

1 RESOLUTION REJECTING THE 2014 RPT PLATFORM

2 WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence is 2 pages long, The US Constitution is 20 pages long, the  
3 Bill of Rights is 10 pages long; and

4 WHEREAS, the Republican Party of Texas adopted a platform in 2014 which was over 40 pages in length  
5 without time for delegates to either read or fully debate its contents; and

6 WHEREAS, the Texas Republican Platform contains such a diversity of positions, some of them  
7 contradictory, some of them of excessive specificity, some of them obsolete, and some of the offensive  
8 to many members of our party; and

9 WHEREAS, our party platform ought to be a document which is easy to read and useful for attracting  
10 new members to affiliate with the Republican Party of Texas and encouraging new voters to support the  
11 party; and

12 WHEREAS, many members of the grassroots of the Republican Party of Texas have expressed discontent  
13 with the 2014 Platform and Republican groups such as Texas Young Republicans, Texas College  
14 Republicans, and the Republican Liberty Caucus have rejected the 2014 Platform in favor of shorter,  
15 principle-based platforms, and

16 WHEREAS, some candidates find it politically impossible to run while adhering to our current platform or  
17 choose to ignore it or have not even read it because of its length and poor reputation; and

18 WHEREAS, historically Texas Republican Party Platforms prior to 1980 never exceeded 13 platform  
19 planks and focused on general principles held in common by all Republicans;

20 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Republican Party of Texas Platform Committee not use the 2014  
21 Platform as the starting point for the 2016 Platform and instead adopt a shorter platform that  
22 maintains conservative principles.

1 MODEL PLATFORM RESOLUTION

2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Platform Committee adopt the following proposal as the starting point of the  
3 2016 Republican Party of Texas Platform.

4

5 **PREAMBLE**

6 We, the Republican Party of Texas, STILL hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are  
7 created equal, and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, and  
8 that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. We affirm our continued  
9 support for limited government based upon a moral and spiritual foundation, as enshrined in  
10 our nation’s founding documents. We affirm freedom for every individual as expressed in the  
11 Declaration of Independence and protected by the Constitution. We recognize that the  
12 traditional family is the strength of our nation. It is our solemn duty to protect life and develop  
13 responsible citizens. We understand that our economic success depends upon free market  
14 principles. We believe that citizens' needs are best met through free enterprise, private  
15 initiative, and volunteerism. We support the “Rule of Law” and believe in upholding the law of  
16 the land. If we fail to maintain our sovereignty, we risk losing the freedom to live these ideals. As  
17 a party we adopt this platform and expect our elected leaders to acknowledge its principles in  
18 both word and action.

19 **THE PROPER ROLE OF GOVERNMENT**

20 We believe government exists by the consent of the governed and that it must be restrained  
21 from intruding into the freedoms of its citizens. The function of government is not to grant  
22 rights, but to protect the unalienable, God-given rights of life, liberty, property, and the pursuit  
23 of happiness.

24 **REAFFIRMATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF FEDERALISM**

25 We believe that government must strictly adhere to the original intent of the Declaration of  
26 Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Constitution of the State of Texas. The 13  
27 original Sovereign States in Constitutional Convention created the Constitution of the United  
28 States of America and subsequently ratified that document creating a Federal Government and  
29 granting to that Government limited and enumerated powers. The Tenth Amendment to the  
30 Constitution of the United States defines Federal powers as those enumerated in the  
31 Constitution and reserves all other powers to the States and to the People. We oppose  
32 congressional, judicial, and executive abrogation of the principle that the powers not delegated  
33 to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the  
34 States respectively, or to the People. We oppose unreasonable and intrusive federal mandates.  
35 This is essential to the preservation of the sovereignty of the state of Texas and its sister states.

36 **PRIVATE PROPERTY**

37 We recognize the rights of the individual to own property. We resist any effort by government  
38 to take private property without an overwhelming need for public use. We reject the taking of

1 private property by government for purposes of facilitating private development. We strongly  
2 oppose civil forfeiture of private property absent the conviction of its owners for a crime  
3 involving its acquisition or use.

4 **ELECTIONS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

5 We demand honesty, integrity, morality, and accountability of our public officials. We will work  
6 to expose and stop corruption. We reject the buying and selling of endorsements in all elections.  
7 We support efforts to improve the security and sanctity of the ballot, including the requirement  
8 that voters show photo identification before being allowed to cast a ballot. We oppose public  
9 financing of election campaigns, limits on political speech, and efforts by government entities to  
10 influence the outcome of elections.

11 **NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**

12 We honor all those that serve and protect our freedom. We support a military force of sufficient  
13 strength and readiness to deter any threat to our national sovereignty or to the safety and  
14 freedom of our citizens. We support the Constitutional mandate to protect and secure our  
15 national borders. We oppose placement of United States troops under any foreign command,  
16 including the United Nations. We support lawful efforts of local law enforcement agencies to  
17 protect citizens in their homes and in their communities. We urge reform of the legal system to  
18 accomplish a swift and balanced administration of justice, including consideration of rights of  
19 the victim. We support capital punishment when appropriate. We hold in abhorrence all  
20 schemes for disunion, come from whatever source they may; we hold it to be the highest duty  
21 of every American citizen to maintain against all enemies the integrity of the United States and  
22 declare that it must and shall be preserved.

23 **SELF DEFENSE**

24 We believe that Americans have the right to be safe in their homes, on their streets, and in their  
25 communities; and the unalienable right to defend themselves. We support the individual  
26 constitutionally protected natural right of the people to keep and bear arms for security and  
27 defense of self, family, others, property, or the state, as well as for other lawful purposes. We  
28 encourage personal responsibility for the care and use of these firearms. We support the Castle  
29 Doctrine and the right of individuals to stand their ground when confronted with criminal  
30 violence, and reject the notion that law-abiding citizens have a duty to retreat rather than  
31 defend themselves from criminals.

32 **FREEDOM OF RELIGION**

33 We claim freedom of religion for every citizen and expect the protection of government in  
34 securing to us this unalienable right. We affirm the right to religious expression, including  
35 prayer, in both private and public. We reject efforts to limit the free exercise of religion to the  
36 four walls of a house of worship. We support the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

37 **FAMILY VALUES**

38 We recognize the traditional family, founded on the traditional marriage of a natural man and a

1 natural woman, as the fundamental unit of society. We affirm that parents have the  
2 fundamental right and primary responsibility to direct the upbringing of their children and to  
3 provide nurturing care, discipline and training in moral values.

4 **RIGHT TO LIFE**

5 We believe all human life is sacred from conception to natural death, regardless of age or  
6 infirmity. We therefore we oppose abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and the public funding  
7 of any of these abhorrent practices. We reject government efforts to force employers to pay for  
8 these practices directly or indirectly under the guise of "health care benefits".

9 **HUMAN SERVICES**

10 We believe that the primary responsibility for meeting basic human needs rests with the  
11 individual, the family, and the voluntary charitable organizations. We recognize, however, that  
12 there are special social needs that must be addressed through state human service programs.  
13 We support requiring welfare recipients to work towards self-sufficiency. We reject the notion  
14 that the federal government may mandate the purchase of any insurance product or penalize  
15 the failure to do so, as well as federal regulation of insurance products offered for sale.

16 **EQUAL RIGHTS**

17 We believe that no individual is entitled to rights that exceed or supersede the natural rights of  
18 others guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of  
19 Texas. There shall be no discrimination by government in favor of or against any individual due  
20 to race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. We reject efforts to sanitize history out  
21 of political correctness.

22 **EDUCATION**

23 We believe that all children should have access to quality education. Parents have the primary  
24 right and responsibility to educate their children, and we support their right to choose public,  
25 private, or home education without being subject to coercion in that choice by government. We  
26 support incentives to promote competitive excellence. We encourage cooperative initiatives to  
27 help all Texans become literate in English. We support the distribution of educational funds in a  
28 manner that they follow the student to any school, whether public private, or home school. We  
29 reject federal imposition of educational standards and the tying of federal education funding to  
30 adopting federally mandated standards. We reject zero tolerance policies that mindlessly  
31 impose punishments that lack a rational relationship to the supposed offense.

32 **TAXATION**

33 We accept the necessity for limited taxation in order for government to perform and administer  
34 those services that meet essential public needs. However, we recognize that the power to tax is  
35 also the power to control, and believe that the best way to control government is to strictly  
36 control the amount of taxes imposed on the people. We encourage further simplification of tax  
37 systems, the elimination of the estate tax, and broad-based rate reduction where possible. We

1 reject the imposition of a state income tax and support a meaningful cap on increasing property  
2 taxes so that homeowners need not fear being taxed out of their homes.

3 **REGULATION**

4 We recognize that government regulation can be a major impediment to productivity and to  
5 competition. We must rely more on market forces and less on government. Regulatory power  
6 now exercised by the federal government must be eliminated or returned to state and local  
7 governments to the degree that it is practical to do so.

8 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

9 We support a free enterprise economy unencumbered by government interference or subsidies.  
10 We believe that a strong, diversified economy based on a positive work ethic, a well-trained and  
11 well-educated work force, a business-friendly environment, and safe work place will help Texas  
12 compete in the global marketplace. We believe that developing our human resources is  
13 essential to the future of Texas. We support the Texas Right to Work Law.

14 **THE ENVIRONMENT**

15 We appreciate the quality of our environment. Our air, water, and land are at the heart of our  
16 existence and must be protected through balanced management. We support reasonable laws  
17 and volunteer efforts to improve air and water quality. We continue to seek responsible  
18 solutions to controversies surrounding uses of our wilderness. We seek to preserve the  
19 environment while serving the best interests of our Texas citizens. We oppose as  
20 unconstitutional the declaration by any President without approval from Congress of any large  
21 tract of land as a national monument. We call on the State of Texas to use the resources at its  
22 disposal to challenge any such declaration in the courts of the United States.

23 **JURY**

24 The jury is a fundamental institution of liberty, because it is the only anchor yet imagined by  
25 man by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution. The jury has the  
26 right and the authority to acquit if jurors feel justice will be served.

27 **IMMIGRATION**

28 We recognize that America is a nation built on immigration, and celebrate the contributions  
29 made to our quality of life by men and women who have come to this country from around the  
30 globe. America is a stronger and better nation because of the hard work and entrepreneurial  
31 spirit of legal immigrants, and the Republican Party honors them. We believe that control of our  
32 borders is critical to both national security and national sovereignty. We oppose illegal  
33 immigration and amnesty for illegal immigrants. We oppose granting government benefits to  
34 those illegally present in the US. We believe that current laws against employing illegal  
35 immigrants should be vigorously enforced, particularly to stem the now too common crime of  
36 identity theft in obtaining employment. We support the imposition of civil and criminal penalties  
37 for employers that knowingly employ illegal aliens. We support the mandatory use of E-Verify so

1 that employers can determine whether job applicants are legally entitled to employment in the  
2 United States.

3 **OUR MISSION**

4 The Republican Party is the party of the people, by the people and for the people. We  
5 appreciate the productivity of our citizens, affirm the infinite worth of all individuals, and seek  
6 the best possible quality of life for all. We invite all Americans to join us in working together for  
7 a better America and a better Texas.

1 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN ARTICLE V CONVENTION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

2 WHEREAS, The drafters of the United States Constitution empowered state legislatures to be guardians  
3 of liberty against abuses of power by the federal government; and

4 WHEREAS, The federal government has abused its power by creating a crushing national debt through  
5 improper and imprudent spending; and

6 WHEREAS, The federal government has abused its power by invading the legitimate role of the states  
7 through the manipulative process of federal mandates that are to a great extent unfunded; and

8 WHEREAS, The federal government has ceased to abide by a proper interpretation of the United States  
9 Constitution; and

10 WHEREAS, It is the solemn duty of state legislatures to protect the liberty of the people and of future  
11 generations by proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that place clear restraints on  
12 federal power; and

13 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution authorizes the several state legislatures to restrict  
14 the power of the federal government through the amendment process; and

15 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution provides that on application of the legislatures of  
16 two-thirds of the several states Congress shall call a convention for the purpose of proposing  
17 amendments to the constitution; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, that the Republican Party of Texas calls upon the Texas Legislature to apply to Congress to  
19 call a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution for the limited purpose of proposing  
20 one or more amendments to the constitution to impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, and  
21 to limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government.

1 RESOLUTION ON ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION

2 WHEREAS: The U.S. Constitution, Article I, section 2, clause 3 states: The Number of Representatives  
3 shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative...”;

4 WHEREAS: Americans are not represented according to the ratio set forth in the Constitution because of  
5 apportionment laws passed by Congress in 1911 and in 1929;

6 WHEREAS: The clear intent of the framers as demonstrated by the actions of Congress was to  
7 reapportion Congress and expand the number of representatives after every census;

8 WHEREAS: At the time of the debate on the bill setting the arbitrary limit on the number of  
9 representatives, Representative Ralph Lozier (MO) made the following seemingly obvious observation: "I  
10 am unalterably opposed to limiting the membership of the House to the arbitrary number of 435. Why  
11 435? Why not 400? Why not 300? ... There is no sanctity in the number 435.... There is absolutely no  
12 reason, philosophy, or common sense in arbitrarily fixing the membership of the House at 435 or at any  
13 other number."

14 WHEREAS: In America today, each member of the House represents, on average, 721,609 citizens,  
15 America basically has two upper houses of Congress with less and less representation of the people’

16 WHEREAS: The US representation at 1:735K or 1:598K (including both chambers) per citizen ratio falls  
17 behind all other nations with representative systems of government, such as Sweden with a  
18 representation ratio of 1:27K, Germany at a ratio of 1:127K;

19 WHEREAS: A larger ratio of representatives to population will result in each constituent having more  
20 influence over his or her representative and make Congress more responsive to the people;

21 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Representation in the House must be expanded to a more reasonable  
22 number and a process should be set for regular reapportionment. We urge our lawmakers to work on  
23 significant changes to improve representation of the people and put our representatives back to a  
24 number that the people in districts can hold accountable .



1 RESOLUTION ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

- 2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Republican Party in Precinct 333 that capital punishment should be meted out to  
3 those whose crimes are capital in nature.

1 NO EXCEPTIONS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

2 WHEREAS, both Democrat and Republican elected officials have exempted themselves and their staffs  
3 from laws they force on the American public, the most recent being the Patient Protection and  
4 Affordable Care Act (Obamacare);

5 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that both state and federally elected officials must be subject to the same  
6 laws, regulations and ordinances as their constituents.

1 RESOLUTION ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

2 WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees the freedom of religion to every  
3 American; and

4 WHEREAS, religious liberty is under severe attack in our churches, schools, the military and the public  
5 arena by anti-religious organizations and the federal government.

6 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Texans should be free to express their religious beliefs, including  
7 prayer, in public places. We reject the “politically correct” efforts by the Obama administration and anti-  
8 religious groups to intimidate, bully, and silence people of faith in the U.S. and call on elected officials to  
9 uphold the First Amendment.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Church is recognized as a God-ordained institution with a sphere of  
11 authority separate from that of civil government and thus the Church is not to be regulated, controlled  
12 or taxed by any level of civil government.

1 DEFUND AND REPEAL OBAMACARE

2 WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (also known as Obamacare), was  
3 passed by completely partisan votes (i.e. not one Republican vote) in both the U.S. Senate, and U.S.  
4 House; and

5 WHEREAS, reliable public opinion polls find that a majority of the American people want it repealed as  
6 more and more details of the costly law are revealed; and

7 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has illegally and unconstitutionally changed the law by sidestepping  
8 Congress and by executive fiat; and

9 WHEREAS, the Office of Personnel Management has exempted Congress and its staff from Obamacare  
10 while forcing other citizens to comply; and

11 WHEREAS, the costly and error-ridden website to enroll in Obamacare is staffed by “navigators,” who  
12 have not been vetted, causing major security concerns of consumers’ private information.

13 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we petition the U.S. House of Representatives to immediately defund  
14 Obamacare, including its implementation and enforcement, thereby effectively repealing the onerous  
15 law. We further petition Congress to hold President Obama and his administration liable for illegal  
16 changes to the law and ignoring the Constitution of the U.S.

1 RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

2 WHEREAS, the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of the people to be  
3 secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures;

4 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has held that that the right to travel from one state to  
5 another ...is not a mere conditional liberty subject to regulation and control under conventional due  
6 process or equal protection standards, but a right broadly assertable against private interference, as  
7 well as governmental action, and a virtually unconditional personal right guaranteed by the Constitution  
8 (Shapiro v Thompson 394 U.S.);

9 WHEREAS, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has deployed advanced imaging technology  
10 requiring a traveler to either submit to a scan with the capability to capture a virtual naked image of the  
11 person or to submit to an intrusive, groping search including the touching of the individual's genitals as a  
12 condition of travel without probable cause that the individual poses any threat;

13 WHEREAS, there remain significant questions about the long-term safety and effectiveness of the  
14 technology as a security device;

15 WHEREAS, refusal to submit to a body scan does not constitute probable cause to be searched;

16 WHEREAS, it is an appropriate role of the State of Texas to protect her citizens from the abuse of  
17 overzealous government employees groping and abusing them without probable cause and in the name  
18 of safety;

19 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Republican Party of Texas recommends the passage of legislation  
20 to protect the rights and dignity of travelers by requiring that probable cause must be present for an  
21 individual to be searched as a condition of access to public facilities or transportation.

1 PROTECT PREBORN CHILDREN FROM DISMEMBERMENT ABORTIONS

2 WHEREAS, a dismemberment abortion, also called a D&E Abortion (Dilatation and Evacuation), takes  
3 the lives of preborn children by ripping their limbs from their tiny bodies; and

4 WHEREAS, in undercover videos, Planned Parenthood executives discuss preferring this horrific form of  
5 abortion in order to procure the body parts of preborn children so that they can harvest and sell them;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, it is the purpose of the state to assert a compelling state interest in protecting the lives of  
8 preborn children who are capable of feeling intense pain from such an inhumane and torturous  
9 procedure; and

10 WHEREAS, in *Gonzales v. Carhart* (2007), the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that the state's interest in  
11 "ethical and moral concerns" over preborn fetal life could be the basis of legislation to protect that life  
12 at all times during the pregnancy and not just after viability.

13 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED we call on government at every level to enact legislation that would protect  
14 all preborn children, no matter their stage of development, from horrific dismemberment abortions.

1 REPEAL & REPLACE PART OF THE TEXAS ADVANCE DIRECTIVES ACT

2 WHEREAS, every year in Texas, an unreported number of vulnerable patients are victims of the  
3 unethical, unconstitutional, and unprecedented Ethics Committee process due to the Texas Advance  
4 Directives Act; and

5 WHEREAS, Section 166.046 of the Texas Health and Safety Code enables physicians and hospitals to  
6 unilaterally withhold or withdraw a patient's Life-Sustaining Treatment at the expiration of ten days  
7 against the patient or patient's family's will and without a mechanism for appeal and with no liability  
8 attached for erroneous determination, although such withdrawal will likely result in death for the  
9 patient; and

10 WHEREAS, this legal process in Section 166.046 of the Texas Health and Safety Code simultaneously  
11 violates the patient's Constitutionally protected right to Due Process, and the patient's Right to Life  
12 through the hospital's own Ethics Committee without opportunity for appeal or legal recourse.

13 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we call on the Texas Legislature to repeal Section 166.046 of the Texas  
14 Health and Safety Code and replace the unethical, unconstitutional, and unprecedented law with truly  
15 Pro-Life options that respect and protect vulnerable patients in Texas.

16

1 RESOLUTION ON NON-STATE SCHOOLS

2 WHEREAS, education is the primary responsibility of parents, and that parents, not the state, are the  
3 stewards of the children; now therefore,

4 BE IT RESOLVED, we oppose all attempts by the state or local government to interfere with parental  
5 rights in education; and that we further support maintaining the present status of private, parochial, and  
6 home schools free from state government control.



1 RESOLUTION ON RIGHT TO WORK

2 WHEREAS, any individual should have the freedom to work in the job he desires without being forced to  
3 join or pay dues to any organization; and

4 WHEREAS, the Texas Right-To-Work Law has provided a good economic climate for stable management-  
5 labor relationships; now therefore

6 BE IT RESOLVED that we urge the State of Texas maintain its Right-To-Work Law.