

Platform of the Constitution Party of Ohio
Adopted July 4, 2013

We declare the platform of the Constitution Party of Ohio to be predicated on the principles of

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES,
AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS

according to the original intent of the Founding Fathers. These founding documents are the foundation of our Liberty and the Supreme Law of the Land. The sole purpose of government, as stated in the Declaration of Independence, is to secure our unalienable rights given us by our Creator. When Government grows beyond this scope, it is usurpation, and liberty is compromised. We believe the major issues we face today are best solved by a renewed allegiance to the original intent of these founding documents.

Preamble

We, the members of the Constitution Party of Ohio, gratefully acknowledge our Creator as the Preserver and Ruler of the universe. We appeal to Him for aid, comfort, guidance and the protection of His Divine Providence as we work to restore and preserve these United States.

The Constitution of the United States provides that "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States." The Constitution Party of Ohio supports the original intent of this language.

The U.S. Constitution established a Republic rooted in Biblical principles of governance administered by representatives who are constitutionally elected by the citizens. In such a Republic all Life, Liberty, and Property are protected as unalienable rights from our Creator. The goal of the Constitution Party is to restore American jurisprudence to its original foundations and to limit the federal and state governments to their proper Constitutional boundaries. Therefore, the Constitution Party of Ohio calls on all those who love liberty and value their inherent rights, to join with us as we work to restore our state's and our nation's governments to our nation's original constitutional principles.

As such, we affirm the principles of inherent individual rights upon which these United States of America were founded:

- That each individual is endowed by his Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are the rights to life, liberty, property and the pursuit of happiness;
- That the freedom to own, use, exchange, control, protect, and freely dispose of property is a natural, necessary and inseparable extension of the individual's unalienable rights;
- That the legitimate function of government is to secure these rights through the preservation of domestic tranquility, the maintenance of a strong national defense, and the promotion of equal justice for all;
- That history makes clear that left unchecked, it is the nature of government to usurp the liberty of its citizens and eventually become a major violator of the people's rights; and
- That, therefore, it is essential to bind government with the chains of the Constitution and carefully divide and jealously limit government powers to those assigned by the consent of the governed.

In addition to the State Party Platform herein which is intended to be specific to the issues of the State of Ohio, the Constitution Party of Ohio affirms its general agreement and support of all the individual items within the national Constitution Party Platform, 2012, the Preamble excepted.

Sanctity of Life

The Declaration of Independence states: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness". The Preamble of the Constitution states a purpose of the Constitution is to: "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity".

We declare the unalienable right of Life to be secured by our Constitution "to ourselves and our Posterity". Our posterity includes children born and future generations yet unborn. Any legalization of the termination of innocent life of the born or unborn is a direct violation of our unalienable right to life.

The pre-born child, whose life begins at fertilization, is a human being created in God's image. The first duty of the law is to prevent the shedding of innocent blood. It is therefore the duty of all civil governments to secure and to safeguard the lives of the pre-born.

To that end, the Constitution of these United States was ordained and established for "ourselves and our posterity." Under no circumstances may the federal or Ohio State government fund or otherwise support any state or local government or any organization or entity, foreign or domestic, which advocates, encourages or participates in the practice of abortion. We also oppose the distribution and use of all abortifacients.

We affirm the God-given legal personhood of all unborn human beings, without exception. As to matters of rape and incest, it is unconscionable to take the life of an innocent child for the crimes of his father.

No government may legalize the taking of the unalienable right to life without justification, including the life of the pre-born; abortion may not be declared lawful by any institution of state or local government - legislative, judicial, or executive. The right to life should not be made dependent upon a vote of a majority of any legislative body.

In addition, Article IV of the Constitution guarantees to each state a republican form of government. Therefore, although a Supreme Court opinion is binding on the parties to the controversy as to the particulars of the case, it is not a political rule for the nation or the State of Ohio. Roe v. Wade is an illegitimate usurpation of authority, contrary to the law of the nation's Charter and Constitution. It must be resisted by all civil government officials, federal, state, and local, and by all branches of the government - legislative, executive, and judicial.

We will do all that is within our power to encourage federal, state, and local government officials to protect the sanctity of the life of the pre-born through legislation, executive action, and judicial enforcement of the law of the land. We call upon the Ohio State Legislature to forcefully oppose the misuse of federal laws against pro-life demonstrators, and strongly urge the repeal of the FACE Acts as an unconstitutional expansion of federal power into areas reserved to the states or people by the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

We oppose the funding and legalization of bio-research involving human embryonic or pre-embryonic cells. We oppose all government "legalization" of euthanasia, infanticide and suicide.

Limitations of Federal Government Power

The closer civil government is to the people, the more responsible, responsive, and accountable it is likely to be. The Constitution, itself, in Articles I through VI, enumerates the powers which may be exercised by the federal government. Of particular importance is Article I, Section 8 which delineates the authority of the Congress.

The federal government was clearly established as a government of limited authority. The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution specifically provides that: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

Over time, the limitations of federal government power imposed by the Constitution have been substantially eroded. Preservation of constitutional government requires a restoration of the balance of authority between the federal government and the States as provided in the Constitution, and as intended and construed by those who framed and ratified that document.

We pledge to be faithful to this constitutional requirement and to work methodically to encourage the state of Ohio and its legislature to demand its State's rights that will restore to the people their rightful control over legislative, judicial, executive, and regulatory functions which are not Constitutionally delegated to the federal government.

We stand opposed to any regionalization of governments, at any level, which results in removal of decision-making powers from the people or those directly elected by the people.

Character and Moral Conduct

John Adams, 2nd President and signer of the Declaration of Independence warned:

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

It is imperative that the members and nominated candidates at any level representing the Constitution Party of Ohio and its state affiliates recognize the importance of demonstrating good moral character in their own lives as well as within their campaigns for office and the fulfilling of their elective duties.

Congressional Reform

"The Senators and Representatives ... shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution".
- US Constitution, Article 6, Clause 3

With the advent of the 17th amendment, a vital check on Congress was removed. The Seventeenth Amendment (providing for direct, popular election of U.S. Senators) took away from state governments their Constitutional role of indirect participation in the federal legislative process.

The U.S. Constitution, as originally framed in Article I, Section 3, provided for U.S. Senators to be elected by state legislators. This provided the states direct representation in the legislative branch so as to deter the usurpation of powers that are Constitutionally reserved to the states or to the people. (10th Amendment)

If we are to see a return to the states those powers, programs, and sources of revenue that the federal government has unconstitutionally taken away, then it is also vital that we repeal the Seventeenth Amendment and return to state legislatures the function of electing the U.S. Senate. In so doing, this would

return the U.S. Senate to being a body that represents the legislatures of the several states on the federal level and, thus, a tremendously vital part of the designed checks and balances of power that our Constitution originally provided. Therefore the Constitution Party of Ohio calls upon its State Legislators to actively seek to repeal the Seventeenth Amendment at the earliest possible time. In addition, the Constitution Party of Ohio will work to educate Ohio legislators such that they understand the destruction and abolition of states' rights caused by passage of the Seventeenth Amendment.

We also call upon the various chambers, branches, and functions of government, federal and state, to operate within the definition, confines, and constrictions of their constitutional authority and delegations. To provide the safeguards intended by our founding fathers and embedded in the Constitution, no branch of Government should appropriate the duties, authority, or functions of another.

In addition, we support legislation at all levels of government, including and especially at the State and Federal levels, to prohibit the attachment of unrelated riders to bills. Any amendments must fit within the scope and object of the original bill.

Conscription

With liberty and freedom come responsibilities. It is not right, and possibly immoral, for those who enjoy the freedoms and liberties of this nation, to assume that it is the responsibility of others to defend our Constitution and our country against all enemies. While it is proper that those serving our country in the military and through other means be justly compensated, it is also the duty of all those who desire to live in this country as a fully vested citizen to also accept the responsibility to defend those rights, privileges, freedoms and liberty. Thus we call upon every individual citizen to do his part within his moral conscience to protect, defend, and uphold the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

The Constitution Party of Ohio is concerned regarding the use of troops via the draft, or forced conscription, even in the service of the United States with respect to defending our nation against our enemies, foreign and domestic. It is particularly anathema for the draft to be used to force young men to be engaged in unconstitutional wars and police actions, those conducted without a proper Congressional declaration of war, or at the whim or other decision and/or direction of the President or other military authority.

Constitutional Convention

We oppose any attempt by the Ohio State Legislature to demand a call or in any manner agree to call for a Federal Constitutional convention, for any purpose whatsoever, because it cannot be limited to any single issue, and such convention could seriously erode our Constitutionally protected unalienable rights.

Cost of Big Government

James Madison said: "The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined." (Federalist Papers #45) The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people (Amendment X). A legitimate and primary purpose of civil government is to safeguard the God-given rights of its citizens; namely, life, liberty, and property. Only those duties, functions, and programs specifically assigned to the federal government by the Constitution should be funded. We call upon Congress and the President to stop all federal expenditures which are not specifically authorized by the U. S. Constitution, and to restore to the states those powers, programs, and sources of revenue that the federal government has usurped.

Crime

Crime, in most cases, is to be dealt with by state and local governments. To the degree that the federal government, in its legislation, in its judicial actions, in its regulations, and in its executive branch activities, interferes with the ability of the people in their communities to apprehend, judge, and penalize accused lawbreakers, it bears responsibility for the climate of crime, which has grown more destructive with each passing year. We favor the right of states and localities to execute criminals convicted of capital crimes and to require restitution for the victims of criminals. Federal involvement in state and local criminal justice processes should be limited to that which is Constitutionally permitted.

All who are accused of crimes, petty to capital, shall have a trial by jury upon request, and the jury shall be fully informed of its right to nullify the law. Furthermore, we oppose defendants being charged and tried by both state and federal jurisdictions under different laws for the same alleged criminal act, thus violating the Constitutionally secured prohibition against double jeopardy.

We believe that all men are created equal and therefore deserve equal protection under the law. We are opposed to all "hate crime" legislation, whether Federal or State, and to enhanced penalties for so called hate crimes. We recognize that a real result of the designation of "hate crime" is to extend federal jurisdiction to crimes which would otherwise be in the province of the states or local communities. We also oppose special protection or prosecution for certain classes of people or types of employment in that all persons, made in the image of God, deserve equal protection with equal prosecution for crimes committed against the innocent victims of crime.

Defense

The very purpose of Government, as defined in the 2nd paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, is "to secure these [unalienable] rights, Governments are instituted among Men", "that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." To fulfill this obligation, the Preamble of the Constitution states one of the duties specifically delegated to the Federal Government is to "Provide for the common defense". US Constitution, Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 11 - 16 give Congress further direction and authority in this area, including the power "To raise and support Armies" and "To provide and maintain a Navy". It is therefore a primary obligation of the federal government to provide for the common defense, and to be vigilant regarding potential threats, prospective capabilities, and perceived intentions of potential enemies.

The Constitution Party of Ohio opposes unilateral disarmament and dismemberment of America's defense infrastructure. That which is hastily torn down will not be easily rebuilt. Thus, we call for the maintenance of a strong, state-of-the-art military on land, sea, in the air, and in space. We urge the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. Government to continue to provide for the modernization of our armed forces, in keeping with advancing technologies and a constantly changing world situation.

We condemn the presidential assumption of authority to deploy American troops into combat without a declaration of war by Congress, pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. Further, we call upon the Governor of Ohio to vigorously oppose and deny the use of the Ohio National Guard or Ohio militia at any level to support unconstitutional wars, international police actions, or other foreign insurrections. As such, except in time of declared war, for the purposes of state security, the Governor must disallow the use of Ohio troops or militia to support or conduct operations in foreign theatres. The Governor of Ohio must also unequivocally oppose the use of Ohio troops or militia to serve under any foreign flag or command. We are unilaterally opposed to any New World Order, and we reject U.S. participation in or a relinquishing of command to any foreign authority.

We reject the policies and practices that permit women to train for or participate in combat. Because of the radical feminization of the military over the past two decades, it must be recognized that these "advances" undermine the integrity, morale, and performance of our military organizations by dual qualification standards and forced integration.

In concert with the National Constitution Party Platform on "Defense," the Constitution Party of Ohio fully supports the concept of well-trained and highly organized volunteer civilian militias organized at the state level. Further, we fully support and encourage the restoration of unorganized militia at the state, county and community level in compliance with our patriotic and legal responsibilities as free citizens of these United States. As such, we wholeheartedly endorse the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution wherein the rights of the civilian citizenry to own and bear arms, undefined and indeterminate as to type, number, or capability, shall not be infringed.

Domestic Federal Aid

The Constitution assigns all powers not delegated to the federal government to the states or the people. Domestic federal "aid" not authorized by the Constitution is not only illegal, it is immoral. As such, we call upon the State of Ohio and all associated government agencies at all levels including all public school districts or other such entities, therefore, to decline to accept all monies from the federal government for any purpose not specifically and clearly articulated in the Constitution, and reject all federal mandates and regulations which are unconstitutional, thus restoring the intended balance of power between the states and their creation, the U.S. Government.

Drug Abuse

The 10th Amendment states: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

The 4th Amendment states: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

The Constitution Party of Ohio will uphold the right of states and localities to restrict access to drugs and to enforce such restrictions. We support legislation to stop the flow of illegal drugs into these United States from foreign sources. As a matter of self-defense, retaliatory policies including embargoes, sanctions, and tariffs, should be considered.

At the same time, we will take care to prevent violations of the Constitutional and civil rights of American citizens. Searches without probable cause and seizures without due process must be prohibited, and the presumption of innocence must be preserved.

Education

FEDERAL AUTHORITY

The Constitution of the United States grants the Federal Government no authority over Education, the 10th Amendment applies: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

Because the federal government has absolutely no jurisdiction concerning the education of our children, the United States Department of Education should be abolished; all federal legislation related to education should be repealed along with all Federal funding to local schools and school districts. No federal laws subsidizing or regulating the education of children should be enacted. Under no circumstances should the federal government be involved in national teacher certification, educational curricula, textbook selection, learning standards, comprehensive sex education, psychological and psychiatric research testing programs, and personnel.

PARENT RIGHTS

Education, training, and discipline of children are properly placed in the domain of their parents. As such, we support the unimpeded right of parents to provide for the education of their children in the manner they deem best, including home, private, public, or religious. We oppose all legislation from any level of government that would interfere with or restrict that liberty. So that parents need not defy the law by refusing to send their children to schools of which they disapprove, compulsory attendance laws should be amended to allow for freedom of choice.

SCHOOL FUNDING

All legislation in regards to funding, whether state or local, must ensure that local schools remain under local control. We will also support legislation that provides equitable tax relief for families whose children do not attend government schools. The Constitution Party of Ohio absolutely opposes all funding of education within the State of Ohio that is derived from any form of legalized gambling including the State Lottery or State permitted casinos. This is an immoral concept that promotes a wrong ideology to impressionable young minds.

STATE AND UNION CONTROL vs LOCAL CONTROL AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

The Ohio State Board of Education should be significantly reduced in scope and size along with its usurpation of local control through state mandates and centralized testing. All state legislation regarding the establishment and authority of the State Board of Education or other existing state laws that removes or usurps the authority of the local school boards over the local school districts should be immediately rescinded. In addition, while we support the right of teachers and other local school officials to voluntarily band together to defend or oppose certain issues within the school system, state or local, we oppose the conscription of educators, forcing them involuntarily to join a union or pay union dues of any sort (OEA, NEA, SEIU, etc.).

Election Reform

US Constitution, Article 1, Section 4, Clause 1 states, "The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing* Senators." (*original spelling from Constitution) The Constitutional balance of power on this matter has been destroyed by the 17th amendment. The States no longer have a representative at the Federal level. (See "Congressional Reform" plank.)

The Constitution Party of Ohio seeks the restoration of an electoral process which is controlled at the state and local level and is beyond manipulation by federal judges and bureaucrats. The federal government has unconstitutionally and unwisely preempted control in matters of district boundaries, electoral procedures, and campaign activities. The Voting Rights Act should be repealed. The Federal Election Campaign Act, including its 1974 amendments, and the Federal Election Commission should be abolished.

Each citizen should have the right to seek public office in accordance with the qualifications set forth in federal and state constitutions. Additional restrictions and obligations governing candidate eligibility and campaign procedures burden unconstitutionally the fairness and accountability of our political system. To encourage free and fair elections, all candidates must be treated equally. We call for an end to designated "Major Party" status that gives an unfair advantage to some candidates by providing ballot access and taxpayer dollars, while requiring others for the same office to gather petition signatures or meet other, more stringent criteria.

We call for the immediate end to election fraud. Current electronic and mechanical voting processes have been demonstrated to be highly susceptible to fraud and corruption, illegal and improper vote counts, and the skewing of elections to unfairly support one candidate over the others. Until this issue can be resolved via electronic means that will guarantee accuracy and eliminate the possibility of voter fraud, we urge legislation that requires a challenge in any precinct by any recognized Party official of any recognized Party to be allowed for a period of 48 hours after posting of the official precinct election results thereby requiring a manual hand count of all votes cast, with officials from at least two different Parties able to oversee the count, one of which will be the Party issuing the challenge. The manual vote count will then become the official vote of the affected precinct. Recognized Parties designated by the Secretary of State as a minimum will include Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, Constitution, and Green.

Electoral College

Article II, Section I of the U.S. Constitution states, in part: "Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in the Congress: but no senator or representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector." This established our Electoral College.

Although the Constitution does not require the states to adhere to any specific manner in electing these electors or how they cast their votes, it suggests, by its wording, that prominent individuals from each congressional district, and from the state at large, would be elected or appointed as electors that represent that district. Under this arrangement, a voter would vote for three individuals, one to represent his district and two "at large" representatives to represent his state. These electors, in turn, would then carefully and deliberately select the candidate for president. Under this system each congressional district could, in essence, select a different candidate. The candidate with the most electors nationwide would become the next president. This was the general procedure used until the 1830's, at which time all the states, except for South Carolina, changed to a "general ticket." The "general ticket" system is still in use today. Inherently, it causes corruption by the inequitable transfer of power from congressional districts to the states and large cities at the expense of rural communities. The Constitution Party of Ohio encourages states to eliminate the "general ticket" system and return to the procedure intended by the Framers.

Energy

We call attention to the continuing need of these United States for a sufficient supply of energy for national security and for the immediate adoption of a policy of free market solutions to achieve energy independence for these United States. We call for abolishing the Department of Energy. We call for a free market approach to energy production and oppose all government funded economic stimuli including and especially those that favor one form of energy generation over another. Within the free market arena, private property rights should be respected, and the federal government should not interfere with the development of potential energy sources, including natural gas, hydroelectric power, solar energy, wind generators, and nuclear energy.

Environment

It is our responsibility to be prudent, productive, and efficient stewards of God's natural resources. In that role, we are commanded to be fruitful and multiply, and to replenish the earth and develop it (e.g., to turn deserts into farms and wastelands into groves). This requires a proper and continuing dynamic balance between development and conservation, between use and preservation.

In keeping with this requirement, we wholeheartedly support realistic efforts to preserve the environment and reduce pollution - air, water, and land. We support the use of "green" energy and the use of natural resources within a free-market construct. We reject, however, the argument of the perceived threat of man-made global warming or other "man-made climate change scenarios" which has been refuted by a large number of scientists. The globalists are using the global warming/climate change threat to gain more control via worldwide sustainable development. We call upon the State of Ohio and its governments to reject all attempts at regulating what is termed "carbon footprints" and be restrained from engaging in any form of carbon trades or purchasing of carbon credits.

Executive Orders

We call upon the State of Ohio and its legislative bodies along with its Federal Congressional Legislators and Senators to oppose the use of Presidential executive orders that make law or otherwise usurp the Constitutional authority and responsibilities of the legislative and judicial branches. This Constitutionally subversive practice must be stopped by Congress. In addition, the Constitution Party of Ohio calls upon the Ohio State Legislatures, in accord with the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution, to issue refusals to uphold and enforce any such Presidential executive orders as illegal and untenable demands upon the State and its people.

Family

The law of our Creator defines marriage as the union between one man and one woman without exception. The marriage covenant is the foundation of the family, and the family is fundamental in the maintenance of a stable, healthy and prosperous social order. No government may legitimately authorize or define marriage or family relations contrary to what God has instituted. We are opposed to amending the Ohio Constitution in any manner for the purpose of defining marriage as any relationship other than between one man and one woman.

We reject the notion that sexual offenders are deserving of legal favor or special protection, and affirm the rights of states and localities to prohibit offensive sexual behavior. We oppose all efforts to impose a new sexual legal order through the State of Ohio or federal court systems. We stand against so-called "sexual orientation" and "hate crime" statutes that attempt to legitimize inappropriate sexual behavior and to stifle public resistance to its expression. We oppose government funding or other requirements upon the general public or private institutions and corporations of the State of Ohio requiring the offer of "partner" benefits for unmarried individuals. Finally, we oppose any legal recognition of homosexual unions.

We recognize that parents have the fundamental right and responsibility to nurture, educate, and discipline their children. We oppose the assumption of any of these responsibilities by any governmental agency without the express delegation of the parents or legal due process. We affirm the value of the father and the mother in the home, and we oppose efforts to legalize adoption of children by homosexual singles or couples.

Unconstitutional, Undeclared Wars

Since World War II, the United States has been involved in tragic, unconstitutional, undeclared wars which cost our country the lives of many thousands of young Americans. These wars were the direct and foreseeable result of the bi-partisan interventionist policy of both Democrat and Republican administrations. The Constitution Party of Ohio is opposed to the continuation of the same interventionist policy, with that policy's capacity to involve our country in repeated wars.

We demand that never again shall any Ohio National Guard troops or other State militia be employed on any foreign field of battle without a declaration of war by Congress, as required by the United States Constitution, and that the Ohio Governor and Legislators refuse to deploy any Ohio National Guard troops to support any unconstitutional, undeclared wars pursuant to presidential whim or international obligations under which American sovereignty has been transferred to multi-national agencies.

Gambling

Gambling promotes an increase in crime, destruction of family values, and a decline in the moral fiber of our country. It primarily usurps the financial resources of the poverty stricken for the supposed benefit of the State general welfare. It thus entices the very people needing the most help into a life of even greater need. Therefore, the Constitution Party of Ohio is opposed to government sponsorship, involvement in, or promotion of gambling, such as lotteries, or subsidization of Native American casinos in the name of economic development. We call for the repeal of all State legislation authorizing the establishment and operation of legalized gambling within the State including the State run lottery, State authorized casinos, and the like.

Government / Private Partnership

"...what more is necessary to make us a happy and a prosperous people? ...a wise and frugal Government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government." - Thomas Jefferson, First Inaugural Address - Wednesday, March 1, 1801. America was founded on the economic principles of the "free enterprise" system. An individual was free to operate his business under the law without government intervention and regulation. This economic system is being replaced by public (government) - private partnerships. The Constitution Party of Ohio is opposed to public-private partnerships and is for a return to the true "free enterprise" system that once made our nation great and economically prosperous.

Gun Control

The 2nd Amendment strictly limits any interference with gun ownership by saying: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." The right to bear arms is inherent in the right of self defense, defense of the family, and defense against tyranny, conferred on the individual and the community by our Creator to safeguard life, liberty, and property, as well as to help preserve the independence of the nation.

The right to keep and bear arms is guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the Constitution; it may not properly be infringed upon or denied. The Constitution Party of Ohio calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to immediately rescind and declare null and void all laws at all governmental levels within the State that are contrary to this fundamental right of the people, that is unequivocally protected by the Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, and established by the Constitution and other founding documents and papers as an unalienable right from our Creator.

The Constitution Party of Ohio upholds the right and responsibility of its citizens to keep and bear arms. We oppose attempts to prohibit ownership of guns by law-abiding citizens, and stand against all laws which would require the registration of guns or ammunition. As such, we call upon the Governor of Ohio to direct the Ohio Attorney General to declare all federal firearms legislation, beginning with Federal Firearms Act of 1968 as null and void.

We call upon the Governor, Attorney General, and the Ohio State Legislature to declare null and void all Presidential executive orders, any future executive orders, and any treaty ratification which would in any way limit the right to keep and bear arms, including the abolition of all CCW (Carry Concealed Weapons) laws within the state along with its associated registrations. We call upon the State governmental bodies and officials to restore "Constitutional Carry" to U.S. citizens residing or otherwise existent within the State.

Health Care and Government

The Constitution Party of Ohio opposes the governmentalization and bureaucratization of American medicine. Government regulation and subsidy constitutes a threat to both the quality and availability of patient-oriented health care and treatment. Hospitals, doctors, and other health care providers should be accountable to patients - not to politicians, insurance bureaucrats, or HMO Administrators. If the supply of medical care is controlled by the federal government, then officers of that government will determine which demand is satisfied. The result will be the rationing of services, higher costs, poorer results - and the power of life and death transferred from caring physicians to unaccountable political overseers.

We denounce any civil government entity using age or any other personal characteristic to: preclude people and insurance firms from freely contracting for medical coverage; conscript such people into socialized medicine, e.g., Medicare; or prohibit these people from using insurance payments and/or their own money to obtain medical services in addition to, or to augment the quality of, those services prescribed by the program. We applaud proposals for employee-controlled "family coverage" health insurance plans based on cash value life insurance principles.

The federal government has no Constitutional provision to regulate or restrict the freedom of the people to have access to medical care, supplies or treatments. We advocate, therefore, the elimination of the federal Food and Drug Administration, as it has been the federal agency primarily responsible for prohibiting beneficial products, treatments, and technologies here in the United States that are freely available in much of the rest of the civilized world. We affirm freedom of choice of practitioner and treatment for all citizens for their health care. We support the right of patients to seek redress of their grievances through the courts against insurers and/or HMO's.

We condemn the misrepresentations made by the Federal Administration in securing passage of the recently enacted Medicare prescription drug bill, and the use of such legislation to secure government subsidies to special interests, such as the HMOs, and to protect the artificially high cost to consumers of prescription drugs. As such, we call upon the Governor and all elected State Officials and the Legislatures of Ohio to fully protect the right of the State against any health care intrusion upon the citizens of the State as guaranteed by the Tenth Amendment of the Constitution. We further call up these same State Government officials and representatives to support and enforce all of the provisions of the State Constitution including that embodied in State Issue 3 from the 2012 elections which was initiated by the people of Ohio as a grass roots campaign and passed overwhelmingly, thereby fully indicating the will of the people of Ohio with respect to universal healthcare as embodied by the Patient Care and Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as "Obamacare."

Immigration

US Constitution, Article 4, Section 4: The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; James Madison: "When we are considering the advantages that may result from an easy mode of naturalization, we ought also to consider the cautions necessary to guard against abuses ... aliens might acquire the right of citizenship, and return to the country from which they came, and evade the laws intended to encourage the commerce and industry of the real citizens and inhabitants of America, enjoying at the same time all the advantages of citizens..."

We affirm the integrity of the international borders of these United States and the Constitutional authority and duty of the federal government to guard and to protect those borders, including the regulation of the numbers and of the qualifications of immigrants into the country.

Each year approximately one million legal immigrants and almost as many illegal aliens enter these United States. These immigrants - including illegal aliens - have been made eligible for various kinds of public assistance, including housing, education, Social Security, and legal services. This unconstitutional drain on the federal Treasury is having a severe and adverse impact on our economy, increasing the cost of government at federal, state, and local levels, adding to the tax burden, and stressing the fabric of society. The mass importation of people with low standards of living threatens the wage structure of the American worker and the labor balance in our country. American citizens are being deprived of jobs and/or receive lower compensation than they might otherwise expect to receive and often deserve to be paid. It is impossible for many American owned and operated companies, especially service oriented companies which tend to be lower skilled jobs, to remain competitive in the marketplace if they pay employee wages in excess of those being paid by their competition which hire low paid illegal alien immigrant workers.

We oppose the abuse of the H-1B and L-1 visa provisions of the immigration act which are displacing American workers with foreign. We favor a moratorium on immigration to these United States, except in extreme hardship cases or in other individual special circumstances, until the availability of all federal subsidies and assistance be discontinued, and proper security procedures have been instituted to protect against terrorist infiltration.

We also insist that every individual group and/or private agency which requests the admission of an immigrant to the U.S, on whatever basis, be required to commit legally to provide housing and sustenance for such immigrants, bear full responsibility for the economic independence of the immigrants, and post appropriate bonds to seal such covenants.

The Constitution Party of Ohio demands that the federal government restore immigration policies based on the practice that potential immigrants will be disqualified from admission to the U.S. if, on the grounds of health, criminality, morals, or financial dependence, they would impose an improper burden on these United States, any state, or any citizen of these United States.

We oppose the provision of welfare subsidies and other taxpayer-supported benefits to illegal aliens, and reject the practice of bestowing U.S. citizenship on children born to illegal alien parents while in this country.

We oppose any extension of amnesty to illegal aliens. We call for the use of U.S. troops to protect the states against invasion.

We oppose bilingual ballots. We insist that those who wish to take part in the electoral process and governance of this nation be required to read and comprehend basic English as a precondition of citizenship. We support English as the official language for all governmental business by these United States.

Money and Banking

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 5 grants only to Congress the power "To coin Money [and] regulate the Value thereof", with no provision for such power to be delegated to any other group. Congress began immediately to fulfill this obligation with the Mint Act of 1792, establishing a US Mint for producing Gold and Silver based coin, prescribing the value and content of each coin, and affixing the penalty of death to those who debase such currency. Article 1, Section 10: "No State shall ... coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts." Thus, the Constitution forbade the States from accepting or using anything other than a Gold and Silver based currency.

Money functions as both a medium of exchange and a symbol of a nation's morality. The Founding Fathers established a system of "coin" money that was designed to prohibit the "improper and wicked" manipulation of the nation's medium of exchange while guaranteeing the power of the citizens' earnings. The federal government has departed from the principle of "coin" money as defined by the U.S. Constitution and the Mint Act of 1792 and has granted unconstitutional control of the nation's monetary and banking system to the private Federal Reserve System.

The Constitution Party of Ohio endorses a substantive reform of the system of Federal taxation. In order for such reform to be effective, it is necessary that these United States:

- § Return to the money system set forth in the Constitution;
- § Repeal the Federal Reserve Act, and reform the current Federal Reserve banks to become clearing houses only; and
- § Prohibit fractional reserve banking.

It is our intention that no system of "debt money" shall be imposed on the people of these United States. We support a debt free, interest free monetary system.

Personal and Private Property Security

The 4th Amendment states, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

The Fifth Amendment further protects property, by stating, "No person shall be ... deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."

We affirm the Fourth Amendment right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, including arbitrary or de facto registration, general and unwarranted electronic surveillance, national and/or private computer databases, and national identification cards. We also reaffirm that civil governments must be strictly limited in their powers to intrude upon the persons and private property of individual citizens, in particular, that no place be searched

and no thing be seized, except upon proof of probable cause that a crime has been committed and the proper judicial warrant issued.

We further reaffirm the common-law rule that protects the people from any search or seizure whatsoever when that search or seizure violates the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

We deplore and oppose vigorously legislation and executive action that deprive the people of their Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights under claims of necessity to "combat terrorism," to "protect national security," or to "protect the peace and maintain order in times of natural disasters."

We oppose legislation and administrative action utilizing asset forfeiture laws which enable the confiscation of the private property of persons not involved in the crime. Forfeiture of assets can only be enforced after conviction of the property owner as a penalty for the crime. Such forfeitures must follow full due process of law under criminal prosecution standards.

We oppose the monitoring and controlling of the financial transactions of the people through such proposed laws as "Know Your Customer." Banks should be repositories of treasure and fiduciaries for the people, not enforcers for the State. Any information regarding customer transactions the State obtains from banks must be subject to the traditional Fourth Amendment safeguards.

We support privacy legislation that prohibits private parties from discriminating against individuals who refuse to disclose or obtain a Social Security number. We also call for legislation prohibiting all governmental entities from requiring the use of the Social Security number except for Social Security transactions. Additionally, we call for the repeal of all laws, regulations, and statutes that require the use of the Social Security number for any purpose other than Social Security transactions.

We are totally opposed to the so called Patriot Act and call for its immediate repeal in full. We further oppose the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and its egregious assault on the personal liberties and freedoms of U.S. citizens and call for the immediate revocation, defunding, and cessation of this unconstitutional agency. We further call upon the governments at all levels to immediately disband the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) and immediately cease all vestiges of operations or any semblance thereof of this unconstitutional agency with its constant violation of the Fourth and Fifth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution in the name of national security.

Dr. Benjamin Franklin stated, "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." The Constitution Party of Ohio demands that the governments of the United States and the State of Ohio act immediately and decisively to remove these holographic semblances of security and return to "we the people" our essential liberties!

We further call upon the County Sheriffs in Ohio to uphold their oaths to the Constitution against all powers foreign and domestic, including our state and federal governments and their agencies along with those governments' and agencies' unconstitutional and therefore illegal directives, "laws," and other usurpations of the rights of the people.

While all law enforcement officials take essentially the same oath of office, and as such we call upon them to also uphold their oath of office to uphold the Constitution, the County Sheriff is the only enforcement official elected directly by the people they serve, therefore they are the highest ranking enforcement official. Thus, they have the duty, as well as the honor and privilege, of protecting the unalienable rights of the people that elected them, whether enumerated by the Constitution or not and we therefore call upon them to do their sworn duty.

Pornography

Samuel Adams said: "While the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but once they lose their virtue they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader." In his treatise, "Democracy in America," Alexis de Tocqueville stated, "I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers - and it was not there . . . in her fertile fields and boundless forests and it was not there . . . in her rich mines and her vast world commerce - and it was not there . . . in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution - and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great."

Pornography, at best, is a distortion of the true nature of sex created by God for the procreative union between one man and one woman in the holy bonds of matrimony, and at worst, is a destructive element of society resulting in significant and real emotional, physical, spiritual and financial costs to individuals, families and communities. We call on our local, state and federal governments to uphold our cherished First Amendment right to free speech by vigorously enforcing our laws against obscenity to maintain a degree of separation between that which is truly speech and that which only seeks to distort and destroy.

With the advent of the Internet and the benevolent neglect of the previous administrations, the pornography industry enjoyed uninhibited growth and expansion until the point today that we live in a sex-saturated society where almost nothing remains untainted by its perversion. While we believe in the responsibility of the individual and corporate entities to regulate themselves, we also believe that our collective representative body we call government plays a vital role in establishing and maintaining the highest level of decency in our community standards.

Religious Freedom

Article I of the Bill of Rights reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Our Constitution grants no authority to the federal or state governments either to grant or deny the religious expressions of the people in any place. Both the First and Tenth Amendments forbid such tyranny. We call upon all branches of the Ohio State government to uphold the religious liberties of the people regardless of the forum in which these liberties are exercised. The State must guard the 1st Amendment right of those in the pulpit to preach biblical truth in accordance with their convictions, including the right to preach against deviant lifestyles without fear of government retribution, notwithstanding the restriction of preaching sedition in violation of Article III, Section 3 – Treason, of the U.S. Constitution.

We assert that any form of taxation on churches and other religious organizations is a direct and dangerous step toward state control of the church. Such intrusion is prohibited by the Constitution and must be halted.

We assert the right of private organizations to determine their own membership, volunteers, and employment based on their oaths and creeds.

State Sovereignty

The 10th Amendment states, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

The Constitution delegated few, enumerated powers to the Federal Government, reserving all remaining powers to the States and the people. Thus, powers of the Federal were the exception. Our federal republic

was created by joint action of the several states. It has been gradually perverted into a socialist machine for federal control in the domestic affairs of the states. The federal government has no authority to mandate policies relating to state education, natural resources, transportation, private business, housing, and health care, ad infinitum.

We call upon the Governor, other State Officers and Officials, along with the Legislators of the State to collaborate with other states to reclaim their legitimate role in federal affairs and legislation and thus cause the federal government to divest itself of operations not authorized by the Constitution and extract the federal government from such enterprises.

Taxes

The Constitution, in Article I, Section 8, gives Congress the power "to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States." In Article I, Section 9, the original document made clear that "no Capitation, or other direct Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census of Enumeration herein before directed to be taken." It is moreover established that "No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State."

Since 1913, our Constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property have been abridged and diminished by the imposition on each of us of Federal income, payroll, and estate taxes. This is an unconstitutional Federal assumption of direct taxing authority. We propose legislation to abolish the Internal Revenue Service, and will veto any authorization, appropriation, or continuing resolution which contains any funding whatsoever for that illicit and unconstitutional agency. We are opposed to the flat-rate tax, national sales tax, and value added tax proposals that are being promoted as an improvement to the current tax system. The Sixteenth Amendment does not provide authority for an un-apportioned direct tax.

We propose to replace, with a tariff based revenue system supplemented by excise taxes, the current tax system of the U.S. government (including income taxes, payroll taxes, and estate taxes.)

To the degree that tariffs on foreign products, and excises, are insufficient to cover the legitimate Constitutional costs of the federal government, we will offer an apportioned "state-rate tax" in which the responsibility for covering the cost of unmet obligations will be divided among the several states in accordance with their proportion of the total population of these United States, excluding the District of Columbia. Thus, if a state contains 10 percent of the nation's citizens, it will be responsible for assuming payment of 10 percent of the annual deficit. We call upon the State of Ohio and its governments to support this Constitutional form of taxation that also serves to restore the State's Constitutional rights and power in relation to the Federal Government. The effect of this "state-rate tax" will be to encourage politicians to argue for less, rather than more, federal spending, and less state spending as well.

To the extent permitted by the Constitution, we believe that the taxation of corporations is an appropriate source of government revenue. The Supreme Court has defined "income" as a "gain or increase arising from corporate activity or privilege." People are not corporations, and corporations need not be treated as "people" for the purposes of taxation.

Terrorism and Personal Liberty

Amendment IV of the Constitution, part of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution known as the Bill of Rights, states, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

Amendment V states, "No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." Note there is no exception to these rights provided for war or public danger.

While Article 1, Section 9, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution provides that "The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it," the "Threat of Terrorism" has not been deemed to be a rebellion or an invasion.

America is engaged in an undeclared war with an ill-defined enemy (terrorism), a war which threatens to be never ending, and which is being used to vastly expand government power, particularly that of the executive branch, at the expense of the individual liberties of the American people. The "war on terrorism" is serving as an excuse for the government to spend beyond its income, expand the Federal bureaucracy, and socialize the nation through taxpayer bailouts of the airlines, subsidies to the giant insurance corporations, and other Federal programs.

We deplore and vigorously oppose legislation and executive action that deprive the people of their rights secured under the Fourth and Fifth Amendments under the guise of "combating terrorism" or "protecting national security." Examples of such legislation are the National Security Act, the USA PATRIOT Act, and the proposed Domestic Securities Enhancement Act (colloquially known as "Patriot II"), and the Military Commissions Act.

The National Security Act is being used by the federal government as a shroud to prevent the American people and our elected officials from knowing how much and where our tax dollars are spent from covert operations around the world. The National Security Act prevents the release of Executive Orders and Presidential Decision Directives, e.g., PDD 25, to the American people and our elected representatives. Not only are many of these used to thwart justice in the name of national security, but some of the operations under this act may threaten our very national sovereignty.

The USA PATRIOT Act permits arrests without warrants and secret detention without counsel, wiretaps without court supervision, searches and seizures without notification to the individual whose property is invaded, and a host of other violations of the legal safeguards our nation has historically developed according to principles descending from the Fourth and Fifth Amendments.

Since we will no longer have a free nation while the federal government (or the governments of the several states, as the federal government may authorize) can violate our historic rights under such laws, we call for the rejection of all such laws and the ceasing of any such further proposals including the aforementioned Domestic Securities Enhancement Act.

The Constitution Party of Ohio is unalterably opposed to the criminal acts of terrorists, and their organizations, as well as the governments which condone them. Individuals responsible for acts of terrorism must be punished for their crimes, including the infliction of capital punishment where appropriate. In responding to terrorism, however, these United States must avoid acts of retaliation abroad which destroy innocent human lives, creating enmity toward these United States and its people; and in accord with the views of our Founding Fathers, we must disengage this nation from the international

entanglements which generate foreign hatred of these United States, and are used as the excuse for terrorist attacks on America and its people. The 'war on terrorism' is not a proper excuse for perpetual U.S. occupation of foreign lands, military assaults on countries which have not injured us, or perpetual commitment of taxpayer dollars to finance foreign governments.

Veterans

President George Washington stated: "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportionate to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country".

The Constitution Party of Ohio appreciates the contributions of our servicemen and veterans to the preservation of American freedom. We shall continue to recognize their contributions to the national welfare by supporting equitable pay and benefits to our military personnel, and generous health, education, and other benefits to veterans. We especially acknowledge the service of those who have served in combat, been wounded, or given their lives in defense of our nation, its liberties and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.

We therefore call upon both the U.S. and Ohio State Governments to provide for the adequate care of our service veterans, particularly those who have been disabled as a result of combat or other armed conflict in the defense of our country. We vigorously resist the attempt by any government agency to nullify or reduce earned benefits to veterans and their survivors, including but not limited to, compensation, pensions, education, and health care.

Wage and Price Control

The Declaration of Independence declares the purpose of Government is "to secure these Rights", these unalienable rights such as Liberty. Nothing in the Constitution, writings of the Founders, or in logic, can imagine a God-given right to earn a specific wage or buy at a specific price. We deny that civil government has the authority to set wages and prices; so doing is inconsistent with principles of individual liberty and the free market.

Welfare

The Declaration of Independence declares "all men ... are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights ...That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men" The Preamble of the US Constitution shows how these rights are to be secured including "provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare". Two clear distinctions should be made here: Provide implies actively and financially supporting, promote implies a more passive approach.

General Welfare is not the same as individual Welfare. General Welfare would benefit the people generally; individual Welfare targets a certain segment of society to benefit, such as the poor. Providing Individual Welfare is not authorized in the Constitution.

God, who endows us with life, liberty, property, and the right to pursue happiness, also exhorts individuals to care for the needy, the sick, the homeless, the aged, and those who are otherwise unable to care for themselves.

America's welfare crisis is a government-induced crisis. Government social and cultural policies have undermined the work ethic, even as the government's economic and regulatory policies have undermined the ability of our citizens to obtain work.

Charity, and provision of welfare to those in need, is not a Constitutional responsibility of the federal government. Under no circumstances should the taxpayers of these United States be obligated, under penalty of law through forced taxation, to assume the cost of providing welfare for other citizens. Neither should taxpayers be indentured to subsidize welfare for persons who enter these United States illegally.

The message of Christian charity is fundamentally at odds with the concept of welfare maintenance as a right. In many cases, welfare provisions by the Federal government are not only misdirected, but morally destructive. It is the intended purpose of civil government to safeguard life, liberty and property - not to redistribute wealth. Such redistribution is contrary to the Biblical command against theft.

Scripture (I Timothy 5) admonishes us to, "Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. Give the people these instructions, so that no one may be open to blame. Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

The Constitution Party of Ohio calls upon the State and local governments to promote caring for the welfare of those in need. At the same time, the governments should encourage this activity and responsibility take place at the lowest level of society and government beginning with individuals, families, churches, civic groups and other private organizations, encouraging them to fulfill their personal responsibility to help those in need without a reliance on government. If such circumstances or disaster requires governmental assistance, then such assistance should occur at the lowest level of government feasible but in no case should such assistance be provided above the state level of Government. As such, the Constitution Party of Ohio calls for the immediate cessation of all federal government welfare and disaster relief assistance programs and associated agencies with all such efforts being the sole responsibility of state and local governments. In addition, we call upon the lowest level of government feasible to be the primary provider of relief assistance.