

Republican Platform Draft 2012 (Adams version)

Introduction

Each plank of this proposed 2012 Maine Republican Platform is built upon President Reagan's reminder that "Man is not free unless government is limited." Failure to contain it as our servant has resulted in its becoming our master. It is a major reason why we are losing influence over our families, our schools, our economic system, our pocketbooks (taxes and inflation), our religious practices, our way of life. We intend this document to be a rallying point for those who see the danger and want to enlist in the war to save American exceptionalism. We trust that most Americans embrace these principles because the love of freedom is universal to each of us.

Preserving Freedom in America

- 1. Work together to defeat Barak Obama in the next Presidential election.**
- 2. Protect the American legal system from Sharia law.**
- 3. Insist on *adherence* to the state and federal constitutions by all who take the oath of office to uphold them,** including judges, members of the legislative and executive branches. Return to the full flowering of original intent, including:
 - The relationship of the states to the federal government (10th amendment)
 - The right to bear arms
 - Religious freedom (freedom *of* religion not freedom *from* religion)
 - Property rights
 - Freedom of speech (not political correctness)
 - Opposition to International treaties which impose personal constraints on Americans concerning issues such as free speech, property, religion, children, gun laws, maritime laws, "sustainable development" etc.
- 4. Secure the United States borders now and enforce existing immigration laws**
- 5. Secure the integrity of the voting system, including requiring voter ID**
- 6. Eliminate federal agencies and programs (examples the federal Department of Education, Department of Energy, and Obamacare) which impose mandates upon the states with no Constitutional authority.**
- 7. Uphold the free enterprise system (repeal legislation and regulation harmful to it.)**
 - Eliminate Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae and return to a free market mortgage system.
 - Get Government out of financing all student loans
- 8. Insist that Congress enjoy the same pension and insurance benefits as those who elect them.**

Preserving Freedom and Promoting Prosperity in Maine

- 1. Keep Maine's industrial forest base free of federal control.**
 - Oppose all attempts to establish a Maine Woods National Park.
- 2. Promote voter confidence in the Republican brand**
 - Give assurance to Maine voters that Republican candidates won't raise their taxes by urging all Republican candidates for state and national office to follow the example of Governor LePage and sign the Taxpayer Protection Pledge to "oppose and vote against all efforts to increase taxes."

3. Continue to enact state laws to allow Maine to be more competitive. Maine currently ranks 50th out of the 50 states (last in the nation) in the Forbes ranking of good places for business and careers.

- Pass an employees' freedom act (Right to Work law) to make sure that no Maine citizen is forced to join a union in order to hold a job.
- Aggressively pursue an energy policy for Maine which removes government obstacles to private development of energy resources.
- Conform the state tax code to the federal tax code.
- Reform the regulations and regulatory process having a negative impact and undue burden on private enterprise.
- Control spending at all levels of government to ensure fiscal stability for future generations.
- Through legislative action, gain control and accountability in state agencies headed by un-elected bureaucrats, such as the Maine State Housing Authority.
- Maine's regulatory mandates should not exceed the federal government's.
- Build upon the momentum begun by Governor LePage and the Republican-controlled House and Senate to promote jobs and economic growth.

4. Promote Maine's quality of life

- A respect for all life, from conception to end of life.
- Find ways to adopt the Maine concept of local control to Education and Welfare, thereby "devolving" back to the local level these two important functions which have become overwhelming in cost and have suffered under state and federal control.

5. We commend and congratulate Governor LePage, the Republican-led House and Senate, and the legislatively-elected State Treasurer, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State for the progress made in the first year of Republican control in over four decades. But first, we must thank the voters of Maine who, in the General Election of 2010 elected a Republican Governor and a majority of Republican House and Senate candidates to serve and begin the work of restoring Maine. Among the accomplishments:

- They enacted the largest tax cut in Maine history, with a cut of \$150 million in the first two years and \$500 million over four years.
- They removed 70,000 of Maine's lowest income families from the tax rolls.
- Increased the death tax exemption
- Allotted \$31 million to relieve the tax burden of job creators.
- Ended Maine's status as a sanctuary state, turning off the magnet that drew illegal aliens to the state.
- Terminated most benefits for illegal aliens already in the state.
- Imposed a drug test requirement for welfare recipients convicted of drug crimes
- Enacted stricter sanctions for violations of welfare rules and set a 5-year cap on welfare eligibility.
- Paid the \$248 million owed to Maine's hospitals
- Reduced the state's unfunded pension liabilities by \$1.7 billion (41%)
- Reformed health insurance
- Guided by the Red Tape workshops held with 1,000 job creators, the legislature passed LD 1 to reform the state's dysfunctional regulatory system.
- A Red Tape hotline has been established within the Dept of Economic Development