

Fannin County Republican Party Platform

I. Preamble

We the people of the Fannin County Republican Party, do hereby state within this document a declaration of our beliefs with the intent to recommend this platform, where applicable, to the District, State and National Republican Parties, as well as open our arms to all Citizens of Fannin County.

We believe most people are good and will do the right thing without being excessively watched and regulated by the government. We believe that the individual, not the government, is primarily responsible for his own welfare and that individuals must first govern themselves. Morals and good behavior are essential to self-government. Our deep commitment to these beliefs is reflected in all of our ideals and principles. We believe that the free enterprise system that rewards hard work, initiative and inventiveness is better than a system that rewards indolence. We still believe that the government that is closest to the people will respond to the needs of the people better than a distant impersonal government. And we affirm and proclaim that there can be no deviation on our nation's journey that will turn us away from the path that leads to Liberty and Justice for all.

II. Preserving American Freedom

- A. We recognize the States' rights guaranteed by the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- B. We believe Judeo-Christian moral values should be used as the basis for law, order and lifestyle.
- C. We support the adoption of English as the official language of the United States. It is crucial for any nation that desires sovereignty and independence to have a standard means of communication. The federal government should not mandate the use of any language other than English. We do, however, encourage fluency in other languages by all of our citizens.
- D. We oppose government funding of campaigns.
- E. We support full and immediate disclosure of campaign contributions to a candidate.
- F. We believe in the principle of judicial restraint, requiring judges to interpret and apply rather than make the law.
- G. We believe that freedom is worth fighting for at home and abroad. We support the President and the Coalition Forces in the war in Iraq which led to the capture of Saddam Hussein, and the end of his reign of terror. We do, however, want our men and women in uniform brought home safely, and with honor, as soon as possible.

III. Promoting Individual Freedom and Personal Safety

- A. We defend the constitutional right to keep and bear arms, and further recognize that people, not guns, commit crimes. If a crime is committed, we believe that individuals should be held accountable for their actions.

- B. We believe our national resources and the environment should be protected for generations to come. To accomplish this, property rights must be honored in our efforts to protect, restore, and enhance the government.
 - C. We believe that all Americans have the right to practice their religious faith free of persecution, intimidation, and violence. Our country was founded on the values based on Judeo-Christian principles.
 - D. We uphold the Constitution as it pertains to equal rights for all individuals and special rights to none. Furthermore, we deplore all forms of discrimination based on disabling conditions, creed, race, color, national origin, sex, and age.
 - E. We believe in “truth- in –sentencing”.
 - F. We support legislative efforts toward the establishment of “boot camps” for first-time offenders.
 - G. We believe that prisons are built to protect society and to punish offenders. Taxpayers should not be required to provide services and accommodations that law-abiding citizens cannot afford.
 - H. We believe that we must, as a nation, treat crime victims with more respect and compassion than we show to criminals.
 - I. We support legislation to ensure than non-violent criminals work to pay restitution to their victims and/or their families.
- IV. Strengthening the Economy of Georgia and the USA**
- A. We believe that a strong economy is based on the free enterprise system and we understand and support small business. A bloated, bureaucratic government should not replace the entrepreneurial spirit that has led our country for so long.
 - B. We support private enterprise over government owned or operated business at all levels. We feel that when government competes with the private sector, government operations tend to increase costs and lower the quality of services.
 - C. We believe that we must meet our nation’s commitments to senior citizens by preserving and protecting Medicare and Social Security. We do not believe revenues from Social Security should be raided by an elected official to pay for additional social programs.
 - D. We believe that our children are entitled to the best education in the world. We believe that financial resources should be given directly to the local school systems and put into the classroom for teachers and students instead of providing additional layers of bureaucracy for the national government.
 - E. We oppose the Capital Gains Tax and the Marriage Penalty Tax.
 - F. We oppose un-funded mandates.
 - G. We believe that if the federal government produces a surplus, that money should be returned to the people via reducing the debt and tax reductions.
 - H. We believe control over programs like education and welfare should be returned to the people in their communities and states.

VI. Strengthening Families and Promoting a Freer Society

- A. We define marriage as a legal union of a man and a woman. Unlike Democratic sponsored legislation, we do not promote same sex “partners” as being legally married.
- B. Unlike Democratic sponsored legislation, we do not believe that civil rights protection extends to people who have chosen an alternative lifestyle.
- C. We believe parents and families, not government agencies, are responsible for the support, nurturing and development of our children.
- D. We support health care insurance benefits for the traditional family unit.
- E. We believe that the children of Fannin County and Georgia deserve the best education that is possible. To that end, the Fannin County Republican Party believes that local school boards, parents, and teachers know what is better for the children of our area. Unlike the Democratic Party, we do not believe that “one size fits all”. The problems facing the inner city are different than those faced in rural schools.
- F. We believe that family, faith and virtue never go out of style, and that ours is a nation that has been, is, and should continue to be, “One Nation under God”.
- G. We support market based private sector initiatives to improve the portability, quality, and affordability of health care. We do not believe that socialized medicine is the answer.
- H. We support prayer in schools via the 1st Amendment and freedom of religious expression.
- I. We support the right to display the Ten Commandments.
- J. We are the pro-life party. We do not believe that taxpayer money, under any circumstances, should be used to fund abortions.

VI. Restoring American Sovereignty and Leadership

- A. We acknowledge that America is a beacon of hope and a place of new beginnings and we continue to welcome legal immigrants. We, however, believe that it is time for the federal government to restore order and enforce existing immigration laws.
- B. We oppose federal requirements on the stat regarding the care of illegal immigrants including the extension to illegal aliens the benefits of public education, non-emergency medical care, welfare and other benefits from the tax dollars of true American citizens.
- C. We support the bill sponsored by Congressman Nathan Deal to stop giving citizenship to a child born on American soil but whose mother and/or father are illegally in our country. Citizenship should only be given to a child when parents have a legal right to be in our country.
- D. We support the worldwide movement from Communism and toward representative government based on the premise of natural

rights from God and governments being established to protect these rights.

- E. We support a strong national defense system. Democratic policies that reduce our Armed Services have a negative impact and can ultimately harm efforts for peace and prosperity.
- F. We favor fair and reciprocal trade in the International market place for our agricultural products, raw materials, and manufactured goods. We urge the use of import quotas of foreign products to prevent “dumping” by foreign powers. We also believe the American farmers should not be placed at a disadvantage in our country by unfair trade agreements.
- H. We believe that all U.S. forces should remain under the command and control of the Commander-in-Chief and his military chain of command.
- I. We urge Congress to stop funding the IMF, because the IMF uses American taxpayers’ money to support foreign leaders that have goals contrary to U.S. foreign policy objectives.

VII. Matters Pertaining Specifically to Fannin County

- A. We urge the county commission to continue executing an aggressive plan for upgrading roads in Fannin County.
- B. We believe that it is time to conduct a comprehensive review of salaries and positions in Fannin County government. Employees should be brought up to scale to workers and positions of similar counties and tax bases as soon as possible.
- C. We request that the Fannin County Commission aggressively seek state and federal funding to help alleviate the burden on the Fannin County taxpayer.
- D. We request that the Fannin County Commission activate a concerted drive to attract environmentally safe industry with above average pay scales to our county.
- E. We ask the Fannin County Commission to support the youth recreation programs in our county.
- F. We strongly recommend that people who run as a Republican Candidate in Fannin County to sign a pledge to run a positive, issue oriented campaign. We condemn the use of mudslinging and negative politics as a tactic for candidates and elected officials. The citizens of Fannin County deserve good government, and we are the party that can provide that service.
- G. We are opposed to any efforts to bring garbage or medical waste into Fannin County.