

# Report of 2018 Permanent Platform & Resolutions Committee

## 2018 Permanent Platform Committee Members

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**1 Preamble** 2 1. Affirming our belief in God, we still hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, 3 that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, 4 and the Pursuit of Happiness. Throughout the world, people dare to dream of freedom and opportunity. 5 The Republican Party of Texas unequivocally defends that dream. We strive to preserve the freedom 6 given to us by God, implemented by our Founding Fathers, and embodied in the Constitution. We 7 recognize that the traditional family is the strength of our nation. It is our solemn duty to protect innocent 8 life and develop responsible citizens. We understand that our economic success depends upon free 9 market principles. If we fail to maintain our sovereignty, we risk losing the freedom to live these ideals. 10 **Principles**

11 2. We, the 2018 Republican Party of Texas, believe in this platform and expect our elected leaders to 12 uphold these truths through acknowledgment and action. We believe in: 13 3. 1) "The laws of nature and nature's God," and we support the strict adherence to the original 14 language and intent of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitutions of the United States 15 and of Texas. 16 4. 2) The sanctity of innocent human life, created in the image of God, which should be protected 17 from fertilization to natural death. 18 5. 3) Preserving American and Texas sovereignty and freedom. 19 6. 4) Limiting government power to those items enumerated in the United States and Texas 20 Constitutions. 21

7. 5) Personal accountability and responsibility.

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8. 6) Self-sufficient families, founded on the traditional marriage of a natural man and a natural 22 woman. 23

9. 7) Having an educated population, with parents having the freedom of choice for the education of 24 their children. 25

10. 8) The inalienable right of all people to defend themselves and their property. 26

11. 9) A free enterprise society unencumbered by government interference or subsidies. 27

12. 10) Honoring all of those that serve and protect our freedom. 28

## **Business, Commerce, and Transportation 29**

13. Carbon Tax: We oppose all efforts to classify carbon dioxide as a pollutant. We further urge the US 30 Senate to defeat the “Cap-and-Trade” legislation, as it is outside the authority of the US Constitution. 31  
**[Federal]** 32

14. Counseling and Therapy: No laws or executive orders shall be imposed to limit or restrict access to 33 sexual orientation [change] counseling for self-motivated youth and adults. **[State]** 34

15. Energy Production: We support free-market solutions and immediate removal of government barriers 35 and direct subsidies to the production, reformulation, refining, and distribution of energy. **[Federal/State]** 36

16. Environment: We oppose environmentalism that obstructs legitimate business interests and private 37 property use, including the regulatory taking of property by governmental agencies. We oppose the abuse 38 of the Endangered Species Act to confiscate and limit the use of personal property and infringement on a 39 property owner’s livelihood. “Climate change” is a political agenda promoted to control every aspect of our 40 lives. We support the defunding of “climate justice” initiatives, the abolition of the Environmental Protection 41 Agency, and repeal of the Endangered Species Act. **[Federal/State]** 42

17. Ethanol: We support the repeal of legislation mandating ethanol as a fuel additive and/or primary fuel. 43  
**[Federal]** 44

18. Government Accountability: We call upon the State Legislature to eliminate all special collective 45 bargaining statutes for public employees and to hold all public servants accountable to taxpayers through 46 existing civil statutes. We oppose any distribution of taxpayer dollars to unions. **[Federal/State/Local]** 47

19. Hemp: We recognize industrial hemp as a valuable agricultural commodity. We urge the Texas 48 Legislature to pass legislation allowing cultivation, manufacture, and sale of industrial hemp and hemp 49 products. **[State]** 50

20. Insurance: We encourage free-market solutions for providing utilities whenever possible. We support 51 that all types of insurance rates, to include (but not limited to) health, life, title, auto, and homeowner’s 52 insurance, should be set through free-market forces alone. **[State]** 53

21. Windstorm Association: We urge the Texas Legislature to phase out the Texas Windstorm Insurance 54 Association to reduce the liabilities it imposes on state taxpayers. **[State]** 55

22. International Organizations: We support United States withdrawal from the International Monetary 56 Fund, the World Trade Organization, and the World Bank. **[Federal]** 57

**23. Intrastate Commerce:** We believe that goods and services that are not transported across state lines 58 should not be subject to federal regulations. **[Federal]** 59

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**24. Licensing:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to review all business/professional licensing programs 60 and associated licensing for boards for the purpose of abolishing as many as reasonably possible and 61 repealing those laws, rules, and regulations that exist merely to generate revenue from the licensing 62 process. **[Texas]** 63

**25. Minimum Wage:** We believe the Minimum Wage Act should be repealed. **[Federal]** 64

**26. Municipal Preemption:** We encourage the Legislature to preempt local government efforts to interfere 65 with the State's sovereignty over business, employees, and property rights. This includes but is not limited 66 to burdensome regulations on short-term rentals, bags, sick leave, trees, and employee criminal 67 screening. We support preemption of city ordinances that dictate sick leave policies to private businesses. 68 **[Local]** 69

**27. Oil and Gas Producing Counties:** Counties with oil and gas production, and adjacent counties, should 70 receive a portion of the production taxes the state collects so that the road system can be maintained for 71 the dual purpose of accommodating the needs of the industry and providing adequate public safety. 72 **[Local]** 73

**28. Power Grid:** We urge that the Texas Legislature pass legislation to harden the Texas Electric Grid 74 against: 75

1. Cyber attacks on the grid's computerized command and control system. 76 2.  
Physical attacks on substations and major high voltage transformers. 77 3.  
Geomagnetic storms created by solar flares from the sun. 78 4. Electromagnetic  
Pulse (EMP). 79 **[State]** 80

**29. Practice Law:** We support allowing any person to sit for the Texas State Bar Exam regardless of 81 where he or she received their law education, as long as criminal and ethical background requirements 82 are met. **[State]** 83

**30. Prevailing Wage:** We oppose prevailing wage laws. **[State]** 84

**31. Regulatory Burden:** We support action by the Texas Legislature clarifying existing state law without 85 attaching new taxes or fees to the fantasy sports industry, which would grow the size and scope of 86 government. 87

**32. Blue Laws:** We urge the Texas Legislature to eliminate antiquated "Blue Laws." 88

**33. Dodd-Frank:** We support the immediate repeal of Dodd-Frank legislation. 89

**34. Three-Tier Alcohol System:** We urge the Texas Legislature to adopt legislation eliminating the 90 mandatory three-tier system of alcohol production, distribution, and retail. Texans should have the 91 freedom to purchase alcohol directly from manufacturers, just as any other retail product. 92

**35. Regulating the Internet:** We oppose all efforts to further regulate the internet in the United States or 93 internationally. 94

**36. Sarbanes-Oxley:** In light of the high compliance costs imposed by the Sarbanes-Oxley regulations 95 and the destructive effects this law has had on innovation and capital formation, we support repeal of the 96 Sarbanes-Oxley legislation. 97

**37. Retirement Accounts:** We support the repeal of the required minimum disbursement from retirement 98 accounts and inheritances. 99

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**38. Social Security Opt-Out:** We support reform to Social Security that allows people to opt out. 100

**39. Rural and Volunteer Fire Departments:** We urge Congress to overturn the rules of the United States 101 Department of Labor restricting volunteerism by paid firefighters and emergency medical technician 102 personnel and support protections similar to those provided to National Guardsmen for service during 103 declared emergencies. 104

**40. Small Business:** We urge the federal and state legislatures to reduce regulations on small businesses 105 and home-based work. 106

**41. Smart Meters:** The Republican Party of Texas supports a no-cost opt-out for all Texas electric utility 107 customers, and the phaseout of smart meters (aka Advanced Meter Infrastructure), to be replaced with 108 mechanical, non-transmitting analog meters when software upgrades are required or the computer smart 109 meters require replacement due to mechanical failure or model upgrade requirements. 110

**42. Tidelands/Water Resources and Rights to State Waters:** We demand that the State of Texas and all 111 coastal states enjoy and maintain jurisdiction and control of their offshore waters up to the international 112 water boundaries as well as state inland waterways in regards to all natural resources therein, and that the 113 federal government shall not set limits on harvesting or taking natural resources therein, nor allow foreign 114 entities to harvest or take such natural resources therein, including minerals, game, fisheries, and 115 hydrocarbons. Also, we demand that no entity shall usurp Texas's original tideland boundaries. 116

**43. Trade Agreements:** We support free trade as a necessary component of American capitalism and of 117 the United States' influence in the world. We strongly oppose the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment 118 Partnership (TTIP), the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA), and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). We 119 demand the immediate withdrawal from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the 120 Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). We demand the repeal of the current Fast Track 121 Authority/TPA. 122

**44. Toll Roads:** We believe that tolls should come off the road when the debt is retired, and if the debt is 123 ever restructured or refinanced, the pay-off date needs to remain the same or receive voter approval in 124 order to extend the toll tax longer. Maintenance should then revert to the Texas Department of 125 Transportation (TxDOT). We oppose public-private partnerships, specifically regarding toll projects. We 126 oppose conversion of existing roads or lanes to toll roads. 127

**45. Toll Projects:** We oppose the use of taxpayer money to subsidize, guarantee, prop up, or bail out any 128 toll projects, whether public or private, and we call upon both state and federal lawmakers to adequately 129 fund our highways without hidden taxes, tolls, or raiding emergency funds. 130

**46. Vehicle Inspection:** No non-commercial vehicles should be required to obtain a state safety 131 inspection. 132

**47. Vehicle Registration:** Vehicle registration should only be a one-time occurrence at the point of sale. 133

**48. Vehicle Sales:** We support allowing consumers in Texas to be able to purchase automotive vehicles 134 directly from manufacturers. 135

**49. Unions:** We support legislation requiring labor unions to obtain consent of the union member before 136 that member's dues can be used for political purposes. We oppose card check. Texas should prohibit 137 governmental entities from collecting dues for labor unions through deductions from public employee 138 paychecks. We also encourage the adoption of a National Right to Work Act. 139

**50. Water Rights:** While we support the decision by the Texas Supreme Court in preserving individuals' 140

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rights to their groundwater under their property and their right to capture it, we support tying surface rights 141 of ownership to groundwater rights of ownership. We support regulations that may put limits on a person's 142 capture and use of groundwater if such use will negatively impact adjoining owners' use of their 143 groundwater for private wells, their water supply, or agricultural use. 144

**51. Flooding Mitigation, Hurricane, and Early Warning of Impending Disaster:** We support the immediate 145 study, implementation, and construction of projects that will: 146

1. Address river, bayou, reservoir, and other flood threats to public and private property. 147 2. Seek the input of those most likely to be affected by a casualty to public and private property, to 148 include infrastructure and facilities that affect national security. 149 3. Address the risk of storm or tidal surge that affects the critical industries along the Gulf Coast. 150 4. Immediately create an early warning system that will immediately alert residents to an impending 151 flood, wind, or casualty weather event. 152 5. Establish regional Flood Control Districts where necessary for counties to resolve joint flooding 153 issues. 154 6. Provide for funds to complete these projects from federal, state, and local funds, to include 155 specifically targeted taxes for the purpose and never for any other purpose. 156 We strongly urge that the Republican Party of Texas make this a legislative priority for the 2019 157 Legislature. Government at all levels must work together to avoid the historical bent to push projects, 158 safety, and implementation into the future. Projects must be of most urgent priority now in order to avoid 159 further trauma; loss of life; loss of personal, government, and business wealth; and diminution of the tax 160 base. 161

**52. Workers Compensation:** We urge the Legislature to resist making workers' compensation mandatory 162 for all Texas employers. 163

## **Constitutional Issues** 164

**53. Keep Oath to the Constitution:** The Republican Party of Texas calls for all who swear the oath to 165 support and maintain the limitations and clear meaning of the United States Constitution. 166

**54. Article V Convention of States:** We reaffirm our support for our Texas State Legislators' call for a 167 limited Article V Convention of States for the specific purpose of reducing the power of the federal 168 government, including fiscal responsibility, balanced budget, and term limits. Any proposed amendments 169 must be ratified by three-fourths of the states. 170

**55. State Sovereignty:** Pursuant to Article 1 Section 1 of the Texas Constitution, the federal government 171 has impaired our right of local self-government. Therefore, federally mandated legislation that infringes 172 upon the 10th Amendment rights of Texas, should be ignored, opposed, refused, and nullified. Regulation 173 of Commerce in Article I Section 8 of the Constitution has exceeded the original intent. All attempts by the 174 federal judiciary to rule in areas not expressly enumerated by the United States Constitution should be 175 likewise nullified. Any federal enforcement activities that do occur in Texas should be conducted under the 176 authority of the county sheriff. (SCOTUS Ruling in 1997 Mack-Prinz vs. US) 177

**56. United States Senators:** We support the repeal of the 17th Amendment of the United States 178 Constitution and the appointment of United States Senators by the state legislatures. 179

**57. Affirmative Action:** We believe in equal opportunity for all citizens without regard to race or gender. 180 We believe in Martin Luther King's dream of a color-blind society. 181

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**58. Equal Rights Amendment:** We call upon the 86th Texas Legislature to adopt a resolution clarifying 182 that the 1972 ratification by the 62nd Texas Legislature of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the 183 United States Constitution was valid only through March 22, 1979. 184

**59. Census:** In accordance with Article I Section 2 of the United States Constitution, we support an actual 185 count of United States citizens only, and oppose Census Bureau estimates and the collection of all other 186 data. 187

**60. Recall Elections:** We support the right to recall our elected officials. 188

**61. Executive Orders:** We call upon the President of the United States to revoke all of President Obama's 189 executive orders that violate our platform. 190

**62. Family Values:** We support the affirmation of traditional Judeo-Christian family values and oppose the 191 continued assault on those values. 192

**63. Flag Desecration:** We call for a constitutional amendment banning desecration of the flag. 193

**64. National Sovereignty:** We will not enter any agreements with foreign countries or entities that violate 194 our Constitution. 195

**65. No Taxes for UN:** We condemn any mechanism that allows US citizens to be taxed in order to fund 196 the UN. 197

**66. Defending Sovereignty:** The United States is and must remain a sovereign nation independent of all 198 foreign entities, with power held solely by the people. Therefore, we insist that the President and Congress 199 defend our national sovereignty in accordance with their oaths of office. The United States government 200 must remain free of all external control and influence. 201

**67. Preservation of Republican Form of Government:** We support our republican form of government as 202 set forth in the Texas Bill of Rights. We oppose initiative and referendum. We oppose socialism in any 203 form. We support the Texas Legislature and the United States Congress in enacting legislation that 204 prohibits any judicial jurisdiction from allowing any substitute or parallel system of law, specifically foreign 205 law (including Sharia Law), which is not in accordance with the United States or Texas Constitutions. We 206 further resolve that all amendments to the Texas Constitution require a majority of the voters in at least 207 191 counties (three-fourths), instead of a simple majority of the votes. 208

**68. American Law for American Courts:** No foreign law or international edict shall preempt the United 209 States Constitution or the Texas Constitution, or be used as the basis for any decision, except required by 210 contract between the individual parties. 211

**69. Right to Self-Defense:** We affirm that lawful gun ownership and carry by the people protects us from 212 those who wish to do harm and guards against tyranny by our own government. We call upon our elected 213 officials to resist the narrative that the solution to every problem is less freedom and more regulation, and 214 instead pursue policies that respect freedom while also increasing safety. 215

**70. Constitutional Carry:** We support constitutional carry legislation through any legislative means so law- 216 abiding citizens may carry any legally owned guns openly or concealed, while maintaining the option of a 217 permit for reciprocity purposes only. 218

**71. Intrastate Protection Act:** We support an Intrastate Protection Act to clarify that guns made and sold 219 in Texas are not subject to the Interstate Commerce Clause of the US Constitution, and legislation 220 denying state funding to any state or local agencies that enforce federal weapons laws not also affirmed 221 by the laws of the State of Texas 222

**72. Gun-Free Zones:** We oppose governmental prohibitions on citizens who have a constitutional right to 223 own and carry firearms and knives from doing so. We oppose state-mandated location restrictions, the 224 federal Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990, and the National Firearms Act. 225

**73. Red Flag:** We oppose monitoring programs, including the Red Flag (that would deprive someone of 226 their right to keep and bear arms without being convicted of a crime or found mentally incompetent by a 227 medical

psychiatric professional) or iWatch proposals, and any program that causes gun owners to be 228 investigated by law enforcement or appear before a judge when there is no reasonable cause of a crime 229 committed. We oppose increased background checks, as they are highly prone to “false positives” and 230 hinder law-abiding citizens’ ability to defend themselves, rather than reduce crime. 231

**74. Firearms Storage:** We oppose mandates on personal firearms storage, maintaining that it is the 232 responsibility of an individual to safely store his or her firearms and choose responsibly when and how to 233 make them available to minors. 234

**75. Weapons Restrictions:** We support all legislation and policies that reduce restrictions on legal gun 235 owners to purchase, own, or carry any type of gun, ammunition, accessory, knife, or other weapons, and 236 oppose all that hinder the same. 237

**76. Amend Texas Constitution:** We call for the Texas Legislature to propose to the people of Texas a 238 constitutional amendment to strike the following words from Article I Section 23 of the Texas Constitution: 239 “but the Legislature shall have power, by law, to regulate the wearing of arms, with a view to prevent 240 crime.” 241

**77. Responsible Gun Owners:** We call upon gun owners of Texas to regulate themselves through 242 exercising safe handling procedures, voluntarily receiving training and helping others to train others, and 243 safely carrying firearms as a deterrent to crime. 244

**78. Gun Owner Age:** We believe law-abiding citizens 18 years and older have the right to purchase, 245 possess, and carry firearms, including hand guns. 246

**79. National Reciprocity:** We support national reciprocity and call upon Congress to pass it. 247

**80. TSA:** We urge Congress to abolish the TSA. 248

**81. Term Limits:** We support term limits of twelve years for federal and state offices. 249

**82. Unfunded Mandates:** Unfunded mandates are unacceptable. Therefore, the State of Texas must fully 250 fund the cost of indigent criminal defense, as it has cost local taxpayers \$2.4 billion since its passage in 251 2001. 252

**83. Texas Speaker Issues:** Republicans in the Texas House should select their Speaker nominee by 253 secret ballot in a binding caucus without Democrat influence. 254

**84. The Rights of a Sovereign People:** The Republican Party of Texas supports the historic concept, 255 established by our nation’s founders, of limited civil government jurisdiction under the natural laws of God, 256 and we oppose the concept that the state is sovereign over the affairs of men, the family, and the church. 257 We believe that government properly exists by the consent of the governed and must be restrained from 258 intruding into the freedoms of its citizens. The function of government is not to grant rights, but to protect 259 the unalienable, God-given rights of life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness of all, including the 260 unborn. Texans should be free to express their religious beliefs, including prayer, in public places. 261



**85. Habeas Corpus:** We oppose any bill or provision that would suspend habeas corpus for American 262 citizens, except as addressed by the US Constitution. 263

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**86. War Powers:** Congress shall not abdicate the war powers to the executive branch except when under 264 imminent threat and not to be used as a preemptive strike unless approved by Congress. 265

## **Criminal and Civil Justice** 266

**87. Abortion Homicide Exemption:** We support repeal of the physician homicide exemption of the Texas 267 Penal Code Section 19.06 unless it is absolutely required to save the life of the mother. 268

**88. Parents' Rights:** We support legislation ensuring that the parents' rights to raise and educate their 269 children are protected in Texas law as a fundamental, constitutional right and that there is a presumption 270 that fit parents act in the best interest of their children. So long as the parent is fit, there will normally be no 271 reason for the state to interject in the private realm of the family to question the ability of that parent to 272 make the best decisions concerning the rearing of that child. 273

**89. CPS:** We call for the eventual abolishment of CPS, and in the interim we support reform and any 274 legislation that would support due process in family court proceedings, and we fully support a jury 275 determining the outcome of any case if requested by either party. 276

**90. Capital Punishment:** Properly applied capital punishment is legitimate, is an effective deterrent, and 277 should be reasonably swift and unencumbered. 278

**91. Police Appreciation and Accountability:** We express our gratitude and appreciation for police officers, 279 first responders, armed forces, and veterans. And furthermore we support local law enforcement agencies 280 and associated personnel to the extent local and state police officers are properly and adequately trained 281 and supervised or otherwise internally and individually held accountable for any conduct that is found to 282 violate state law or the Texas State Constitution. 283

**92. No Jail for Non-jailable Offenses:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to end the practice of jailing 284 individuals for offenses for which jail is not an allowable consequence under the law. 285

**93. Obscenity Exemption:** We urge repeal of the Texas Penal Code "Obscenity Exemption" that allows 286 children access to harmful, explicit, or pornographic materials under the guise of education materials. 287

**94. Civil Asset Forfeiture:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to abolish civil asset forfeiture and to 288 ensure private property only be forfeited upon a criminal conviction. We also request the State Party Chair 289 and the SREC consider the abolishment of civil asset forfeiture as a legislative priority for the Republican 290 Party of Texas for the 2019 legislative session and to utilize reasonable Party resources necessary to 291 promote and support its passage. 292

**95. Driver Responsibility Program:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to abolish the Driver 293 Responsibility Program and to immediately restore the driver licenses of the citizens whose licenses were 294 suspended by the DRP and to cancel their debt. 295

**96. Administrative Justice:** Citizens have a right to full participation in administrative law processes and 296 courts not of record. 297

**97. Victims of Human Trafficking:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to amend the Code of Criminal 298 Procedure to allow victims of human trafficking to have convictions within the previous five years for 299 prostitution offenses set aside, if they received these convictions as a direct result of being trafficked. 300

**98. Government Surveillance:** We oppose all forms of warrantless government surveillance of United 301 States citizens and businesses. 302

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**99. Freedom Act and Government Spying:** We support the repeal of the Freedom Act. Spying on law- 303 abiding Americans must stop immediately. We support court-ordered warrants on an individual basis in 304 cases directly involving national security. 305

**100. Written or Recorded Consent:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to require officers to get written or 306 recorded consent (i.e., body cams) to conduct a search and inform motorists that they can decline to give 307 such consent. 308

**101. Location and Data Privacy:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to protect citizens' current and 309 historic technologically available location data by requiring a warrant based on probable cause for 310 governments to request access, except in the case of an immediate, life-threatening situation. We also call 311 on the Texas Legislature to require appropriate policies regarding the disclosure of data collection when 312 no criminal case is filed. 313

**102. Hate Crimes:** We urge the complete repeal of the hate crimes laws, since ample laws are currently in 314 effect to punish criminal behavior towards other persons. 315

**103. Right to See Charge:** Defendants charged with violating a governmental regulation should have the 316 right to see the enabling law. 317

**104. Indefinite Detention:** We oppose the indefinite detention of United States citizens without due 318 process. We urge our government to terminate detention without due process, including, but not limited to, 319 any military enforcement of federal law within the State of Texas, under NDAA Sections 1021 and 1022. 320

**105. Juries:** We support the right to privacy and security of prospective jurors. Courts must show 321 relevance in questioning jurors and balance the prospective juror's right to privacy and lawyers' need to 322 know. We support the right to inform the jurors of their common law power to judge law (jury nullification), 323 as well as the evidence, and to vote on the verdict according to their conscience. 324

**106. Frivolous Lawsuits:** We support further reform to discourage frivolous lawsuits. We oppose the 325 abusive use of class action lawsuits. 326

**107. Civil Penalty:** We support a change in the law to make it a civil, and not a criminal, offense for legal 327 adults only to possess one ounce or less of marijuana for personal use, punishable by a fine of up to \$100, 328 but without jail time. 329

**108. Marriage Officiation:** We believe religious institutions have the freedom to recognize and perform only 330 those marriages that are consistent with their doctrine. 331

**109. Law Enforcement Equipment:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to implement reporting and training 332 standards to disclose how much military-grade material is sent to local law enforcement under the 333 Department of Defense's 1033 program and ensure that it is being used appropriately, and to require the 334 local governing authority over a police force to approve, by vote, an application or grant request prior to 335 the request being made to a federal agency. 336

**110. Photo Enforcement Cameras:** We urge the Texas Legislature to enact legislation for the statewide 337 ban of all photo enforcement ticket cameras, such as red-light cameras, speed cameras, and external- 338 facing cameras on buses. 339

**111. Raise the Age:** We call upon the Legislature to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 17 to 18 340 years. 341

**112. Abby's Law:** We believe that rape victims should gain justice for the sexual assault crimes committed 342 against them within 90 days, that Texas will rightly prioritize the inalienable right of the victims' safety and 343

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justice, and that Texas will establish a standard protocol to be followed in regards to claims of sexual 344 assault, and the funding of rape kit processing where the assailant is unknown will be continuous with 345 mandatory annual reporting to ensure that the money is being allocated for this intent. 346

**113. Warrant Validity:** The filers of search warrants should be held responsible for the validity of the 347 information used to obtain the warrants. 348

**114. Unborn Child Protection:** We believe that a person who injures or kills an unborn child should be 349 subject to criminal and civil litigation. 350

**115. Debtor's Prison:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to enact laws that end the incarceration of 351 individuals because they cannot pay tickets, fines, and fees for Class C Misdemeanors, including traffic 352 violations. 353

## **Education** 354

**116. Campus Speech:** We urge the Texas Legislature to recognize the rights of those on college 355 campuses to

practice their faith and their right to free speech. We further urge that the Texas Legislature 356 write legislation to protect the right of anyone who steps onto college campuses, to prohibit college 357 campuses from stripping away their First Amendment rights of free speech and practicing their religion. 358 We support withdrawal of public funding from any college or university within this state that actively or 359 passively discriminates or permits discrimination against the free speech of either students or guest 360 speakers. Student groups shall have the unfettered right to elect their leaders, choose their members, and 361 set their organization's mission, purpose, and standard of conduct. **[Federal, State]** 362

**117. Foreign Charter Schools:** Charter schools should have accountability and transparency to local 363 parents, taxpayers, and the State of Texas, as do current public schools, including United States 364 citizenship of public school trustees. We oppose public funding of charter schools that receive money from 365 foreign entities. We urge the Texas Legislature to enact legislation that requires charter school operators 366 to be American citizens. **[State]** 367

**118. Supporting Military Families in Education:** Existing truancy laws conflict with troop deployments. We 368 believe that truancy laws should be amended to allow a 5-day absence prior to deployments. We support 369 the waiver of out-of-state tuition for any dependent of military personnel stationed in Texas. **[State, Local]** 370

**119. Abolish Department of Education:** Since education is not an enumerated power of the federal 371 government, we believe the Department of Education should be abolished, and prohibit the transfer of any 372 of its functions to any other federal agency. **[Federal]** 373

**120. School Health Advisory Councils:** Until the legislature removes sex education from the curriculum of 374 public schools, the State of Texas should adopt changes to Texas Education Code 28.004 to require every 375 member of the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) to be appointed by the Board of Trustees; require 376 every school district to post SHAC meeting minutes, full and fair disclosure of the contents of the human 377 sexuality instruction, and proposed changes to health education; close loopholes and prohibit 378 contraception distribution and demonstration; and expand the grievance process to cover the entire 379 section of Texas Education Code 28.004. **[State, Local]** 380

**121. Sexual Education:** We demand the State Legislature pass a law prohibiting the teaching of sex 381 education, sexual health, or sexual choice, or identity in any public school in any grade whatsoever, or 382 disseminating or permitting the dissemination by any party of any material regarding the same. All school 383 districts, individual schools, or charter schools are prohibited from contracting with or making any payment 384

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to any third party for material concerning any of the above topics. Until this prohibition goes into effect, 385 sexual education shall only utilize sexual risk avoidance programs and promote abstinence outside of 386 marriage. **[State, Local]** 387

**122. Extracurricular Opportunities:** We encourage nonpublic school parents to create extracurricular 388 opportunities for their children where they are not readily available and in a manner that they can be free 389 from discriminatory testing, intrusive government oversight, or harmful school policies regarding mixed- 390

gender students in bathrooms and locker rooms. We encourage the Legislature to find ways to allow 391 nonpublic school students' participation.<sup>ii</sup> Any homeschool student that does not participate will be 392 unaffected. **[State, Local]** 393

**123. Religious Freedom and Public Schools:** We urge school administrators and officials not to infringe on 394 Texas school students' and staffs' rights to pray and engage in religious speech, individually or in groups, 395 on school property without government interference. We urge the Legislature to end censorship of 396 discussion of religion in our founding documents and encourage discussing those documents, including 397 the Bible as their basis. Students and district personnel have the right to display religious items on school 398 property. **[State, Local]** 399

**124. Special Treatment:** Our state universities and public schools shall not make special concessions 400 based on religious practices that create undue burdens and costs for the institution. **[State, Local]** 401

**125. Equal Access:** All Texas students shall have equal access to all state-supported grants, scholarships, 402 and loans, based upon measurable academic criteria. Illegal aliens shall not be eligible for state or federal 403 grants. We support the suspension of federal funding from universities that prohibit military recruitment on 404 campus. We support Texas college admissions based solely on merit. **[State]** 405

**126. Tenure:** We support certification of tenure requirements every five years to maintain the quality of the 406 teaching staff. **[State]** 407

**127. College Tuition:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to take reasonable measures to curtail tuition 408 increases. The Legislature should pass a law clearing the way for all Texas public universities to adopt at 409 least one applied major through the "Affordable Baccalaureate Program." **[State, Local]** 410

**128. Student Loans:** Congress shall amend the law governing the underwriting of student loans to require 411 that the amount of cumulative loans guaranteed for any individual by any government program shall be 412 less than or equal to one year of the average annual earnings actually paid in the marketplace by those 413 with that degree. **[Federal]** 414

**129. In-State College Tuition:** We oppose in-state college tuition for illegal aliens. **[State]** 415

**130. Juvenile Daytime Curfew:** We strongly oppose juvenile daytime curfews. We believe truancy laws or 416 harassment by any school district, education agency, or child protective services employee are a real 417 threat to our liberty, and we will defend the educational liberties we have gained in Texas with diligence 418 and urgency. **[State, Local]** 419

**131. Local Control for Education:** We believe that all children should have access to quality education. 420 Under the US Constitution, the power to regulate education is reserved exclusively to the States and to the 421 people. Parents have the primary right and responsibility to educate their children. The classroom should 422 be a place where all viewpoints are welcomed, free speech is celebrated, and "person before politics" 423 beliefs are preached. We support the right of parents to freely choose public, charter, private, parochial, or 424 homeschooling for their children. We support the right of parents to choose the specific public school that 425 their children attend. No child should be forced to attend a failing school. We reject the imposition of 426 federal education standards

and the tying of any government funding to the adoption of federal education 427

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standards. We reject the intrusion of government in private, parochial, or homeschools. We affirm that the 428 policies, procedures, activities, and finances of public education in Texas at all levels should be fully 429 transparent. To ensure transparency, the check register of all traditional school districts and charter 430 schools should be posted online with the link on the home page. We respect parental authority regarding 431 sex education. We believe that abortion providers and affiliates should be prohibited from providing any 432 curriculum or instruction in schools. **[State, Local]** 433

**132.** Elected SBOE: We believe that the SBOE should continue to be an elected body consisting of fifteen 434 members. Their responsibilities must include: 435

1. Appointing the Commissioner of Education. 436 2. Maintaining constitutional authority over the Permanent School Fund. 437 3. Maintaining sole authority over all curricula content. 438 4. The state adoption of all educational materials. This process must include public hearings. 439 The SBOE should be minimally staffed out of general revenue. **[State]** 440

**133.** School Options: Texas families should be empowered to choose from public, private, charter, or 441 homeschool options for their children's education, using tax credits or exemptions without government 442 restraints or intrusion. **[State, Local]** 443

**134.** Basic Standards: The educational system should focus on basic standards which include, but are not 444 limited to a curriculum of reading (with an emphasis on phonics), spelling, writing, civics, the arts, music, 445 literature, mathematics, science, geography, economics, and United States and world history. We 446 encourage teaching critical thinking skills, including logic, rhetoric, and analytical sciences within these 447 subjects. **[State, Local]** 448

**135.** Scientific Theories: We support objective teaching of scientific theories, such as life origins and 449 environmental change. These should be taught as challengeable scientific theories subject to change as 450 new data is produced. Teachers and students should be able to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of 451 these theories openly and without fear of retribution or discrimination of any kind. **[State, Local]** 452

**136.** National Core Curriculum: We oppose the use of national or international standards in the State of 453 Texas (i.e., Common Core, CSCOPE, United Nations Inclusion, etc.) We also oppose the modification of 454 college entrance exams to reflect any national core philosophies. Any school district that violates state law 455 banning the use of a national core curriculum or standards shall lose all state funding until said curricula or 456 standards are removed and no longer utilized in classrooms. **[Federal, State, Local]** 457

**137.** Textbook Approval and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS): The Texas Education Code 458 (TEC) must be amended to empower the State Board of Education (SBOE) to require each school district 459 that adopts non-state-approved instructional materials to conform to the SBOE higher approval process to 460 protect citizens' right to petition, correct factual errors, prevent corruption, and fulfill legislative intent in the 461 TEC. Local school district boards must hold public hearings prior to adoption on such materials, and 462 citizens should have

access to review classroom materials upon request at any time. We encourage the 463 Texas Legislature to develop a review and compliance process to ensure that Texas's local school 464 districts' curriculum complies with the TEKS standards, and, if not, funding should be denied. **[State, 465 Local]** 466

**138. American Identity:** We favor strengthening our common American identity, which includes the 467 contribution and assimilation of diverse racial and ethnic groups. Students shall pledge allegiance to the 468 United States and Texas flags daily to instill patriotism. Students have the right to display patriotic items on 469 school property. **[State, Local]** 470

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**139. Bilingual Education:** We encourage non-English-speaking students to transition, via best practices, to 471 English within one year, allowing them to quickly assimilate and succeed in American society. **[State, 472 Local]** 473

**140. Gender Identity:** The official position of the Texas schools with respect to transgenderism is that there 474 are only two genders: male and female. **[State, Local]** 475

**141. Healthcare in Public Schools:** Legislators shall prohibit reproductive healthcare services, including 476 counseling, referrals, and distribution of condoms and contraception through public schools. We support 477 parents' right to choose, without penalty, which medications are administered to their minor children. We 478 reaffirm that the age of consent in Texas is 17 years old. **[State, Local]** 479

**142. School Security:** The Texas Legislature shall pass a statute that allows Texas school teachers, or 480 other school employees, who are certified and insured to be authorized to carry a concealed gun on the 481 premises of their assigned school for security and protection purposes. The Texas Republican Party 482 supports teachers and staff, who obtain concealed carry licenses, and obtain additional training required 483 by the district, to have the right to carry firearms on school premises. **[State, Local]** 484

**143. School Security Plan:** The Legislature is urged to adopt as a legislative priority to mandate by state 485 law that all publicly funded school districts be required to submit a viable school security plan as part of an 486 accountability program. The school security plan must explicitly provide for the personal security of 487 students and staff by responding with an equal and opposite force to an aggressor that uses deadly 488 weapons or devices. In an effort to customize plans for each district, a parent oversight commission will be 489 consulted and advised as to the threat assessment status of schools at all times and must be allowed to 490 partake in strategy sessions for the creation of the school security plan. **[State, Local]** 491

## **Finance** 492

**144. Government Spending:** Government spending is out of control at the federal, state, and local levels, 493 and action is needed. We urge Congress to become fiscally responsible by immediately enacting the 494 following items: 495

1. Adopt zero-based budgeting. 496 2. Adopt a policy of requiring a private sector efficiency commission for each governmental 497 department. 498 3. Oppose the use of “earmarks” as a part of the budget and spending process. 499 4. Prohibit Congress from passing appropriations bills unless each appropriations group is considered 500 and passed separately. **[Federal]** 501

**145.** Economic Stabilization Fund: Amend the Texas Constitution to narrow the permissible uses of the 502 Economic Stabilization Fund to cover revenue shortfalls in the current biennium and expenses related to a 503 state of disaster as declared by the Governor. **[State]** 504

**146.** School Property Tax Abatements: We support repealing Tax Code Chapter 313 school property tax 505 abatements. **[Local]** 506

**147.** Bailouts and Subsidies: We encourage government to divest its ownership of all businesses that 507 should be run in the private sector, and allow the free market to prevail; this includes all businesses run by 508 school boards and Texas Educational Service Centers. We oppose all bailouts of domestic and foreign 509 government entities, states, and all businesses, public and private. **[Local]** 510

**148.** Community Reinvestment Act: We support the repeal of the Community Reinvestment Act. **[Federal]** 511

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**149.** Lending Institutions: We support the sale of the federal government’s interest in Federal National 512 Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac). 513 **[Federal]** 514

**150.** Special Funds: We urge the Texas Legislature to abolish the Events Trust Fund program and the 515 Moving Image Industry Incentive Program. **[State]** 516

**151.** Government Pensions: The Texas Legislature shall enact new rules to begin to transition government 517 pensions for ERS and TDCRS members from a defined benefit pension to a defined contribution 518 retirement plan similar to a 403(b). **[State]** 519

**152.** Pro Stadiums: Tax dollars should not be used to fund the building of stadiums for professional or 520 semi-professional sports teams. **[State, Local]** 521

**153.** Gambling: We oppose the expansion of legalized gambling. 522

**154.** Line-Item Veto: We support strengthening the line-item veto authority of the Governor. **[State]** 523

**155.** Veto Session: We support a constitutional amendment permitting the Legislature to return for a three- 524 day session in response to the Governor’s veto. **[State]** 525

**156.** Management Districts: We oppose the creation of management or special purpose districts with the 526 authority to impose taxes and bonded debt, and we oppose the use of eminent domain by these districts. 527 **[State, Local]** 528



**157. Permanent School Fund:** Since the Permanent School Fund is not paid by taxpayers, the principal 529 balance should be safeguarded and not used as a source of additional funding for our state budget, but for 530 its constitutionally intended purposes of instructional materials that have been approved by the State 531 Board of Education. **[State]** 532

**158. Homeowners' Association:** We urge the Legislature to enact legislation to allow dissolving a 533 homeowners' association by a majority vote of the association's voting members. **[State]** 534

**159. Real Estate Transaction Tax:** We oppose any creation of a real estate transaction tax. **[Federal, State]** 535  
**State]** 536

**160. Diversion of Property Taxes:** We oppose the diversion of property taxes to build, subsidize, and/or 537 guarantee the loans of toll projects, which is primarily being done through transportation reinvestment 538 zones. The State needs to properly fund the Texas state highway system to prevent the use of local 539 property taxes being diverted to state roads. **[Local]** 540

**161. Abolish Property Tax:** We urge replacing the property tax system with an alternative other than the 541 income tax and requiring voter approval to increase the overall tax burden. 542

**162. Property Tax Rollback Elections:** We urge the Legislature to establish a property tax revenue growth 543 trigger of 2.5 percent per year that can only be exceeded by a vote held on a November uniform election 544 date while working to eliminate and replace the M&O school property tax. 545

**163. Homestead Appraisals:** We support allowing homeowners to contest their homestead appraisals in 546 Justice of the Peace court. 547

**164. School Finance:** We support a simple, fair, and efficient method for financing our public school 548 system. We oppose the "Robin Hood" system of public school finance and believe the Texas Legislature, 549 not the courts, should determine the amount of money spent on public education and the distribution 550 thereof. We oppose the Edgewood I and II decisions that legislate school finance from the bench. 551

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**165. Additional School Funding:** Before receiving additional dollars through the school finance formulas, 552 school districts must spend at least 65 percent of their current funding in the classroom. 553

**166. School Maintenance and Operation Property Tax:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to use surplus 554 revenue to buy down the school maintenance and operation property tax rate as a prelude to replacing it 555 with a broader based consumption tax. 556

**167. Social Security:** We support reform to Social Security that allows people to opt out. We oppose 557 taxation of Social Security. 558

**168. [Deleted plank<sup>iii</sup>]** 559

**169.** Spending Limitations: Amend the Texas Constitution and state statute with a stricter spending 560 limitation based on US Census population growth plus inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index 561 and apply the new limit to Texas’s total government budget. 562

**170.** Tax Burden: We in the Republican Party of Texas believe in the principles of constitutionally limited 563 government based on federalist principles. To this end we encourage our elected officials at all levels of 564 government to work to reverse the current trend of expanding government and the growing tax and debt 565 burdens this places on “We the People.” We believe the most equitable system of taxation is one based 566 on consumption and wish to see reforms toward that end at all levels of government. 567

**171.** State Income Tax Ban: We support maintaining the current ban on state income taxes in Texas. 568

**172.** Truth in Taxation: We urge that taxes established for a particular purpose shall not be used for any 569 other purpose. 570

**173.** Public Posting: We support statewide, local taxing entities, and [federal] government entities 571 compiling and publicly posting their current debt, future obligations, financial statements, check registers, 572 and local government contracts on their official websites. **[State, Local]** 573

**174.** Transportation and Fuel Taxes: We resolve that tax revenue derived from gasoline taxes and all 574 other taxes/fees on our vehicles (including vehicle sales tax) should only be used for road construction 575 and maintenance, and not be diverted to any other use, including mass transit, rail, restrictive lanes, and 576 bicycle paths. **[State, Local]** 577

**175.** Special Taxing Districts: We support restricting the authority of special taxing districts, such as 578 Municipal Utility Districts and Municipal Management Districts, so that they are accountable to the people 579 they serve and may not incur bonded debt without a vote of their residents. We support a change to the 580 property tax and exemptions section to allow special taxing districts to freeze their property tax 581 assessment for taxpayers 65 or older or disabled. **[State, Local]** 582

## **Government and Foreign Affairs** 583

**176.** Bond Elections: State and local bond election ballots should be required to include the amount of 584 debt currently outstanding, current debt service payments, current per capita debt obligations, the amount 585 of new debt being proposed, estimated debt service for the new debt, and estimated per capita burden 586 being proposed. Any bond election (state or local) must pass with at least a two-thirds majority of voters to 587 affirm the bond. The bond issue must obtain a yes vote of a minimum of 20 percent of registered voters. 588 All elections of personnel responsible for adopting a budget and a property tax rate and all elections 589 involving bond indebtedness shall be held on the November uniform election date and administered by the 590 County Clerk or the County Elections Administrator. No public funds are to be spent influencing a bond 591

election. We oppose bundling of items on bond election ballots. 592

**177. Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR):** We hereby call on all law enforcement and 593 governmental agencies in Texas to avoid and suspend all contact and outreach activities with the Council 594 on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), named unindicted co-conspirators in the Holy Land Foundation 595 trial, with ties to terrorist groups such as Hamas. 596

**178. Candidate Eligibility:** A candidate running for office should be required to reside within the 597 geographical boundaries of the office sought. The Secretary of State shall be required to certify that state 598 and federal candidates placed on ballots proffered in Texas meet the statutory requirements for the office 599 sought. For federal offices, all candidates must submit written authorization for the Secretary of State to 600 obtain a certified copy of the candidate's birth certificate from the original issuing authority, so as to prove 601 they are constitutionally eligible, in order to have their name placed on the general election ballot. 602

**179. Judicial Candidate Speech:** We support a state constitutional amendment that would enable judicial 603 candidates to express their beliefs in general terms before elections to thus inform voters of their views. 604

**180. Campaign Endorsements:** We oppose the buying and selling of endorsements in all elections. 605

**181. Statute Reduction:** We support efforts to eliminate duplicative and unnecessary government statutes. 606

**182. Cybersecurity:** We support government efforts in cybersecurity to safeguard privacy, elections, 607 intellectual property, and public safety while respecting civil rights. 608

**183. Cybersecurity Voter Registration:** The State of Texas should use any undedicated federal election 609 funds received to improve the security of our online voter registration data. 610

**184. Elected Appraisal Boards:** We support the election, by registered voters in the geographically 611 affected area, of appraisal boards and appraisal review boards. 612

**185. Conflicts of Interest:** We support legislation prohibiting the influencing or voting of any elected official 613 or appointee where a conflict of interest exists. 614

**186. Elected Removal:** We support that any state elected official convicted of or placed on deferred 615 adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor that constitutes a crime of moral turpitude while in office be 616 permanently removed from office. 617

**187. Sexual Harassment:** RPT supports a zero-tolerance policy for sexual harassment. 618

**188. Early Voting:** We support that early voting will be limited to 7 days, ending on the Friday before 619 Election Day. 620

**189. Fair Election Procedures:** We support modifications to and the strengthening of election laws to 621 ensure ballot integrity and fair elections. We support the Secretary of State strictly enforcing printing of 622 results tapes for electronic voting for early voting and Election Day at polling locations after the polls close 623 for all counties. We support increased scrutiny and security in balloting by mail; prohibition of internet 624 voting and any

electronic voting lacking a verifiable paper trail; prohibition of “rolling polling” for bond and 625 tax rate increase elections; prosecution for election fraud with jail sentences; repeal of the unconstitutional 626 Help America Vote Act; and assurance that each polling place has distinctly marked, where possible, 627 separate locations for Republican and Democrat primary voting. We support all means of protecting the 628 integrity of our elections, including the optional use of paper ballots. We oppose countywide polling 629 locations due to heightened potential for fraud. 630

**190. Offense Enforcement for In-Person Voting:** We support raising to felony status infractions of the 631

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Texas Election Code during in-person voting, including allowing persons not in the poll book to vote a 632 regular ballot, willfully misclassifying the reason for a provisional ballot, giving one voter multiple ballot 633 access codes or multiple ballots, and all forms of voter assistance not compliant with TEC, especially 634 “assistants” who force themselves on voters to influence their votes. 635

**191. Residency Requirements:** We support legislation that defines voter and candidate residency and is 636 enforced by the Secretary of State. 637

**192. Felon Voting:** We support the constitutional authority of state legislatures to regulate voting, including 638 disenfranchisement of convicted felons. 639

**193. Voter Photo ID:** We continue to fight for meaningful voter ID requirements for all elections and 640 support other states’ attempts to pass the same. 641

**194. Actual Residence:** We support changes to the appropriate sections of Texas law that would deny or 642 cancel homestead exemptions, driver licenses, vehicle registrations, License to Carry, and hunting and 643 fishing licenses if the addresses on those documents DO NOT match the address on the voter’s 644 registration. 645

**195. Consolidated Elections:** All public elections, with the exception of specially called elections, should be 646 consolidated to Primary and General Election days and locations. 647

**196. Voter Registration:** We support restoring integrity to the voter registration rolls and reducing voter 648 fraud. We support repealing all motor voter laws, re-registering voters every four years, requiring photo ID 649 of all registrants, requiring proof of residency and citizenship along with the voter registration application, 650 retaining the 30-day registration deadline, and requiring that a list of certified deaths be provided to the 651 Secretary of State in order that the names of deceased voters be removed from the list of registered 652 voters. We should give the Secretary of State enforcement authority to ensure county registrar compliance 653 with Secretary of State directives. We also support revising Title 19 funding to avoid incentivizing retention 654 of ineligible voters. 655

**197. Nursing Home Voting:** County election officials should provide an Election Judge, Alternate Judge, 656 and Election Clerk for an in-person voting time during the early voting period in every healthcare/nursing 657 home/retirement facility in the county. This will allow bedside voting, if necessary, and the ability to provide 658 fraud-free elections for handicapped and elderly voters. 659

**198.** Campaigning at Poll Sites: We encourage free speech at polling sites outside of the existing 660 boundaries. The right to campaign, including the display of signage, with respect to current state law, at an 661 appropriate distance (100 feet) from the polling place, shall not be infringed. 662

**199.** Voting Rights: We support equal suffrage for all United States citizens of voting age who are not 663 felons. We oppose any identification of citizens by race, origin, or creed and oppose use of any such 664 identification for purposes of creating voting districts. We urge that the Voting Rights Act of 1965, codified 665 and updated in 1973, be repealed and not reauthorized. 666

**200.** Direct Elections of State Judges: We support our right to select our judges by direct vote. 667

**201.** Government Authority: We believe any government authority that has the ability to level a tax or fee 668 on the people should be accountable to those who pay the taxes via the electoral process, from the local 669 level to the federal level. 670

**202.** English-Only Ballots: English, and only English, shall appear on any ballot for any election in the 671 United States of America and in the State of Texas. 672

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**203.** Foreign Policy: We support a foreign policy that relies on peace through the strength of our national 673 defense and avoids foreign deployments or entanglements. We support a free-market economy, private 674 humanitarian aid to developing countries, continued favorable treatment of proven allies, censure of 675 adversarial entities that seek destruction of other countries, and strong policy on confronting terrorists. We 676 strongly oppose religious or ethnic cleansing. We oppose US aid to any foreign entity that consistently 677 votes against our interests or is openly hostile to our nation. 678

**204.** China: We strongly recommend the removal of Communist China's Most Favored Nation status. 679

**205.** Foreign Aid: We support foreign aid in non-monetary form (goods and services), only to our allies in 680 cases of national defense or catastrophic disasters, with congressional approval. 681

**206.** Iran and North Korea: We oppose development of nuclear weapons by Iran and North Korea, and 682 oppose easing sanctions on either country until their hostile behavior and nuclear proliferation cease. 683

**207.** Israel: We are grateful that the US Embassy in Israel has been moved to Jerusalem. We believe that 684 Jerusalem should remain Israel's undivided capital, accessible to people of all faiths. The United States 685 should continue to support Israel militarily, financially, and technologically. We oppose any pressuring of 686 Israel to make concessions they believe would jeopardize their security. We strongly oppose the anti- 687 Semitic Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, on all levels, including and especially on 688 college campuses, at the United Nations, and by anti-West non-governmental organizations. We believe 689 there should not be a Palestinian state within the historical borders of Israel. Our policy is inspired by 690 God's biblical promise to bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel, and we further 691 invite other nations and organizations to enjoy the benefits of that promise. 692

**208. Israel's Sovereignty:** We further insist upon Israel's right to exist, its right to secure borders, and its 693 right to the land secured by practicing self-defense from aggressive enemies. We strongly encourage 694 other nations of the world to respect Israel's sovereignty, right of self-determination, and right of self- 695 defense. 696

**209. Taiwan:** We call upon the United States to move toward full diplomatic recognition of Taiwan as an 697 independent and sovereign nation and to renew our commitment to defend our security interests in the 698 Western Pacific region in the face of China's military provocations, which threaten its neighbors and critical 699 maritime trade routes. 700

**210. UN Arms Trade Treaty:** The United States should withdraw from the UN Arms Trade Treaty. 701

**211. UN Treaty on the Rights of Child:** We unequivocally oppose the United States Senate's ratification of 702 the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. 703

**212. Taxation by a Foreign Entity:** We believe that any attempt to allow the United Nations or any other 704 foreign entity to levy taxes on United States citizens or governments should be rejected. 705

**213. United Nations:** The United Nations is a detriment to the sovereignty of the United States and other 706 countries, and because of this we support: 707

1. Our withdrawal from the current United Nations. 708 2. The removal of the United Nations from United States soil. 709 3. The rejection of all Agenda 21 and Agenda 2030 policies and programs. 710 4. The rejection of all related NGOs, councils, and environmental programs. 711 5. A zero-budget allotment of American tax dollars to any United Nations programs.<sup>iv</sup> 712 6. The opposition of any designation of World Heritage Sites in the United States and especially in 713 Texas. 714

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**214. Federal Land in Texas:** All federal land in Texas should be returned to and administered by Texas, 715 except for land specifically authorized in the Constitution (military bases, federal buildings, post offices). 716

**215. Federal Offices Location:** Offices attached to the seat of the federal government should not be 717 required to exercise their offices in the District of Columbia. It is no longer necessary for all federal 718 agencies to be located in the District of Columbia, and we call on both the Senate and Congress to 719 expunge Chapter 3 of 4 U.S.C. § 72 and the President to sign such change. 720

**216. Lobbying Limitation:** We support legislation to prohibit former officials and government employees 721 from lobbying for a foreign government and/or any business for five years after leaving public service. We 722 support legislation to prevent lobbying by any organization receiving federal grants except that relating to 723 its tax status. 724

**217. Tax-Funded Lobbying:** We urge that the Texas Legislature enact legislation that prohibits tax-funded 725 contract lobbying. 726

**218.** Texas Speaker of the House: We oppose the use of pledge cards and call for the Republican 727 members to caucus after each November general election to determine, by secure secret ballot, their 728 candidate for Speaker. We also call for the Republican members to vote as a unified body for their 729 selected speaker candidate when the Legislature convenes in regular session. 730

**219.** Ghost Voting: We expect the Texas House of Representatives to enforce house rules and prevent 731 ghost voting. 732

**220.** Updating Texas House Rules: We request the House Republican Caucus work with the Republican 733 Party of Texas on House rule changes prior to the next legislative session that would facilitate the passage 734 of legislation based on the Republican platform and Legislative Priorities. Such changes should not have 735 the result of disenfranchising the minority party, but should ensure that the majority party can get its own 736 business done. These changes should include, but not be limited to, changing House Rule 6 Section 21 737 (2017 House Rules) to allow for a motion to place a bill on the calendar after 7 days instead of 30 days. 738

**221.** Calling for Open Calendar Committee Meetings: The Calendars Committee of the Texas House of 739 Representatives should be open to the public. 740

**222.** Government Shutdown: In the case of United States government shutdown, the only salaries to be 741 suspended are for the United States Senate and House of Representatives. 742

**223.** Closed Primary: We support protecting the integrity of the Republican Primary Election by requiring a 743 closed primary system in Texas. 744

**224.** Remove Gender Requirements: We suggest that the Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the SREC 745 be elected on merit and not based on gender (Sec. 171.002 of the Texas Election Code). 746

**225.** Enforcing the Platform: Every Republican is responsible for implementing this platform. Party 747 candidates should indicate their positions on platform planks before their acceptance on the ticket, and 748 such information should be available on the Party website. 749 **[332.v]** Candidate Support: The Republican Party of Texas should provide financial support only to those 750 candidates who support the right-to-life planks. 751

**226.** Texas Protecting Texans: We support federal legislation remanding all authority over abortion back to 752 the individual states and removing all standing on this issue from the federal judiciary as given by Article III 753 in the US Constitution. We also support family control of end-of-life decisions. 754

**227.** Protecting Active Military Right to Vote: We urge the Texas Secretary of State and the United States 755

Attorney General to ensure that voting rights of our armed forces will neither be denied nor obstructed, 756 and all valid absentee votes shall be counted. 757

**228.** Unelected Bureaucrats: We oppose the appointment of unelected bureaucrats, and we support 758 defunding and abolishing the departments or agencies of the Internal Revenue Service; Education; 759 Energy;

Housing and Urban Development; Commerce; Health and Human Services; Labor; Interior 760 (specifically, the Bureau of Land Management); Transportation Security Administration; Alcohol, Tobacco, 761 Firearms and Explosives; and National Labor Relations Board. In the interim, executive decisions by 762 departments or agencies must be reviewed and approved by Congress before taking effect. 763

**229. Sunset Commission:** We support a majority citizen-led Sunset Commission. 764

**230. Legislative Accountability:** We support a transparent and accountable legislative process that 765 includes a recorded and published vote and prohibits a legislative change without a recorded vote. All 766 content of any bill must be germane to the title of the act. We support that all bills presented in the United 767 States Congress and Texas Legislature include citations to the authorizing constitutional provision, cost to 768 implement, and impact on the family. We oppose omnibus legislation and the insertion of “pork barrel” 769 funding for special interests. We oppose the use of signing statements by the President to circumvent the 770 law. 771

**231. Permanent Voting Record:** We support Texas House and legislative rules that prohibit the practice of 772 changing the actual recorded votes of Texas legislators after the vote on final passage. 773

**232. Public Information Act:** We support legislation that would close contractor and trade secret loopholes 774 in the Texas Public Information Act, while providing due process protections for private companies wishing 775 to keep trade secrets private. 776

**233. Cell Phone Network Access:** Cell phone network access is a needed and important tool in 777 emergency situations, especially for first responders; we support the state facilitating first responder 778 access to clear cell phone channels for emergency use. 779

## **Health and Human Services** 780

**234. Caring for Our Mentally Disabled Citizens:** We urge the Legislature to continue funding and operating 781 all state-supported living centers for mentally disabled legal Texas residents, and to continually seek 782 common sense improvements to increase efficiency. 783

**235. Mental Health:** We request that the Texas Legislature provide appropriate funding for the 784 improvement of mental health services for children and adolescents. This includes funding for training 785 everyone who touches the life of a child in the foster care system in trauma and trauma-informed care. 786

**236. Welfare Reform:** Welfare reform should encourage partnerships with faith-based institutions, 787 community, and business organizations to assist individuals in need. We encourage welfare reform in the 788 following areas: 789

1. Denying benefits to individuals who cannot prove citizenship. 790
2. Reforming welfare programs to require recipients to work, learn, and train. 791
3. Reforming welfare programs to require recipients to remain substance-abuse free in exchange for 792 temporary benefits not exceeding two years. 793
4. Requiring all welfare recipients to submit to random drug testing in order to receive benefits. 794
5. Requiring that money provided through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) be 795 used only for nutritious foods



consistent with those included under the WIC program, and be 796

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released only with a photo ID of the approved user. 797 6. Implementing a non-monetary-based assistance program for providing supplemental food benefits. 798 7. Removing prisoners from welfare rolls. 799

**237. Federal Welfare Programs:** We support the abolition of all federal welfare programs, as they are not 800 an appropriate role of the federal government. 801

**238. Defunding HUD's AFFH:** We support defunding HUD's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH). 802

**239. Child Support Related to Welfare:** Mothers applying for government financial support, exempting rape 803 victims, should provide the verifiable name and any known contact information of the birth father, which 804 information shall be turned over to the State of Texas Attorney General's Office within 30 days for 805 collection of child support. 806

**240. Gender Identity:** We oppose all efforts to validate transgender identity. We call upon our Legislature 807 to enact laws prohibiting the use of hormones before the age of 18 in an attempt to change gender. We 808 believe it should be illegal to remove healthy body parts in minors in an effort to try to transition to the 809 opposite sex. 810

**241. No Taxpayer Funding for Sex Change:** We oppose the use of taxpayer funds for any type of gender 811 dysphoria treatments or sex change operations and/or treatments. 812

**242. Addiction:** We oppose legalization of illicit and synthetic drugs. We also oppose any needle exchange 813 programs. Faith-based rehabilitation programs should be considered as a part of an overall rehabilitation 814 program. 815

**243. Healthcare Decisions:** Healthcare decisions, including routine preventative care such as 816 immunizations, should be between a patient and healthcare professional and should be protected from 817 government intrusion. Texas public schools have a duty to inform parents they can opt out of CDC 818 recommended vaccinations for their children. Abortion is not healthcare. Government has no right to 819 mandate specific medical procedures or methods of healthcare. 820

**244. Healthcare Choice:** We urge the passage of healthcare reform that results in more affordable 821 healthcare through a market-based, competitive, and transparent healthcare system, including tort reform, 822 interstate competition, health savings accounts, genuine accountability, and oversight. 823

**245. Fluoride in Water Supply:** The Republican Party of Texas supports banning the fluoridation of the 824 Texas water supply. 825

**246. Compassionate Use Act:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to improve the 2015 Compassionate 826 Use Act to allow doctors to determine the appropriate use of cannabis to certified patients. 827

**247. Cannabis Classification:** Congress should remove cannabis from the list of Schedule 1 and move to 828

Schedule 2. 829

**248. Medicaid Reform:** We support Medicaid block grants to the states and returning Medicaid to its 830 original purpose to be a temporary assistance. We oppose any further expansion of Medicaid. 831

**249. Medicare Reform:** Medicare Part A should have a parallel opt-out to Part B for those who have health 832 insurance through their employer and continue to work. Part A will then kick in when they retire. 833

**250. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”):** We demand the immediate repeal of the 834 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which we believe to be unconstitutional. 835

**251. Medical Records and Informed Consent:** We oppose any state or federal medical record computer 836

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database or registry (with exception to diseases that are a public health threat, i.e., HIV and/or 837 tuberculosis) that stores personal identifiable records on citizens without their written consent. 838

**252. Right to Try:** We urge the Texas State Legislature and Governor to enact laws that allow patients and 839 their doctors to have access to experimental medications and procedures that can potentially be lifesaving 840 or improve quality of life. 841

**253. Healthcare Savings Accounts:** All individuals should be allowed to establish health savings accounts. 842 Individuals should be allowed higher annual contributions to health savings accounts, and employers 843 should be allowed to offer "portable" health savings-linked insurance that workers could take with them if 844 they change jobs or retire. 845

**254. Texas HSA:** We recommend the creation of the State of Texas Health Savings Account, with funds in 846 excess of those needed in the “rainy day fund,” with the purpose of enabling the state to develop reserves 847 sufficient to exit the federal Medicaid program. 848

**255. Fetal Tissue Harvesting and Stem Cell Research:** We support legislation prohibiting experimentation 849 or commercial use of human fetal tissue, which requires or is dependent upon the destruction of human 850 life. We encourage adult stem cell research using cells from umbilical cords, from adults, and from any 851 other means that does not kill human embryos. 852

**256. Homosexuality:** We believe there should be no granting of special legal entitlements or creation of 853 special status for homosexual behavior, regardless of state of origin, and we oppose any criminal or civil 854 penalties against those who oppose homosexuality out of faith, conviction, or belief in traditional values. 855

**257. Parental Rights and Responsibilities:** Local, state, or federal laws, regulations, or policies that limit 856 parental rights in the rearing of both biological and adopted children shall not be enacted. Parents have 857 the God-given right and responsibility to direct and guide their children’s moral education. 858

**258. Parental Consent:** We support parental consent for all medical care, counseling, etc., for all minors. 859

**259. Conscience Clause:** All persons and legal entities have the right of conscience, and should be 860 protected under Texas law if they conscientiously object to participate in practices that conflict with their 861 moral or religious beliefs. This includes, but is not limited to, abortion, the prescription for and dispensing 862 of drugs with abortifacient potential, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, eugenic screenings, 863 euthanasia, assisted suicide, harmful futile procedures, and the withdrawal of nutrition and hydration. 864

**260. Alternatives to Abortion:** Until abortion is made illegal in Texas, we urge the Republican Party of 865 Texas and the Texas Legislature to assist in educating the public regarding alternatives to abortion, 866 especially adoption. 867

**261. Discriminatory Abortion:** We support legislation such as the “Preborn Non-Discrimination Act”<sup>vi</sup> 868 (PreNDA) to close existing discriminatory loopholes that fail to protect unborn children suspected of having 869 a "fetal anomaly" or disability and to enact anti-discriminatory language to apply additional protections to 870 unborn children at risk of being aborted because of their sex, race, or disability, in addition to providing 871 families with information about life-affirming social and medical services available to them in Texas, such 872 as perinatal palliative care. 873

**262. Planned Parenthood:** We support completely eliminating public funding for Planned Parenthood and 874 any other abortion providers and all their affiliates, and we oppose their digital or physical presence in our 875 schools and other public institutions. We also support elimination of public funding for embryonic stem cell 876 research, research on fetal tissue, or human cloning. 877

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**263. Human Embryos:** We support the adoption of human embryos and the banning of human embryo 878 trafficking. 879

**264. End-of-Life Patient Protection:** We support patients’ rights, especially near the end of life, and call for 880 reform of existing legislation so that: 881

1. Texas law should provide that medical personnel may not deny care, change advanced directives, 882 or originate directives for any patient without the permission of the patient or the patient’s 883 designate. 884 2. We also support the passage of legislation to amend the Advance Directives Act by requiring 885 hospitals intending or threatening to withdraw life-sustaining treatment against the patient’s wishes 886 or their advance directive to continue all treatment and care for such patients pending transfer to 887 another facility. 888 3. We also support legislation repealing the unethical “Ten-Day Rule” in Section 166.046, Health and 889 Safety Code, which allows physicians to withdraw basic life-sustaining treatment (like a ventilator) 890 after an impending countdown. 891

**265. Home and Community-Based Services:** We call on the Texas Legislature to support Home and 892 Community-Based Services (HCBS) as a pro-life alternative, and to enact language to apply additional 893 protections and to address any loopholes that fail to protect or provide appropriate home and community- 894 based alternatives for children and people [adults] with disabilities, in addition to providing families with 895 information about life-affirming social and medical services available to them in Texas as alternatives to 896

abortion and costly institutional care. 897

**266.** Modernized Social Security Card: We support the improvement of our 1936 Social Security card to 898 use contemporary anti-counterfeit technology. The Social Security card will not be considered a national 899 ID card for United States citizens. 900

**267.** Social Security Disability: We support appropriate limits on the length of time to receive Social 901 Security disability benefits for all but those truly not able to do ANY kind of paid employment. 902

**268.** Toxic Exposure: We support the passage of the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015, which will 903 ensure that the federal government will establish a database on all exposed veterans and their families. 904

**269.** VA Medical Benefits Not Limited: [We support allowing] allow veterans to use VA medical benefits at 905 private medical providers and not be limited to VA Hospitals. 906

**270.** Replace the VA: [We support replacing] replace the Veterans Administration with a commercial 907 insurance plan that allows eligible veterans to obtain health services from any licensed provider. 908

## **National Defense and Border Security** 909

**271.** Support of Our Armed Forces: The men and women who wear our country's uniform, whether on 910 active duty or in the Reserves or National Guard, are the most important assets in our military arsenal. 911 They and their families must have the pay, healthcare, housing, education, and overall support they need. 912 Injured military personnel deserve the best medical, mental health, and rehabilitative care our country has 913 to offer. We must always remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice; their families must be 914 assured meaningful financial assistance. It is the solemn duty we owe, and honor we give, to those who 915 bravely don the uniform of freedom. We support our government in continuing to seek and act upon all 916 information concerning our military personnel and other citizens listed as missing in action or prisoners of 917 war. Veterans Administration monetary benefits shall match present national price index value in all 918

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programs. 919

**272.** Proof of Legal Residency for Public Services: Texas requires proof of legal residency for obtaining a 920 Texas driver license and enrolling in public school, and requires proof of citizenship for obtaining voter 921 registration and public benefits. 922

**273.** Strong National Defense: We support a strong national defense that protects United States interests, 923 freedoms, and sovereignty at home and abroad. 924

**274.** Reject NDAA: We reject the unconstitutional provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act 925 (NDAA), which include (but are not limited to) indefinite detention without trial and detention in military 926 custody. We demand the state's congressional delegation to immediately commence efforts to repeal the 927

unconstitutional provisions contained in this act, which are repugnant to the sovereign rights of the citizens 928 of this state and are usurpations of authority by the federal government. 929

**275. No Gender Norming in Military:** We oppose gender norming in the military. Transgendered persons 930 should not serve in the military as a special class; no special considerations or medical treatment shall be 931 required or offered. 932

**276. Self-Protection on Military Bases:** We call for base commanders to provide sufficient armament of 933 military personnel on military bases to provide for their self-defense. 934

**277. Missile Defense:** We urge the United States Congress to continue funding the Strategic Defense 935 Initiative for missile defense. We further call for continued efforts and funding for nuclear shield 936 development and for its immediate implementation for the United States, and possibly for our allies when 937 in our national interest. 938

**278. National Guard Deployment:** Congress shall not abdicate the war powers to the executive branch 939 except when under imminent threat and not to be used as a preemptive strike unless approved by 940 Congress. The Texas National Guard and the Texas Air National Guard should only be deployed to 941 overseas combat zones under authorization of Congress through a declaration of war. 942

**279. Military Rules of Engagement:** Military rules of engagement, as defined by the President or 943 Congress, should not preclude the safety nor deny the immediacy of tactical decision-making of the 944 military personnel in the field. Military personnel shall not be criminally or civilly liable for reasonable 945 actions taken in the field. 946

**280. Military Readiness:** We support a military force of sufficient strength and readiness to deter any threat 947 to our national sovereignty or to the safety and freedom of our citizens. We oppose placement of US 948 troops under command of the United Nations. 949

**281. Defeat Terrorism:** We support an aggressive war on terrorism, including radical Islamic terrorists, 950 [which consists of] cooperating with our allies and sanctioning nations that sponsor terrorists. We support 951 the reasonable use of profiling, the prosecution of national security breaches, and the revision of laws or 952 executive orders that erode our liberties. We call on the federal government to designate the Muslim 953 Brotherhood a foreign terrorist organization, and we call on governmental agencies to avoid and suspend 954 all activities with all radical Islamic organizations, such as the Council on American-Islamic Relations. 955

**282. All-Volunteer Force:** We call for the removal of draft registration and to continue to have an all- 956 volunteer armed forces. 957

**283. Women in Combat:** We oppose the use of women in military combat units. 958

**284. Abolish Refugee Resettlement Program:** We call for the abolition of the refugee resettlement 959

program. 960

**285. Citizenship Qualification:** We call on the United States Congress to pass a constitutional amendment 961 that defines citizenship as those born to a citizen of the United States or through naturalization. 962

**286. Amnesty:** Any form of amnesty with regard to immigration policy should not be granted, including the 963 granting of legal status to persons in the country illegally. 964

**287. Border Security Funding:** We expect both the Texas Legislature and the United States Congress to 965 make a priority of allocating funds to effectively secure the border through whatever means necessary, 966 including but not limited to barriers, a border wall, or fence everywhere along the border where it is 967 feasible and useful, as well as personnel and technology over land, sea, and air. 968

**288. Interstate Compact:** The State of Texas shall establish an interstate compact allowing the 969 participating states to enforce existing federal immigration laws, and the State of Texas shall support all 970 efforts to enter into a border security interstate compact and gain control of the border. 971

**289. Citizenship Identification:** We propose that every Texas driver license shall indicate whether the 972 driver is a United States citizen. Licenses shall not be issued to anyone illegally in the country. The State 973 of Texas shall not recognize as valid any state driver license photo where the person's face is obscured. 974

**290. Eliminate Illegal Immigration Magnets:** No tax dollars should be provided for social or educational 975 programs for illegal aliens. All existing laws providing for in-state tuition and non-emergency medical care 976 shall be rescinded. All non-verifiable foreign-issued identification cards shall be legally invalid in the 977 United States. 978

**291. E-Verify:** Texas should require all employers to screen new hires through the free E-Verify system to 979 prevent the hiring of illegal aliens and of anyone not legally authorized to work in the US, and to protect 980 jobs for American workers. We call upon the 86th Texas Legislature to pass legislation to this effect. 981

**292. Magnet:** We support eliminating the employment magnet by requiring all employers to screen new 982 hires through the free E-Verify system to prevent the hiring of illegal aliens and of anyone not legally 983 authorized to work in the US. 984

**293. Sanctuary Cities:** State and federal funds shall be denied to any public or private entity, including but 985 not limited to sanctuary cities, that are not in compliance with immigration laws. 986

**294. Immigration System:** We demand that state and federal law enforcement officers enforce our 987 immigration laws, implement an entry/exit tracking system for visa holders, and expedite hearings on 988 deporting both violent and non-violent illegal immigrants and visa overstays. Chain migration and the 989 diversity visa lottery should be eliminated. Our legal immigration system should be strictly merit based, 990 and the total number of new immigrants should be limited to a level that facilitates assimilation. 991

**295. Reintegration of Veterans:** We support the accommodation and reintegration of our troops once their 992 military commitment has expired. Returning veterans must have access to educational benefits, job 993 training,

and a wide variety of employment options. 994

## **State Affairs** 995

**296.** Alamo: We believe the Alamo should be remembered and not “reimagined.” We believe Texas's 996 authority regarding the Alamo shall not be infringed upon by any organization or authority, including but 997 not limited to local governments, the federal government, the United Nations, or UNESCO. We demand 998

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that the decision-making authority for the Alamo never be removed from Texas, and the custodians of the 999 Alamo be required to: 1) affirm and emphasize the intrinsic significance of the 1836 battle in telling the 1000 story of the Alamo, and 2) maintain transparency in finances and operations of the Alamo. Specific 1001 protection shall be afforded the site, including all land and existing monuments, including the Cenotaph, 1002 which SHALL NOT be moved from its present site. 1003

**297.** Campaign Finance Transparency: We support laws requiring full disclosure by political candidates of 1004 the amounts and sources of any campaign contributions, whether contributed by individuals, political 1005 action committees, or other entities. We oppose reporting requirements that infringe on the free-speech 1006 rights of citizens. We urge immediate repeal of all limits on campaign contributions by American citizens to 1007 the candidates or causes of their choice. 1008

**298.** No Restrictions on Charities: We oppose any restrictions by any government agency on individual 1009 taxpayer contributions to churches, faith-based charities, and other non-profit organizations. 1010

**299.** [Deleted plank<sup>vii</sup>] 1011

**300.** Honor Our Flags: We appreciate and honor our flags and what they represent, and we strongly 1012 advocate for all public schools to display the US and Texas flags in every classroom and to begin each 1013 school day with the pledges to both. 1014

**301.** Freedom of Assembly: Because we believe in the freedom of assembly, we urge repeal of the 1015 Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act. Those who assault peaceful protesters acting under the 1016 Constitution should be vigorously prosecuted. Picketing and literature distribution do not fall under the 1017 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act. 1018

**302.** Freedom of Speech on University Campuses: We support the protection of free-speech rights at 1019 public universities, including the elimination of politically correct speech codes and “bias-response teams.” 1020

**303.** Religious Freedom for Business Owners: We support the removal of laws and regulations that are 1021 used to force business owners and employees to violate their sincerely held beliefs. 1022

**304.** Public Accommodations: We support legislation at the state and federal levels that concretely defines 1023 public accommodations as originally defined and understood in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that it prohibit 1024 any

expansion of that legal definition by any federal, state, or local law to expand government control to 1025 restrict any First Amendment rights; and to proscribe any law that requires any private business or 1026 individual to create or provide a custom product or service, or any kind of expressive work, or enter into a 1027 contract, or be coerced into any speech that is not their own. 1028

**305. Religious Freedom of Speech and Practice:** We call on the Texas Legislature to repeal the Johnson 1029 Amendment, which assaults the free speech of pastors and religious organizations. We further resolve to 1030 protect the First Amendment rights of any citizen to practice their religion and exercise their right to free 1031 speech in the public square, as well as in religious organization affiliations. 1032

**306. Religious Freedom:** As America is “one nation under God,” founded on Judeo-Christian principles, 1033 we affirm the constitutional right of all individuals to worship as they choose. 1034

**307. Daylight Saving Time:** We urge the Texas Legislature to enact legislation to end Daylight Saving 1035 Time in Texas. 1036

**308. Electoral College:** We support the Electoral College. 1037

**309. Fairness Doctrine:** We oppose any attempt by Congress or any federal agency to implement any 1038 policy comparable to the Fairness Doctrine as terminated in 1987. 1039

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**310. Gender Identity Facilities in Businesses:** We support enacting legislation in the State of Texas 1040 ensuring that no government entity in the state be allowed to take it upon itself to define for any private 1041 business or private entity how it must segregate its restrooms, changing facilities, or showers; nor may any 1042 government agency be allowed to require businesses to profess, espouse, or adopt specific views on sex, 1043 sexuality, gender, or gender identity, other than to guarantee that views and positions on these matters 1044 are not used as a basis to deny access to public accommodations, as defined by the Civil Rights Act of 1045 1964, nor to deny employment, or discriminate in employment decisions, solely on the basis of a person’s 1046 views on these matters. 1047

**311. Child Rights:** We call on the Texas Legislature to pass legislation to protect privacy in public schools 1048 and government buildings as allowed by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, by ensuring that 1049 multi-use facilities, including showers, changing rooms, and bathrooms, are designated for and used only 1050 by persons based on the person’s biological sex. 1051

**312. No Sexuality Indoctrination:** We call on the State Legislature to pass legislation so that no public 1052 school or other educational institution may force, require, or pressure any child or student to profess, 1053 espouse, or adopt, or otherwise be indoctrinated without explicit parental consent, specific views on sex, 1054 sexuality, gender, or gender identity. 1055

**313. Gender Identity Pronouns:** We oppose any attempt to criminalize and/or penalize anyone for the 1056 wrong use of pronouns. 1057



**314. Heritage:** We call upon governmental entities to protect all symbols of our American and Texan 1058 heritage. We oppose governmental action to remove the public display of the Ten Commandments or 1059 other religious symbols. We support the Pledge Protection Act. We urge that the national motto “In God 1060 We Trust” and National Anthem be protected from legislative and judicial attack. Penalties should be 1061 established for any form of desecration of the American or Texas fFlag. We support adoption of American 1062 English as the official language of Texas and of the United States. Holidays such as Thanksgiving, 1063 Christmas, Easter, Columbus Day, St. Valentine’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day, Good Friday, Veterans Day, 1064 Memorial Day, Labor Day, and the 4th of July as historical holidays should remain on our governmental 1065 and public school calendars. We support preservation of Texas history and historical sites. Visitors to the 1066 Alamo should conduct themselves with decorum and reverence inside the shrine, out of respect for the 1067 sacrifice of the heroes who are honored there. We call for restoration of plaques honoring the Confederate 1068 widow’s pension fund contribution that were illegally removed from the Texas Supreme Court building. 1069

**315. Historical Monuments:** We believe all historical war memorials, including Confederate monuments, in 1070 Texas should be protected from future removal or defacement and that those monuments that have been 1071 removed should be restored to their historical locations. 1072

**316. Homosexual Behavior:** We affirm God’s biblical design for marriage and sexual behavior between 1073 one biological man and one biological woman, which has proven to be the foundation for all great nations 1074 in Western civilization. We oppose homosexual marriage, regardless of state of origin. We urge the Texas 1075 Legislature to pass religious liberty protections for individuals, businesses, and government officials who 1076 believe marriage is between one man and one woman. We oppose the granting of special legal 1077 entitlements or creation of special status for homosexual behavior, regardless of state of origin. We 1078 oppose any criminal or civil penalties against those who oppose homosexuality out of faith, conviction, or 1079 belief in traditional values. 1080

**317. Definition of Marriage:** We support the definition of marriage as a God-ordained, legal, and moral 1081 commitment only between one natural man and one natural woman. 1082

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**318. State Authority over Marriage:** We support withholding jurisdiction from the federal courts in cases 1083 involving family law, especially any changes in the definition of marriage. 1084 **[333<sup>viii</sup>]** Spousal Benefits: We shall not recognize or grant to any unmarried person the legal rights or 1085 status of a spouse, including granting benefits by political subdivisions. 1086 **[334<sup>ix</sup>]** No-Fault Divorce: We urge the Legislature to rescind no-fault divorce laws and support covenant 1087 marriage. 1088

**319. Overturn Unconstitutional Ruling:** We believe this decision, overturning the Texas law prohibiting 1089 same-sex marriage in Texas, has no basis in the Constitution and should be reversed, returning 1090 jurisdiction over the definition of marriage to the states. The Governor and other elected officials of the 1091 State of Texas should assert our Tenth Amendment right and reject the Supreme Court ruling. 1092

**320. Pro-life:** Until the abolition of abortion is achieved, we support laws that restrict and regulate abortion 1093

including, but not limited to: 1094

1. Parental and informed consent. 1095 2. Prohibition of abortion for gender selection. 1096 3. Prohibition of abortion due to the results of genetic diagnosis. 1097 4. Prohibition of licensing, liability, and malpractice insurance for abortionists and abortion facilities. 1098 5. Prohibition of financial kickbacks for abortion referrals. 1099 6. Prohibition of partial-birth, late-term abortions. 1100 7. Prohibition of abortions after the time an unborn child's heartbeat is detected. 1101 8. Prohibition of the manufacturing and sale of abortifacients (e.g., morning after pill). 1102 9. Elimination of causes of action for "wrongful birth." 1103 10. Enactment of any other laws that will advance the right to life for unborn children. 1104 11. Health insurance coverage for abortion services and abortifacients, which under Texas law should 1105 be considered supplemental coverage and billed to the beneficiary. 1106

**321. Abolish Abortion:** We call upon the Texas Legislature to enact legislation stopping the murder of 1107 unborn children and to ignore and refuse to enforce any and all federal statutes, regulations, executive 1108 orders, and court rulings that would deprive an unborn child of the right to life. 1109

**322. Dismemberment Abortion:** We strongly support the prohibition of elective dismemberment abortions, 1110 a type of dilation and evacuation abortion, which take the life of preborn children by removing their limbs. 1111

**323. State Authority over Abortion:** We urge the federal congressional delegation from Texas to take 1112 immediate action, under the authority extended to them in Article III of the Constitution of the United 1113 States, to put forth legislation remanding all authority over abortion to the individual states and removing 1114 all standing on the issue of abortion from the federal judiciary. 1115

**324. Fundamental Right to Life:** All innocent human life must be respected and safeguarded from 1116 fertilization to natural death; therefore, the unborn, the aged, and the physically or mentally challenged 1117 have a fundamental individual right to life, which cannot be infringed. 1118

**325. Reverse Roe v. Wade:** We are resolute in our support of the reversal of Roe v. Wade. 1119

**326. Property Annexation:** Homeowners and landowners in an area proposed for annexation should have 1120 the right to vote to approve or reject the annexation, regardless of the population of the county. No 1121 annexation can occur within 45 days of any election. 1122

**327. HOA Open Meetings:** We support legislation to require ALL homeowners' associations to comply 1123 with the Texas Open Meetings Act. We further support legislation prohibiting HOAs from using "policies" to 1124

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bypass the process of residents' voting on changes in deed restrictions. **[Local]** 1125

**328. Property Rights:** Property ownership and free enterprise, the foundation of our collective wealth, must 1126 not be abridged nor denied by government. We support legislation to protect these bedrock rights. Areas 1127 of concern are: annexation, eminent domain (including foreign entities), property forfeiture, extraterritorial 1128 jurisdiction, seizure for public or private development, natural resources and conservation easements, 1129 groundwater and/or mineral rights, nationalization of lands, and the preservation of our Fourth Amendment 1130

right to privacy. Property owners should be notified of their rights with regard to condemnation, 1131 annexation, or easement; and the condemner should be required to petition a court of jurisdiction to show 1132 public necessity. Taking of property should result in immediate compensation of fair market value to the 1133 owner. These issues should be administered by elected officials accountable to voters. **[State, Local]** 1134

**329.** Eminent Domain: The use of eminent domain must exclude the seizure of private property for private 1135 economic development or increased tax revenue. **[State/Local]** 1136

**330.** Save the USS Texas: Since the USS Texas was given to the State of Texas in 1948, the Republican 1137 Party of Texas supports the previous and future allocation of funds that are necessary to preserve the 1138 USS Texas as a permanent monument to the ship, her crew of two world wars, and the history of the State 1139 of Texas. **[State]** 1140

**331.** Unfunded Mandates: We urge the Legislature to consider the impact on taxpayers for any mandate 1141 they pass. 1142 1143

**[332]** See Bracketed Plank after **225**, voted on here as **332**. 1144

**[333]** See Bracketed Plank after **318**, voted on here as **333**. 1145

**[334]** See Bracketed Plank after **318**, voted on here as **334**. 1146

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NOTE: Editors have in some places, suggested language for improve clarity as indicated by ~~strikeout~~ or 1148 original language and [insertions in brackets]. 1149

## Resolutions 1150

1. The Texas Republican Party concurs in the censure of Texas State Representative Byron R. Cook, 1151 pursuant to Texas Republican Party General Rules for Conventions and Meetings, for committing three (3) 1152 or more acts in contravention of the Republican Party of Texas Core Principles. Further, we the delegates 1153 of the Texas Republican Party impose any and all sanctions, penalties, or punishments available upon 1154 Texas State Representative Byron R. Cook, pursuant to Texas Republican Party General Rules for 1155 Conventions and Meetings, Rule #44. 1156

<sup>i</sup> Last edit June 21, 2018, 15:51 CDT by Mark S. Ramsey. <sup>ii</sup> Original subcommittee language included UIL before participation. However, the committee of the whole voted to ~~leave this out.~~ <sup>iii</sup> In two cases of deleted planks, the placeholder remains to preserve consistency between plank numbers as-voted <sup>and</sup> those in this document. <sup>iv</sup> As passed on convention floor left out a numbered item, though language was in place. Hence sub-numbered list <sup>was</sup> renumbered as intended. <sup>v</sup> In three cases of planks that were inadvertently included in other planks in the Permanent Committee Report, <sup>but</sup> voted separately by giving them plank numbers at the end, their POSITION in the committee report is preserved with a bracketed plank number corresponding to how they were voted on by the delegates, and a cross reference on the respective added plank number to show where the voted on language was located. <sup>vi</sup> Editors preferred Pre-Natal, but since Preborn is in common usage to refer to the bill, it was retained. <sup>vii</sup> In two cases of deleted planks, the placeholder remains to preserve consistency between plank numbers as-voted <sup>and</sup> those in this document. <sup>viii</sup> In three cases of planks that were inadvertently included in other planks in the Permanent Committee Report, <sup>but</sup> voted separately by giving them plank numbers at the end, their POSITION in the committee report is preserved with a bracketed plank number corresponding to how they were voted on by the delegates, and a cross reference on the respective added plank number to show where the voted on language was located. <sup>ix</sup> In three cases of planks that were inadvertently included in other planks in the Permanent Committee Report, <sup>but</sup> voted separately by giving them plank numbers at the end, their POSITION in the committee report is preserved with a bracketed plank number corresponding to how they were voted on by the delegates, and a cross reference on the respective added plank number to show where the voted on language was located.

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