

**Preamble to the Platform And the Policy of the
Columbia County Republican Committee**

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Columbia County Republican Committee

Preamble to the Platform

This Statement is offered not only as the basis upon which The Columbia County Republican Committee (The Committee) Platform has been developed, but as a vision projecting the direction the Republican Party must take locally, as well as nationally, if the Republican Party is to remain a viable force, and truly lead and serve the nation.

Toward A New Republican Leadership

Continue to provide the leadership in preserving and strengthening traditional American values and those great values of Western Civilization that have given the world immense prosperity and progress, and the realization of democracy and freedom. National leadership must find the means to preserve the spiritual and moral values of our great nation that provided the benefits of freedom. While we recognize there are no constitutional areas to be effectively managed from the national level, we resist the growing power of the Federal government, and support maintaining the power to govern at the lowest level possible - City, County, State. At this level is where the people's voice will be heard and government become more responsive. We recognize the full human potential. True freedom will be maintained within the framework of a free economy.

We recognize the increasing complexity of life, the increasing cost of many essential services, e.g., transportation, energy, and health care. Such intervention by the state requires close watch, and kept to an absolute minimum to ensure the spirit and practice of free enterprise. As a nation, we must encourage a realistic social consciousness on the part of corporations and entrepreneurs as regards the public good and employees. Likewise, we must find legislation that will preserve the small businessman in the face of multi-national corporations that are, by their very nature, destroying competition and thereby, the free enterprise system.

The lessons of history are clear in teaching that in all great civilizations that greatness was based on three elements: the family, the education system, and strong religious faith. All three mutually reinforce in a common focus the respect and love of country. The mobility in our modern world and other factors has destroyed the unity of the family, and economic needs and expectations have further weakened the family by removing parents from the home. Schools have been tampered with, and local control virtually destroyed. Religions--all traditional religions--have been under attack, legal and intellectual, resulting in the weakening and distortion of religious institutions. Government efforts must be forthcoming to stabilize our society and our culture, so the values of our founding fathers will again be made manifest.

An emerging system of American cultural values has been virtually aborted by the onslaught of multiculturalism, absurd immigration policies, passive acceptance of aberrant lifestyles, and demand for toleration of variant, even deviant cultural and social conduct. Tolerance must not replace our sense of social responsibility, essential in preserving harmony and profiting from cultural diversity. Nor may unquestioning tolerance and multiculturalism be used to degrade or weaken our basic American cultural and value system. The apostles of absolute tolerance have further turned traditional American culture and values into items of derision and criticism. Legislation must be found that will encourage respect for the individual while fostering the values that made this a great nation.

The basic principles, upon which the Republican Party stands must be reaffirmed, and Republican Party leadership and elected officials must energetically apply these principles in guiding the Republican Party, the Nation, the State, and our Local government. The principles of our Founding Fathers made our nation great, provide the framework for future greatness, and Republican Party success. These principles include:

- Less government, at all levels
- Lower taxes,
- Strong national defense,
- Firm foreign policy,
- Free market,
- Individual freedom, responsibility, and accountability,
- Freedom of religion and assembly,
- Preserving and strengthening traditional American values, morality and integrity,
- Patriotism and duty to country.

Purpose of The Platform

The County Republican Committee platform represents our goals for the County, State, and Nation. To pursue these goals the below signatories will expect elected officials to implement legislation which is consistent with the above stated Republican principles and position further amplified in this platform.

Adoption of The Platform

This platform was formally adopted by the County Committee of the Columbia County Republican Committee on the 24th day of August in the year of our Lord 2009. By our signature, we, the Executive Board, pledge to foster and propagate this platform, and the principles of the Republican Party.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED:			
<u>[Signature]</u>	11/18/09	<u>Robert Benham</u>	11/18/09
CHAIR	DATE	POLICY AND RULES CHAIR	DATE
<u>Catherine Gudwin</u>	11/18/09	<u>[Signature]</u>	12/5/09
FIRST VICE CHAIR	DATE	POLICY AND RULES VICE CHAIR	DATE
<u>[Signature]</u>	11/18/09	<u>[Signature]</u>	12/7/09
SECOND VICE CHAIR	DATE	POLICY AND RULES SECRETARY	DATE
<u>Vacant</u>			
THIRD VICE CHAIR	DATE		
<u>[Signature]</u>	11-18-09		
FOURTH VICE CHAIR	DATE		

Platform And Policy of The Columbia County Republican Committee

Policy Number I: Purpose And Goals

PURPOSE: To establish the basic, guiding principles of the County Republican Committee by identifying the purpose and goals of the Republican Party.

1.1. PROMOTING CONSERVATIVE PRINCIPLES. The County Republican Committee supports and works to promote widest possible acceptance of conservative principles, social, cultural, and economic; embodied in the principles of the National Republican Party.

1.2. ADAPTING NATIONAL PARTY PRINCIPLES TO LOCAL NEEDS. The County Republican Committee will adapt these principles to the needs and interests of Columbia County with modification as necessary.

1.3. EXPANDING THE BASE. Republican Committee policies and efforts will be directed toward expanding the base of the County Committee, and the conservative movement in Columbia County.

1.4. SUPPORT OF CONTINUED COUNTY DEVELOPMENT. The Committee will support a well planned, balanced program for industrial, commercial, and residential development. The development must be balanced and in harmony with social, cultural, recreational, and conservation needs of the community.

1.5. TRADITIONAL VALUES. The Republican Committee remains the bastion of traditional, conservative American values, and will work to strengthen and promote these values which emphasize:

- Individual responsibility over governmental largess.
- Strong family values and unity.
- Traditional education that places adequate emphasis on civics and American studies.
- Respect for religious values and ethics.
- Strong sense of patriotism.
- Strong work ethic.
- Morality.
- Integrity.

1.6. OPEN, RESPONSIVE, AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT. Elect individuals who will most effectively work to implement Republican, conservative principles, and will ensure governmental duties are carried out in an efficient, ethical manner, in the best interests of the County as a whole.

1.7. ELECTION OF CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATES. The County Republican Committee seeks to elect candidates who represent the conservative values of the

Republican Party, and who will actively promote these values as defined by the Guiding Principles of the County Republican Committee. The County Republican Committee prefers the primary process of determining the County Republican Committee standard bearers, rather than a caucus of the County Republican Committee. To foster the election of conservative candidates, the County Republican Committee will encourage non-partisan election candidates to identify themselves with Republican principles of government.

Policy Number II: Evaluating Candidates

PURPOSE: To establish a policy for evaluating candidates who choose to qualify in the Columbia County Republican Primary.

2.1. THE NEED. Candidates running under the Republican Party banner imperatively must believe and be loyal to the philosophy and goals of the County Republican Committee.

2.2. RECORDING DATA. The Plans and Policy Committee will develop an instrument that will allow all relevant information on a candidate to be collected and efficiently used. The final draft of the proposed instrument will be submitted to the Political Operations Group (see policy II, Para 5) for review, modification and / or approval.

2.3. REPORTING INFORMATION. When collected and analyzed, the information will be published and distributed to Members of the County Republican Committee. The Plans and Policy Committee will prepare the information to be reported, which will receive final approval from the Political Operations Group before dissemination.

2.4. COLLECTING DATA. Information relevant to an individual's candidacy will include, but is not limited to the following:

2.4.1 Background. Efforts will be made to glean as much information as possible on the candidate. Consideration will be given to the following:

- Voting record as available.
- Republican Committee membership, National, State and Local.
- Local Republican Committee activity and support.
- Previous political experience or involvement including voting record on issues.
- Personal history that might be embarrassing to the County Republican Committee.

2.4.2 Platform Interview. A candidate will be asked to study the platform and meet with the Political Operations Group to discuss the candidate's position on the various planks in the platform. The candidate will be asked to affirm support of the platform and/or to note exceptions to the platform. The response of the candidate will be noted in a report to the membership. Since the last week in April is a Qualifying Week, the POG will conduct candidate interviews during first

three weeks in April. The Campaign Support Committee will schedule and secure facilities for State and Local candidates who have announced their intention to seek office – whether incumbent or potential challenger – to appear before the POG. Candidates will be asked to offer a brief opening statement to include their reason for seeking the office they would occupy if elected. The panel will record its report for each candidate and given to the County Chair for his consideration during the qualification week. The chairman will outline the Campaign Support Committee procedure for the candidate to speak to Republican groups.

2.4.3 Talk with the County Republican Committee membership. A potential candidate will be offered the opportunity to meet with and speak to the County Republican Committee membership. The County Republican Committee membership will be notified of the meeting. This will not be a campaign speech opportunity, but the candidate's position on issues and the Platform of The Party.

2.5. REPORTING AND DISSEMINATING INFORMATION. The Political Operations Group will prepare the report which will be forwarded to the Executive Board for approval before dissemination. Once the Executive Board approves the report, it will be provided to the candidates for review. Candidates have one week to review the report. The finalized report will be distributed to the membership as well as the general public through press releases, paid advertisement, and candidate forums.

The following positions of the Executive Board constitute the Members of the Political Operations Group:

- Chair
- First Vice Chair
- Second Vice Chair
- Third Vice Chair
- Fourth Vice Chair
- Chair and Vice Chair, Policy and Plans Committee
- Chair and Vice Chair, Campaign Support Committee
- Chair and Vice Chair, Public Relations Committee

Policy Number III: Activities During Primaries

PURPOSE: To establish policy governing the political activities of the County Republican Committee and individual Republican Committee Members during primary, special, and nonpartisan elections.

3.1 BASIC CONSIDERATION: The County Republican Committee expects County Republican Committee Officials and Members to support the winner of the Primary as the standard bearer of the County Republican Committee. Officials and Members are not to endorse or support candidates of competing political organizations.

3.2. THE COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE IN GENERAL. Following the qualifying of candidates, the County Republican Committee will maintain strict neutrality during primaries. The "Primary Period" is defined as that period from the beginning of candidate qualification week through the close of polls on Election Day for a primary and primary runoff, if there is a runoff. The exception will be in the event an obviously undesirable candidate, who would damage the conservative Republican cause, who has insisted on qualifying as a Republican after concerted efforts by the Chair to discourage him/her from qualifying. To determine whether a candidate should not be supported there must be some clear moral or ethical liability, or political activity that would be detrimental to the County Republican Committee or Republican Party in general.

3.3. THE CHAIR. The Chair will remain completely neutral in all races during the above-defined "Primary Period."

3.4. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS. Executive Board Members are free to support candidates of their choice during primaries. However, they are forbidden from using their Republican Committee title when supporting a primary candidate, in compliance with the Rules of Georgia Republican Party.

3.5. COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS. A County Committee Member is defined as a voting Member of the County Committee. County Committee Members are free to support any given candidate of their choice during primaries. However, they are forbidden from using their Republican Committee title when supporting a primary candidate, in compliance with the Rules of Georgia Republican Party.

3.6. REFERENDUMS. The Republican Committee will use the Primary as an opportunity for the voters to express direct will of the people through referendum items, at the direction of the County Committee.

Policy Number IV: Candidate Support

PURPOSE: To establish policy concerning the support of Republican candidates in primary and general elections.

4.1. GENERAL. Candidates are expected to fund their own campaigns. The County Republican Committee will support the Party standard bearers with money or special assistance in the general election. Not all candidates will be supported equally, but rather support will be based on a number of conditions.

4.2. DETERMINING SUPPORT. Whether a candidate receives support, or the amount of the support, will be determined by the Executive Board, based on recommendations and data provided by the Political Operations Group.

4.3. CONSIDERATIONS IN DETERMINING SUPPORT. The amount and type of support given a candidate will be determined by several factors, which include, but are not limited to the following:

- Criticality of the race. How important the race is in relation to other races.
- Strength of the opposition. Candidates with weak opposition will normally not be provided the degree of support given candidates with more formidable opposition.
- Available funding. Candidates who have ample or adequate financial and other support will normally not be given the degree of support of candidates less well-funded.
- Republican Principles. Candidates who clearly manifest commitment to Republican principles will be provided support. Candidates will be asked to review the County Republican Committee Governing Principles prior to qualifying. Candidates will be asked to affirm the Governing Principles or detail exceptions. Candidates will pledge to promote and fulfill the Governing Principles as an elected official.
- Other factors will be considered and evaluated as appropriate.

4.4. REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE SUPPORT

- All Republican candidates will have access to the same information, e.g., political history / trends data relevant to the candidate's area of interest, and campaign information from Republican Republican Committee literature and similar material.
- The County Republican Committee will support the standard bearers of The Party through a campaign headquarters, volunteer workers, literature distribution, telephone banks, and financial contributions.
- The County Republican Committee members will not support candidates of competing political parties.