

## **Statement of Republican Guiding Principles\***

As members of Delaware's new and revitalized Republican Party, we believe that the preservation and enhancement of the values that strengthen and protect individual freedom, family life, communities and neighborhoods and the liberty of our beloved state and nation should be at the heart of any legislative or political program presented to the American people and the people of Delaware. Toward that end, we, therefore, commit ourselves to the following propositions and offer them to each Delawarean believing that the Delaware Republican Party, based on such principles, will serve the interest of all Delawareans.

We believe that liberty can be measured by how much freedom Delawareans and all Americans have to make their own decisions, even their own mistakes. Government must step in when one's liberties impinge upon those of his/her neighbor. Government must protect constitutional rights, deal with other governments, protect citizens from aggressors, assure equal opportunity, and be compassionate in caring for those citizens who are unable to care for themselves.

Our federal system of local-state-national government is designed to sort out the level upon which these actions should be taken. Those concerns of a national character that do not respect state boundaries, or which pertain to the national transportation system, our national defense, or efforts to safeguard your civil liberties—must, of course, be handled primarily on the national level.

As a general rule, however, we believe that government action should be taken first by the government that resides as close to you as possible.

We also believe that Delawareans and all Americans, often acting through voluntary organizations, should have the opportunity to solve many of the social problems of their communities. This spirit of freely helping others is uniquely American and should be encouraged in every way by government.

Families must continue to be the foundation of our state and our nation. Families—not government programs—are the best way to make sure our children are properly nurtured, our elderly are cared for, our cultural and spiritual heritages are perpetuated, our laws are observed and our values are preserved.

Thus, it is imperative that our government's programs, actions, officials and social welfare institutions never be allowed to jeopardize the family. We fear the government may be powerful enough to destroy our families and we know that no government is powerful enough to replace them. Delaware's Republican Party must be committed to working always in the interest of Delaware's families.

Every dollar spent by government is a dollar earned by individuals. Government must always ask: "Are your dollars being wisely spent? Can we afford it? Is it not better for the state to leave your dollars in your pocket?" We believe that "taxpayer dollars" are exactly that – dollars that belong to the taxpayer, and that those dollars are generally better spent by those who earn those

dollars than by governments.

Elected officials, their appointees, and government workers are expected to perform their public acts with honesty, openness, diligence, and special integrity.

Government must work for the goal of justice and the elimination of unfair practices, but no government has yet designed a more productive economic system or one which benefits as many people as the American free-market system.

The beauty of our land is our legacy to our children. It must be protected by us so that they can pass it on intact to their children.

The future prosperity of our state and our nation depends upon the prosperity of our children. The prosperity of our children rests with their ability to obtain a quality education in a safe and productive environment.

The United States must always stand for peace and liberty in the world and the rights of the individual. We must form sturdy partnerships with our allies for the preservation of freedom. We must be ever willing to negotiate differences, but equally mindful that there are American ideals that cannot be compromised. Given that there are other nations with potentially hostile design, we recognize that we can reach our goals only while maintaining a superior national defense, second to none.

We believe in the rule of law, not the rule of man. We believe that no man is above the law and that government actors and agencies are bound by the law, constrained by the law, and accountable to the law.

We believe in the promise of our founding fathers of government which is “of the people, by the people, and for the people”; and, in the words of the Declaration of Independence, “*that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*”

-- Adopted by the Executive Committee of the Delaware Republican Party July 5, 2011.

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\*Large portions of this statement of guiding principles are taken directly from Ronald Reagan’s February 6, 1977 speech to CPAC and were, in turn, taken by Reagan from the 1976 Republican National Platform. Quotation marks have been deleted so as to enhance readability. Reagan’s words and those of the 1976 Republican Platform have been edited and paraphrased so as to better serve our current and specific needs.