibility must be used in a timely and efficient manner to meet the purpose for which they were collected. In Walla Walla County this would include the completion of US Highway 12, protection of the navigable river system, a robust railroad system, and continued support for commercial aviation.

We call for the elimination of the potential mile trackers from the Washington State Department of Transportation.

#### RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVED THAT, a copy of this platform and this resolution shall be sent to the following officials by the Chairperson of this convention:

Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rogers

State Senator Perry Dozier

State Representative Skyler Rude

State Representative Mark Klicker

County Commissioner Jenny Mayberry

County Commissioner Todd Kimball

County Commissioner Gunner Fulmer

Mayor Tom Scribner and Members of the Walla Walla City Council

Mayor Norma Hernandez and Members of the College Place City Council

Mayor Martin Dunn and Members of the Waitsburg Town Council

Mayor Chris Oliver and Members of the Prescott Town Council

State Republican Chairman Jim Walsh