

As Republicans, we believe in...

Promoting Economic Prosperity

We support lowering the tax burden, exercising spending restraint, and creating and maintaining a fair, honest and competitive business environment to promote economic prosperity and once again make Minnesota the economic engine of the Upper Midwest.

Preserving Civil Rights

We support defending the right to life, protecting religious, political and economic liberties, and respecting personal privacy and property to preserve civil rights and ensure that government treats all of its citizens equally under the law.

Educating our Children

We support the belief that parents are responsible for their children's education and that parents, teachers and local school boards can make the best decisions about our children's education.

Strengthening our Families and Communities

We recognize the blessings that God has bestowed on this great Nation. We also recognize the sanctity of human life and the central role of the traditional family in our society. We work to defend those values in order to strengthen our families and communities.

Protecting Public Safety

We believe that the most fundamental function of government is to keep citizens and our property secure.

Strengthening the Rule of Law

We support limiting the power of attorneys and frivolous lawsuits, increasing the responsibility of the jury, protecting judicial elections and holding judges accountable to strengthen the rule of law and prevent abuse of our legal system.

Enjoying and Protecting our Natural Resources

We believe that proper stewardship of our natural resources and agricultural lands is best be achieved through sound science and adherence to constitutionally guaranteed property rights.

Making Government Smaller and Better

We support keeping government functions in state, local or private hands, electing honest and responsive legislative bodies and advocating for fair election processes to make government smaller and better.

Defending America at Home and Abroad

We believe that we can maintain peace by having a strong national defense, securing our borders and by encouraging all people to seek freedom, democracy and free enterprise.

1 **Republican Party of Minnesota**
2 **2008 Standing Platform**

3
4 **Section 1 – Promote Economic Prosperity**

5
6 *We support lowering the tax burden, exercising spending*
7 *restraint, and creating and maintaining a fair, honest and*
8 *competitive business environment to promote economic*
9 *prosperity and once again make Minnesota the economic*
10 *engine of the Upper Midwest.*

11
12 **Lower Tax Burden on Families and Businesses**

13
14 Republicans support comprehensive tax reform and
15 reprioritization of government spending. We support
16 abolishing the current tax code and replacing it with a simpler,
17 fairer tax system that favors a national sales tax or flat tax.
18 Republicans also support a simplification of the state property
19 tax system.

20
21 Republicans support limiting the ability of Congress and the
22 Legislature to use tax increases as the first solution to every
23 problem by requiring a supermajority vote in Congress or the
24 Minnesota Legislature to enact such increases. We support a
25 state Constitutional amendment limiting growth in state
26 spending to inflation plus population growth. Any surpluses
27 should be returned to the taxpayers in proportion to the taxes
28 paid.

29
30 Republicans seek to reduce the current burden of taxation by
31 cutting or eliminating capital gains taxes, taxes on marriage,
32 sickness, death, inheritance, Social Security and veterans'
33 benefits and pensions. This would also include the onerous
34 Alternative Minimum Tax. Republicans also support keeping
35 internet sales and access free of taxation. We should cease
36 charging Minnesota state sales tax on local government
37 purchases.

38
39 We support allowing Americans the flexibility of investing their
40 Social Security payments while continuing to fulfill our
41 obligation to older Americans (this would include prohibiting
42 Congress from using Social Security funds for any other
43 purpose).

44
45 **Exercise Spending Restraint**

46
47 At the federal level, we support adopting a United States
48 constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget and
49 reduction of the national debt.

50
51 We should dedicate all taxes, fees, and licenses from their
52 revenue streams to their appropriate program funding. Tax
53 revenue from gas and motor vehicle taxes should not fund
54 commuter rail and light rail construction and operation.
55 Programs, such as public broadcasting, sports stadiums, and
56 the arts, should be funded by its users and voluntary donors,
57 and not subsidized by the use of taxpayer money. Similarly,
58 specific projects should not be funded through the use of
59 'earmarks' in appropriations and other bills. Public employee
60 retirement fund deficits should not be funded by taxes, fees or
61 by borrowing from the public. No mandate can be imposed by
62 any branch of government on any other unless it includes the
63 funds necessary to support that mandates. We should repeal
64 state and federal legislation that imposes mandated wage rates
65 on government and school district projects.

66
67 Before any new government program is initiated, the program's
68

1 **Republican Party of Minnesota**
2 **2010 Proposed Platform**

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32 sickness, death, inheritance, Social Security and veterans'
33 benefits and pensions. This would also include the onerous
34 Alternative Minimum Tax. Republicans also support keeping
35 internet sales and access free of taxation. ~~We should cease~~
36 ~~charging Minnesota state sales tax on local government~~
37 ~~purchases. Purchases by local government should be exempt~~
38 ~~from Minnesota state sales tax.~~

39
40 We support allowing Americans the flexibility of investing their
41 Social Security payments while continuing to fulfill our
42 obligation to older Americans (this would include prohibiting
43 Congress from using Social Security funds for any other
44 purpose). Republicans advocate maintaining a sound and
45 stable, backed currency.

46
47 **Exercise Spending Restraint**

48
49 At the federal level, we support adopting a United States
50 constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget and
51 reduction of the national debt. At the state level, we support
52 limiting proposed spending for a new biennium to no more
53 than the actual receipts from the previous biennium's revenue
54 collections.

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56 We should dedicate all taxes, fees, and licenses from their
57 revenue streams to their appropriate program funding. Tax
58 revenue from gas and motor vehicle taxes should not fund
59 commuter rail and light rail construction and operation.
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61 the arts, should be funded by its users and voluntary donors,
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63 projects should not be funded through the use of 'earmarks' in
64 appropriations and other bills. Public employee retirement fund
65 deficits should not be funded by taxes, fees or by borrowing
66 from the public. No mandate can be imposed by any branch of
67 government on any other unless it includes the funds necessary
68

69 purpose, cost and estimated completion date must be
70 established. There must also be ways of measuring program
71 performance and procedures to dismantle in the case that the
72 program does not meet expectations.

73
74 **Create and Maintain a Fair, Honest and Competitive Business
75 Environment**

76 We support a fair, honest and competitive business
77 environment, and therefore, oppose corporate welfare. Non-
78 union contractors to government and school district projects
79 should be granted equal access to projects without mandating
80 that they sign project labor agreements. Government-
81 mandated employee benefits should be abolished, allowing
82 small businesses to assemble and pool assets for the purpose
83 of funding employee health care insurance programs.

84
85
86 **Section 2 – Preserve Civil Rights**

87 *We support defending the right to life, protecting religious,
88 political and economic liberties, and respecting personal privacy
89 and property to preserve civil rights and ensure that
90 government treats all of its citizens equally under the law.*

91
92
93 **Defend the Right to Life**

94 Republicans believe that every innocent human being, born and
95 unborn has an inalienable right to life from conception to
96 natural death. Any policy or law that attacks that belief is
97 wrong and should be opposed. The U.S. and Minnesota
98 Constitutions should be amended to restore legal protection to
99 the lives of innocent human beings from conception to natural
100 death. To that end, members of the Minnesota House and
101 Senate should introduce and support legislation defining
102 conception as: “when the DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) of
103 Mankind is joined,” and we should also urge them to introduce
104 and support ‘right to life’ legislation that establishes
105 ‘personhood’ at the time of conception. We oppose partial
106 birth abortions and we should eliminate forced taxpayer
107 funding of abortion or abortion providers and abortions
108 performed on minors without parental consent. We advocate
109 providing women considering abortions with information on
110 alternatives as well as information on the repercussions of
111 choosing abortion. We advocate prohibiting U.S. promotion or
112 funding of abortion in any nation.

113 Action should be taken leading to legislative guarantees and
114 protection of the father’s inalienable right to decide against any
115 unilateral or preemptive decision to terminate his child’s
116 developing life. Minnesota lawmakers should also work to ban
117 research, experimentation or sale of fetal tissue or body parts
118 obtained through abortion, including use of embryos or
119 embryonic stem cells for reproductive or so-called ‘therapeutic’
120 cloning.

121 We believe parents must provide informed opt-in consent
122 before newborn genetic testing and before the Minnesota
123 Department of Health can retain their children’s DNA.

124
125 **Protect Religious, Political & Economic Liberties**

126 We support protecting the right to religious expression for all
127 peoples, including the public display of the Ten
128 Commandments and the right to prayer at government events
129 in the name of a specific deity. Everyone should have the right
130 to form organizations based on their set of religious beliefs or
131 principles including places of worship, charities, schools and
132 hospitals. Religious organizations should not be compelled to
133 act in conflict with their beliefs or teachings or fear losing their
134 tax-exempt status because of their support for specific

69 to support that mandates. We should repeal state and federal
70 legislation that imposes mandated wage rates on government
71 and school district projects.

72 Before any new government program is initiated, the program’s
73 purpose, cost and estimated completion date must be
74 established. There must also be ways of measuring program
75 performance and procedures to dismantle in the case that the
76 program does not meet expectations. We support requiring
77 annual audits of the Federal Reserve in strict compliance with
78 Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP).

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82 Environment**

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84 environment, and therefore, oppose corporate welfare. Non-
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119 any nation.

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126 embryonic stem cells for reproductive or so-called ‘therapeutic’
127 cloning.

128 We believe parents must provide informed opt-in consent
129 before newborn genetic testing and before the Minnesota
130 Department of Health can retain their children’s DNA.
131 Furthermore, the Minnesota Department of Health should be
132 required to destroy all DNA and genetic information collected
133 without express parental consent.

134
135 **Protect Religious. Political & Economic Liberties**

140 principles or political candidates. Organizations should have
141 the right to set their own standards for membership and the
142 right to maintain in their policies those aspects that support
143 their fundamental and legal beliefs. Furthermore, we feel
144 these rights extend to people of all nations and condemn
145 religious, political, and ethnic persecution, including
146 oppression, slave labor, torture and murder in any country.
147
148
149 We encourage respect for our American heritage and feel we
150 should be defined as Americans, not divided into subcategories.
151 We reject any form of preference or quota for employment,
152 student admissions and faculty hiring, or set-asides in the
153 awarding of government contracts. We will work to repeal all
154 statutes which require unequal treatment or special
155 preferences for such groups.
156
157
158 We support prohibiting the collection and storage of data
159 on any person by any government agency for the purpose of
160 indentifying and discriminating among such groups.
161
162 **Respect the Right to Personal Privacy and Property**
163
164 As Republicans, we respect personal privacy and personal
165 property. Therefore, the federal government should not
166 establish a national identification system for U.S. citizens. We
167 support legislation prohibiting the collection or release of any
168 personal, financial or other private information by anyone
169 without the express consent of the person involved.
170 Specifically, we seek to prohibit the use of Social Security
171 numbers for any purpose other than Social Security
172 identification.
173
174 We support legislation prohibiting federal, state and local
175 governments from taking private property for commercial or
176 recreational use or for the sole purpose of increasing tax
177 revenues rather than the general public good or taking private
178 property from one owner in order to favor another private
179 entity by way of eminent domain.
180
181 We reaffirm the constitutional right of an individual citizen to
182 keep and bear arms. A responsible, competent citizen has the
183 right to self defense through registration-free gun ownership
184 and a 'must issue' carry permit system. We support removing
185 restrictions and liability in the face of attack. Therefore, a state-
186 declared emergency may not include gun confiscation.
187
188 All workers in Minnesota have the right to work without being
189 forced to join a union and organize through secret ballot to join
190 a union or other association. Employees who do join a union
191 have the right to not have dues used for political purposes
192 without their consent, including dues supporting political
193 candidates or for any political purpose.
194
195 We support legislation prohibiting the USDA, the Minnesota
196 Board of Animal Health, and the Minnesota Department of
197 Agriculture from requiring federal and state premise and
198 individual identification on all livestock animals used for small
199 farm market, private, or individual use.
200
201 **Section 3 – Educate our Children**
202
203 *We support the belief that parents are responsible for their*
204 *children's education and that parents, teachers and local school*
205 *boards can make the best decisions about our children's*
206 *education.*
207
208 **Protect Parental Choice**
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210 As Republicans, we seek to improve the quality of education by
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150 tax-exempt status because of their support for specific
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181 numbers for any purpose other than Social Security
182 identification.
183
184 We support a freedom of choice in health care amendment to
185 the Minnesota Constitution, including the freedom not to
186 purchase health insurance and the freedom to pay directly for
187 medical care.
188
189 ~~We support legislation prohibiting~~ ~~disapprove~~ of federal, state
190 and local governments ~~from~~ taking private property for
191 commercial or recreational use or for the sole purpose of
192 increasing tax revenues rather than the general public good or
193 taking private property from one owner in order to favor
194 another private entity by way of eminent domain.
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197 keep and bear arms. A responsible, competent citizen has the
198 right to self defense through registration-free gun ownership
199 and a 'must issue' carry permit system. ~~We support removing~~
200 ~~restrictions and liability in the face of attack.~~ We support
201 removing restrictions on and liability for legitimate self defense.
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206 forced to join a union and organize through secret ballot to join
207 a union or other association. Employees who do join a union
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210 candidates or for any political purpose.
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212 maximizing parental choice. This includes expanding support
213 for charter schools, school choice programs, home school
214 options, and a more competitive and accountable public school
215 system. We also support preserving and expanding tax credits,
216 deductions, and school voucher programs. We believe that
217 parents should have the right to observe their child in the
218 classroom.

219
220 We are firmly against the establishment of universal pre-school
221 programs in Minnesota. We believe that there should be no
222 universal health screening of students in K-12 schools, pre-
223 schools and in early infancy. We also oppose social and
224 emotional outcomes being incorporated into the school
225 curricula.

226 **Prepare our Students at all Levels**

227
228 Minnesota should have a well-rounded knowledge-based
229 curriculum to prepare our students to be good citizens, with an
230 emphasis on hard work, honesty, home and family, as well as a
231 respect for America's religious and civic heritage. This would
232 be ensured by a statewide testing system on basic academic
233 skills, as well as rigorous standards for math, science and other
234 core curricula. However, schools should be required to notify
235 parents in advance of administering non-academic tests and
236 the notification must include an accurate description of the
237 content of the test.

238
239 We support making the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program
240 available annually in every Minnesota elementary school and
241 middle school. We also support programs that help with the
242 mastery of English as a second language.

243
244 Minnesota should devote the same amount of effort to
245 educating gifted and talented students as it currently devotes
246 to special education.

247 **Emphasize Traditional American Values**

248
249 We believe that every classroom should be required to display
250 the United States flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance daily.
251 In keeping with our heritage, all history classes should include
252 information about the important role religion played in our
253 Nation's founding including study of the Declaration of
254 Independence and the Constitution and other original sources.

255
256 We should continue to encourage the voluntary expression of
257 religious beliefs and traditions of students. Specifically,
258 educators who discuss creation science should be protected
259 from disciplinary action and science standards should recognize
260 that there is controversy pertaining to the theory of evolution.

261
262 We support the enforcement of current laws that prohibit
263 promoting the acceptance of homosexuality, bisexuality, or
264 transgenderism when discussed in Minnesota's public schools.
265 We should require that sexual abstinence be taught in public
266 schools, that premarital sex and extramarital sex is wrong, and
267 that the use of contraceptives is not safe sex. We oppose the
268 dispensing of or referral for birth control drugs and devices in
269 schools. Furthermore, we oppose dispensing any prescription
270 drugs in schools without written consent of the parents.

271
272 Public universities should be required to protect academic and
273 intellectual freedom of both the professors and students.

274 **Ensure Effective School Administrations**

275
276 All public schools, including colleges and universities should
277 also be held accountable for all funds received and spent in
278 accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

212
213 We support legislation prohibiting the USDA, the Minnesota
214 Board of Animal Health, and the Minnesota Department of
215 Agriculture from requiring federal and state premise and
216 individual identification on all livestock animals used for small
217 farm market, private, or individual use.

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221 *children's education and that parents, teachers and local school*
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227 maximizing parental choice. This includes expanding support
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271 We should continue to encourage the voluntary expression of
272 religious beliefs and traditions of students. Specifically,
273 educators who discuss creation science should be protected
274 from disciplinary action and science standards should recognize
275 that there is controversy pertaining to the theory of evolution.

276
277 We do not support the enforcement of current laws that

283 (GAAP). Effective administrations should spend at least 70% of
284 a school district' budget in the classroom. We believe that
285 education funding formulas should be simplified to make them
286 more understandable. Public universities should be prohibited
287 from imposing fees that support student clubs and
288 organizations without student consent.

289 We support reforming tenure, limiting public school teachers'
290 right to strike and restoring balance to the Public Employment
291 Labor Relations Act. Teachers should be paid based on
292 performance and there should be periodic competency testing
293 for public school teachers in both the academic curriculum and
294 the subjects they teach. We should repeal teacher licensure
295 rules based on the Profile of Learning and replace them with
296 new licensure rules to be adopted based on new state
297 standards.

300 We believe that Minnesota's educational system would be
301 more effective and efficient if we reduced the federal and state
302 bureaucracies' control. However, there should be no state and
303 federal support of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program
304 and the adoption of IB by local school districts. Funding or
305 discounts based on the number of children who receive free or
306 reduced meals should be eliminated. Minnesota should retain
307 its current system of Independent School Districts rather than
308 aligning school district boundaries with county boundaries.
309 Republicans believe that we should abolish the U.S.
310 Department of Education, as well as its unfunded mandates,
311 and oppose any new state or federal law that seeks to
312 centralize educational authority at the expense of local school
313 boards. We oppose reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind
314 Act and until then, Minnesota should opt out.

315 **Section 4 – Strengthen our Families and Communities**

316 *We recognize the blessings that God has bestowed on this great*
317 *Nation. We also recognize the sanctity of human life and the*
318 *central role of the traditional family in our society. We work to*
319 *defend those values in order to strengthen our families and*
320 *communities.*

321 **Protect our Families and Children**

322 As Republicans, we believe in the sanctity of human life and
323 marriage, and the central role of the traditional family in our
324 society. In order to protect our families and communities, we
325 need to change laws regarding marriage, divorce, adoption,
326 child support, welfare, taxes and others. Minnesota's laws
327 governing marriage should be amended to offer a 'Covenant
328 Marriage' option, entailing extensive pre-marital counseling
329 and limits on divorce. Grandparents and other relatives should
330 be the first option when children cannot live with their parents.
331 Racial preference is wrong; in cases of adoption, Minnesota
332 should make it easier and less costly for a traditional married
333 couple to adopt a child of any race. In child custody cases,
334 privileges of the father should be restored to comply with the
335 14th Amendment.

336 We support laws and regulations that restrict the production,
337 sale and promotion of vulgar and obscene material, especially
338 to children, and believe that pornography-blocking software
339 should be installed on all computers with internet access in
340 publicly financed institutions.

341 **Defend the Definition of Marriage**

342 We believe that marriage is between one man and one woman,
343 and that the U.S. Constitution and the Minnesota constitution
344 should be amended to this effect. We oppose civil unions or
345 their legal equivalents between same-sex couples and

283 ~~prohibit~~ promoting the acceptance of homosexuality,
284 bisexuality, or transgenderism when discussed in Minnesota's
285 public schools. We should require that sexual abstinence be
286 taught in public schools, that premarital sex and extramarital
287 sex is wrong, and that the use of contraceptives is not safe sex.
288 We oppose the dispensing of or referral for birth control drugs
289 and devices in schools. Furthermore, we oppose dispensing
290 any prescription drugs in schools without written consent of
291 the parents.

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293 intellectual freedom of both the professors and students.

294 **Ensure Effective School Administrations**

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296 also be held accountable for all funds received and spent in
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302 from imposing fees that support student clubs and
303 organizations without student consent.

304 We support reforming tenure, limiting public school teachers'
305 right to strike and restoring balance to the Public Employment
306 Labor Relations Act. No penalty should be imposed on school
307 districts that do not reach a contract agreement with teachers'
308 unions. Teachers should be paid based on performance and
309 there should be periodic competency testing for public school
310 teachers in both the academic curriculum and the subjects they
311 teach. ~~We should repeal teacher licensure rules based on the~~
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329 **Section 4 – Strengthen our Families and Communities**

330 *We recognize the blessings that God has bestowed on this great*
331 *Nation. We also recognize the sanctity of human life and the*
332 *central role of the traditional family in our society. We work to*
333 *defend those values in order to strengthen our families and*
334 *communities.*

335 **Protect our Families and Children**

336 As Republicans, we believe in the sanctity of human life and
337 marriage, and the central role of the traditional family in our
338 society. In order to protect our families and communities, we
339 need to change laws regarding marriage, divorce, adoption,
340 child support, welfare, taxes and others. Minnesota's laws
341 governing marriage should be amended to offer a 'Covenant
342 Marriage' option, entailing extensive pre-marital counseling
343 and limits on divorce. Grandparents and other relatives should

354 their legal equivalents between same-sex couples and
355 therefore, domestic partner benefits should not be publicly
356 funded.

357 **Reform and Eliminate the Welfare System**

358 People in need should be assisted primarily through private
359 charity, including faith-based programs instead of government
360 welfare programs. These programs should be encouraged
361 through tax credits at the federal and state levels with the
362 objective of replacing as much government-sponsored welfare
363 with private incentives as possible. The Republican Party of
364 Minnesota believes that there should be real welfare reform,
365 which would require all able-bodied recipients to work in order
366 to receive benefits, stop the practice of offering cash incentives
367 for unmarried recipients to bear children, and require proof of
368 legal in-state residency as a condition of receiving aid.

372 **Limit the Influence of Gambling in our State**

373 We seek to eliminate all state-sponsored gambling and oppose
374 any expansion of gambling in Minnesota. In regards to casinos
375 already in place, current gambling laws should be changed so
376 that Minnesota is allowed to tax profits and revenue of tribal
377 casino gambling in the state. We also believe that the
378 Minnesota legislature should increase the legal age of gambling
379 to 21 years of age.

382 **Protect our Health Care**

383 As Republicans, we support programs that introduce genuine
384 market competition to our health care system and thus reduce
385 health care costs and eliminate state mandated coverage of
386 various illnesses and conditions. We also oppose all proposals
387 for socialized medicine including 'single payer' plans. We seek
388 the repeal of Minnesota Care and oppose programs that ration
389 health care. Government interference with health care should
390 be minimized, including not allowing any government 'best
391 practices' legislation. Medicare reimbursement should not be
392 determined by the location of the provider.

393 We believe health savings accounts should be expanded so
394 individuals can purchase and control their own health care and
395 that all health care expenses should be fully tax deductible.
396 Individuals should be able to purchase health care insurance
397 from anywhere in the United States that offers benefits of their
398 choosing and not based on insurance mandates set by the
399 federal or state governments.

400 We believe that patient privacy laws in Minnesota should be
401 strengthened to require informed, written and voluntary
402 consent for all disclosures of patient data. However, parents
403 have the right to all of their minor child's health records,
404 including sexual health records, without the minor child's
405 consent.

406 Minnesota should prohibit any medical procedure or therapy
407 that would deliberately cause or hasten death including
408 physician-assisted suicide and deprivation of food and water.

414 **Section 5 – Protect Public Safety**

415 *We believe that the most fundamental function of government*
416 *is to keep our property and us secure.*

419 **Secure and Punish Criminals**

420 We believe that we should establish mandatory minimum
421 prison sentences and substantially higher sentences for repeat
422 offenders, ending probation for violent criminals, and
423 establishing life sentences without the possibility of parole for

354 and limits on divorce. Grandparents and other relatives should
355 be the first option when children cannot live with their parents.
356 Racial preference is wrong; in cases of adoption, Minnesota
357 should make it easier and less costly for a traditional married
358 couple to adopt a child of any race. In child custody cases,
359 privileges of the father should be restored to comply with the
360 14th Amendment.

361 We support laws and regulations that restricting the
362 production, sale and promotion of vulgar and obscene material,
363 especially to children, and believe that pornography-blocking
364 software should be installed on all computers with internet
365 access in publicly financed institutions.

368 **Defend the Definition of Marriage**

369 We believe that marriage is between one man and one woman,
370 and that the U.S. Constitution and the Minnesota constitution
371 should be amended to this effect. We oppose civil unions or
372 their legal equivalents between same-sex couples and
373 therefore, domestic partner benefits should not be publicly
374 funded.

377 **Reform and Eliminate the Welfare System**

378 People in need should be assisted primarily through private
379 charity, including faith-based programs instead of government
380 welfare programs. These programs should be encouraged
381 through tax credits at the federal and state levels with the
382 objective of replacing as much government-sponsored welfare
383 with private incentives as possible. The Republican Party of
384 Minnesota believes that there should be real welfare reform,
385 which would require all able-bodied recipients to work in order
386 to receive benefits, stop the practice of offering cash incentives
387 for unmarried recipients to bear children, and require proof of
388 legal in-state residency and random drug tests as a condition
389 of receiving aid.

392 **Limit the Influence of Gambling in our State**

393 We seek to eliminate all state-sponsored gambling and oppose
394 any expansion of gambling in Minnesota. In regards to casinos
395 already in place, current gambling laws should be changed so
396 that Minnesota is allowed to tax profits and revenue of tribal
397 casino gambling in the state. ~~We also believe that the~~
398 ~~Minnesota legislature should increase the legal age of gambling~~
399 ~~to 21 years of age.~~

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405 market competition to our health care system and thus reduce
406 health care costs and eliminate state mandated coverage of
407 various illnesses and conditions. We also oppose all proposals
408 for socialized medicine including 'single payer' plans. We seek
409 the repeal of Minnesota Care and oppose programs that ration
410 health care. Government interference with health care should
411 be minimized, including not allowing any government 'best
412 practices' legislation. Medicare reimbursement should not be
413 determined by the location of the provider.

414 We believe health savings accounts should be expanded so
415 individuals can purchase and control their own health care and
416 that all health care expenses should be fully tax deductible.
417 Individuals should be able to purchase health care insurance
418 from anywhere in the United States that offers benefits of their
419 choosing and not based on insurance mandates set by the
420 federal or state governments.

421 We believe that patient privacy laws in Minnesota should be
422 strengthened to require informed, written and voluntary

425 establishing life sentences without the possibility of parole for
426 the state's most dangerous sex offenders. We support the
427 passage of Jessica's Law in Minnesota to ensure that child sex
428 offenders be given a minimum sentence of 25 years without
429 parole. We also seek to re-institute capital punishment for the
430 most serious crimes.

431 We must build whatever new prisons are necessary to protect
432 the public by incarcerating violent criminals. Those prisons that
433 we build should not be designed for recreation because they
434 are meant for the protection of the public and the punishment
435 of criminals.

436 We support crime legislation that applies to all offenders of a
437 specific crime and oppose any legislation that would designate
438 'hate crimes' against specific 'protected class' groups. Police
439 should be instructed to not ignore immigration status of non-
440 citizens when said status is not in good standing, meaning they
441 do not meet the relevant requirements as required by law.
442 Therefore, we oppose the establishment of sanctuary cities for
443 illegal aliens.

444 **Prevent Crime and Stop Recurring Criminal Behavior**

445 Criminals should be required to provide complete restitution to
446 victims and the state for
447 crimes committed including supporting victim's rights and
448 requiring offenders to be held personally responsible, including
449 juveniles. As a condition of parole, an inmate must have
450 participated in Adult Basic Education.

451 Rather than creating new and unnecessary laws restricting the
452 use of firearms, we should enforce existing firearm laws,
453 particularly those firearm laws relating to violent offenders.

454 **Section 6 – Strengthen the Rule of Law**

455 *We support limiting the power of attorneys and frivolous
456 lawsuits, increasing the responsibility of the jury, protecting
457 judicial elections and holding judges accountable to strengthen
458 the rule of law and prevent abuse of our legal system.*

459 **Limit Frivolous Lawsuits**

460 Republicans believe that the legal system has been subject to
461 abuse and in order to prevent this from occurring in the future,
462 we seek to limit attorneys' fees in class action lawsuits and
463 lawsuits where the plaintiffs receive insignificant damages.
464 Abuse includes frivolous lawsuits, excessive numbers of
465 lawsuits and lawsuits that are intended primarily to advance a
466 political agenda. There should be federal legislation enacted
467 to limit any party's liability in a civil case to its fair share of the
468 damages. A prisoner should have limited ability to file frivolous
469 lawsuits.

470 **Increase the Responsibility of the Jury**

471 Juries should be given the power to determine that a suit was
472 without merit, and in some cases, require the plaintiff and his
473 attorney to pay the defendant's attorneys' fees and court costs.

474 **Protect Judicial Elections and Hold Judges Accountable**

475 Judges should exercise their authority to review and when
476 necessary, limit excessive awards of damages and attorneys'
477 fees. However, a code of judicial ethics should be established
478 by statute as a check on judicial power.

479 We believe that in elections, the word "incumbent" should be
480 removed after judicial candidates' names on the ballots and
481 judicial vacancies should be advertised with the name

425 strengthened to require informed, written and voluntary
426 consent for all disclosures of patient data. However, parents
427 have the right to all of their minor child's health records,
428 including sexual health records, without
429 the minor child's consent.

430 Minnesota should prohibit any medical procedure or therapy
431 that would deliberately cause or hasten death including
432 physician-assisted suicide and deprivation of food and water.
433 We recognize the need for medical malpractice reform as part
434 of any effort to reduce health care costs.

435 **Section 5 – Protect Public Safety**

436 *We believe that the most fundamental function of government
437 is to keep citizens and our property ~~and us~~ secure.*

438 **Secure and Punish Criminals**

439 ~~We believe that we should establish support~~ mandatory
440 minimum prison sentences and substantially higher sentences
441 for repeat offenders, ending probation for violent criminals,
442 and establishing life sentences without the possibility of parole
443 for the state's most dangerous sex offenders. We support the
444 passage of Jessica's Law in Minnesota to ensure that child sex
445 offenders be given a minimum sentence of 25 years without
446 parole. We also seek to re-institute capital punishment for the
447 most serious crimes.

448 ~~We must build whatever new prisons are necessary to protect
449 the public by incarcerating violent criminals. Those Prisons that
450 we build should not be designed for recreation because they
451 are meant for the protection of the public and the punishment
452 of criminals.~~

453 We support crime legislation that applies to all offenders of a
454 specific crime and oppose any legislation that would designate
455 'hate crimes' against specific 'protected class' groups. Police
456 should be instructed ~~to not ignore to check the~~ immigration
457 status of non-citizens. ~~when said status is not in good standing,
458 meaning they do not meet the relevant requirements as
459 required by law and uphold existing laws. Therefore, We
460 oppose the establishment of support prohibiting the
461 designation or funding of sanctuary cities for illegal aliens.~~

462 **Prevent Crime and Stop Recurring Criminal Behavior**

463 Criminals should be required to provide complete restitution to
464 victims and the state for crimes committed including
465 supporting victim's rights and requiring offenders to be held
466 personally responsible, including juveniles. As a condition of
467 parole, an inmate must have participated in Adult Basic
468 Education.

469 Rather than creating new and unnecessary laws restricting the
470 use, transfer and ownership of firearms, we should enforce
471 existing constitutional firearm laws, particularly those firearm
472 laws relating to violent offenders. We agree with the "Castle
473 Doctrine" which extends the right to self defense anywhere a
474 person has a legal right to be.

475 **Section 6 – Strengthen the Rule of Law**

476 *We support limiting the power of attorneys and frivolous
477 lawsuits, increasing the responsibility of the jury, protecting
478 judicial elections and holding judges accountable to strengthen
479 the rule of law and prevent abuse of our legal system.*

480 **Limit Frivolous Lawsuits**

481

496 judicial vacancies should be appointed only until the next
497 general election. Also, those voting in judicial elections must be
498 required to be residents in the county in which the judge will
499 preside. We continue to support the election of judges as
500 written in the Minnesota Constitution and oppose any
501 proposals to eliminate or limit these
502 elections including the “Missouri Plan”.

503 504 **Section 7 – Enjoy and Protect our Natural Resources**

505 *We believe that proper stewardship of our natural resources*
506 *and agricultural lands is best be achieved through sound*
507 *science and adherence to constitutionally guaranteed property*
508 *rights.*

509 510 **Protect and Develop our Natural Resources**

511 The Republican Party of Minnesota believes we are stewards of
512 our natural resources and agricultural lands and the
513 Constitution is our guide. We support maintaining clean air,
514 water and land by addressing threats proven by peer-reviewed
515 scientific research using sensible and economically reasonable
516 solutions. We oppose policies, legislation and mandates that
517 are based on the theory that humans are responsible for global
518 climate change including the Theory of Man-Made Global
519 Warming, as well as any energy policies that raise the cost of
520 energy to consumers and do nothing to protect the
521 environment. But, those that cause the pollution should bear
522 the cost of environmental clean-up.

523 We should follow commonsense practices in forest, wetlands
524 and wildlife management, and promote multiple uses of
525 natural resources in most cases. Republicans encourage free
526 enterprise in the agricultural economy, and support
527 technological advances in the creation, processing and use of
528 agricultural products and natural resources.

529 The Republican Party of Minnesota opposes efforts to put all
530 land or water under the control of the federal government. We
531 should reduce or restrict government ownership of our land to
532 no more than 40%. We believe that there should not be a net
533 gain of land by the Minnesota DNR or nonprofit land trusts and
534 that all conservation easements should be limited to a
535 maximum of 21 years. We oppose federal ‘heritage area’ acts
536 that would generally provide funding and other opportunities
537 for bureaucracies to use tax dollars to lobby and prepare for
538 regulation of our land and resources.

539 We should adhere to the original intent of the 1978 BWCWA
540 law and Public Law 91-661 in managing the Boundary Water
541 Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park and
542 opposing all attempts by the judiciary or federal government.

543 We oppose any and all legislation to regulate, subsidize or
544 mandate ethanol production, including ethanol in gasoline,
545 mandates on carbon dioxide (CO2) or mercury-containing
546 compact fluorescent bulbs. However, we support the adoption
547 of an energy policy to encourage research and develop
548 alternative forms of energy by private initiatives. We continue
549 to promote the building of clean coal-fired and nuclear power
550 plants. As Republicans, we believe that the federal government
551 should be required to meet its obligation to store spent nuclear
552 waste.

553 554 **Protect the Rights of Townships and our Citizens**

555 We believe that cities should not be allowed to annex
556 townships without the approval of the affected residents. Also,
557 townships and counties should decide on where to place
558 feedlots and logging roads, instead of the state legislature.

496 Republicans believe that the legal system has been subject to
497 abuse and in order to prevent this from occurring in the future,
498 we seek to limit attorneys’ fees in class action lawsuits and
499 lawsuits where the plaintiffs receive insignificant damages.
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502 political agenda. There should be federal legislation enacted to
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514 necessary, limit excessive awards of damages and attorneys’
515 fees. However, a code of judicial ethics should be established
516 by statute as a check on judicial power.

517 We believe that in elections, the word “incumbent” should be
518 removed after judicial candidates’ names on the ballots and
519 judicial vacancies should be appointed only until the next
520 general election. Also, those voting in judicial elections must be
521 required to be residents in the county in which the judge will
522 preside. We continue to support the election of judges as
523 written in the Minnesota Constitution and oppose any
524 proposals to eliminate or limit these elections ~~including the~~
525 “Missouri Plan”. We seek to deny all state funds to ACORN, its
526 derivatives and its affiliates.

527 As Republicans we support nullification of unconstitutional
528 federal law in accordance with state sovereignty and support
529 affirming state’s rights under the 10th amendment.

530 531 **Section 7 – Enjoy and Protect our Natural Resources**

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533 *and agricultural lands is best be achieved through sound science*
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540 water and land by addressing threats proven by peer-reviewed
541 scientific research using sensible and economically reasonable
542 solutions. We oppose policies, legislation and mandates that
543 are based on the theory that humans are responsible for global
544 climate change including the Theory of Man-Made Global
545 Warming, as well as any energy policies that raise the cost of
546 energy to consumers and do nothing to protect the
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548 the cost of environmental clean-up.

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550 and wildlife management, and promote multiple uses of natural
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553 technological advances in the creation, processing and use of
554 agricultural products and natural resources.

555 The Republican Party of Minnesota opposes efforts to put all
556 land or water under the control of the federal government. We
557 should reduce or restrict government ownership of our land to

567
568 The Republican Party of Minnesota supports compensating
569 homeowners for property devaluation when it is a result of
570 governmental action, and giving the right to all property
571 owners to govern the legal consumption of tobacco within
572 their properties.
573
574 **Section 8 – Make Government Smaller and Better**
575
576 *We support keeping government functions in state, local or*
577 *private hands, electing honest and responsive legislative bodies*
578 *and advocating for fair election processes to make government*
579 *smaller and better.*
580
581 **Keep Government Functions in State and Local Hands**
582
583 We believe government functions should return to the hands of
584 state and local governments where they will be carried out
585 more efficiently and with greater accountability than at the
586 federal level. We support reinstating the constitutional
587 separation of powers and oppose legislation by executive
588 order, judicial rulings, or unelected regulatory agencies. We
589 reject Congress’ practice of coercing state and local
590 governments by withholding funds if states do not give the
591 federal government jurisdiction. We advocate a constitutional
592 amendment giving the President of the United States a line-
593 item veto. To return the Metropolitan Council to its original
594 purpose of regional planning and support we advocate
595 eliminating, privatizing, or returning to state and local
596 governments all other Metropolitan Council functions.
597
598 **Elect Honest and Responsive Legislative Bodies**
599
600 Republicans support reinstating a citizen legislature in
601 Minnesota by holding legislative sessions in alternate years
602 unless the governor calls a special session. But, we should
603 maintain Minnesota’s two-house legislature, rather than
604 adopting a unicameral system. We should adopt an initiative
605 and referendum law that would allow the citizens of Minnesota
606 to vote on important issues. We support the election and
607 appointment of strict constructionist judges who adhere to the
608 principles expressed in the U.S. and Minnesota Constitutions.
609
610 We hold our elected officials accountable by supporting codes
611 of conduct for all Minnesota elected officials that require
612 resignation and loss of pension and benefits upon conviction of
613 a felony or any crime involving dishonesty or moral turpitude.
614 We advocate submitting to the people federal and state
615 Constitution amendments for an effective recall procedure for
616 all elected officials.
617
618 **Advocate for Fair Election Processes**
619
620 We support fair redistricting without gerrymandering and with
621 Senate districts that do not cross Congressional district
622 boundaries. We must improve polling place procedures,
623 specifically voter registration practices. This includes
624 eliminating the practice of vouching for individuals at polling
625 places, requiring voters to be registered at least 30 days prior
626 to an election and requiring that voters present a valid proof of
627 U.S. citizenship and state residency and a photo ID at the time
628 of registration and when voting. We oppose the
629 implementation of any voting schemes that violate the
630 principle of one man, one vote including “Instant Runoff
631 Voting.”
632
633 In order to uphold all Americans’ rights to free speech, we
634 support campaign finance law reform allowing American
635 citizens to donate their time or money to political campaigns
636 without limitation. We support requiring immediate and full
637

567 no more than 40%. We believe that there should not be a net
568 gain of land by the Minnesota DNR or nonprofit land trusts and
569 that all conservation easements ~~should be limited to a~~
570 ~~maximum of 21 years~~ have a sunset. We oppose federal
571 ‘heritage area’ acts that would generally provide funding and
572 other opportunities for bureaucracies to use tax dollars to
573 lobby and prepare for regulation of our land and resources. ~~The~~
574 ~~DNR and Soil and Water Conservation Districts should be~~
575 ~~prohibited from purchasing land using bonding.~~
576
577 ~~We should adhere to the original intent of the 1978 BWCAW~~
578 ~~law and Public Law 91-661 in managing the Boundary Water~~
579 ~~Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park and~~
580 ~~opposing all attempts by the judiciary or federal government.~~
581
582 We should eliminate government subsidies of ethanol
583 production or other alternative energies and oppose
584 government mandates for renewable or alternative energies.
585 We oppose any and all legislation to regulate, ~~subsidize or~~
586 ~~mandate ethanol production, including ethanol in gasoline,~~
587 ~~mandates on carbon dioxide (CO2) greenhouse gases or~~
588 ~~mercury containing compact fluorescent bulbs.~~ However, we
589 support the adoption of an energy policy to encourage research
590 and develop alternative forms of energy by private initiatives.
591 We continue to promote the building of clean coal-fired and
592 nuclear power plants. As Republicans, we believe that the
593 federal government should be required to meet its obligation
594 to store or recycle spent nuclear waste.
595
596 **Protect the Rights of Townships and our Citizens**
597
598 We believe that cities should not be allowed to annex
599 townships without the approval of the affected residents. Also,
600 townships and counties should decide on where to place
601 feedlots and logging roads, ~~instead of the state legislature.~~
602
603 The Republican Party of Minnesota supports compensating
604 homeowners for property devaluation when it is a result of
605 governmental action, and giving the right to all property
606 owners to govern the legal consumption of tobacco within their
607 properties.
608
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619 state and local governments where they will be carried out
620 more efficiently and with greater accountability than at the
621 federal level. We support reinstating the constitutional
622 separation of powers and oppose legislation by executive
623 order, judicial rulings, or unelected regulatory agencies. We
624 reject Congress’ practice of coercing state and local
625 governments by withholding funds if states do not give the
626 federal government jurisdiction. We advocate a constitutional
627 amendment giving the President of the United States a line-
628 item veto. ~~To return the Metropolitan Council to its original~~
629 ~~purpose of regional planning and support we advocate~~
630 ~~eliminating, privatizing, or returning to state and local~~
631 ~~governments all other Metropolitan Council functions.~~ We
632 should eliminate the Metropolitan Council.
633
634 We support stopping all stimulus spending , ending the TARP
635 program and applying all unspent funds to reducing the
636 national debt.
637

638 disclosure of all sources of campaign funding and repealing the
639 Bi-Partisan Campaign Reform Act (McCain-Feingold). We
640 oppose reinstatement of the so-called "Fairness Doctrine." We
641 oppose public financing of campaigns and political parties. All
642 school district elections, including, and referenda, should be
643 required to be held in November on regular election days.

644 **Section 9 – Defend America at Home and Abroad**

645
646
647 *We believe that we can maintain peace by having a strong*
648 *national defense, securing our borders and by encouraging all*
649 *people to seek freedom, democracy and free enterprise.*

650 **Protect our Borders**

651
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653
654 We should continue to strengthen our borders against
655 terrorism and illegal immigrants via increased border patrol
656 funding and completion of the border fence. We are against
657 amnesty for illegal aliens, including any program that will allow
658 illegal aliens to remain in the United States, and we should
659 continue with deportation. Also, children born to illegal aliens
660 inside the United States should not automatically obtain
661 citizenship. Ultimately, we should reduce the number of legal
662 immigrants to help with assimilation and we should also allow
663 for more extensive background checks before issuing visas. We
664 strongly support making English the official language in
665 Minnesota and the United States of America. We must
666 effectively limit the amount of access that illegal immigrants
667 have to our society including employment, public benefits,
668 scholarships, subsidies of any kind, driver's licenses, permits,
669 identification cards or taxpayer identification numbers.
670 However, we oppose participation in the "The Real ID Act."

671 **Support our Troops and Allies**

672
673
674 We should continue to build America's military so that they are
675 well prepared, well armed and ready to protect our national
676 security. We will deploy American troops overseas only to
677 further American interests or to defend a faithful ally and only
678 if they are under the command of American officers. Not only
679 should the United States abstain from surrendering its national
680 sovereignty to the United Nations or any other international
681 organization, but we believe the United States should end its
682 participation in the United Nations altogether.

683
684 We reaffirm our support for our troops, including active duty
685 members, Reserves, National Guard, veterans and their
686 mission. We seek the adoption of an amendment to the U.S.
687 Constitution prohibiting the desecration of the United States
688 flag. We believe that active duty members should be exempt
689 from paying state income tax, that Minnesota law should
690 recognize retired military personnel as veterans and that the
691 Minnesota Constitution should authorize that bonuses be paid
692 to veterans of the global war on terrorism.

693
694 We will continue to support efforts to keep our nation safe and
695 fight the Global War on Terror and oppose calls to "cut and
696 run" until the job is finished. We believe it is important to
697 continue assisting the people of Iraq and Afghanistan as they
698 develop democratic institutions in their countries. As
699 Republicans, we believe that we should deny foreign aid to any
700 country that protects and supports terrorists. We support the
701 continued development and deployment of defense systems
702 and Strategic Missile Defense, to protect Americans from
703 terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

704 **Encourage International Trade**

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707 We reaffirm our commitment to free market economics

708 **Elect Honest and Responsive Legislative Bodies**

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Republicans support reinstating a citizen legislature in
Minnesota by holding legislative sessions in alternate years
unless the governor calls a special session. ~~But, we should
maintain Minnesota's two-house legislature, rather than
adopting a unicameral system.~~ State and federal lawmakers
should be required to live by the same laws they pass.
Legislators should be denied additional pay and per diem
payments during special sessions. Any proposed legislation
must include either a specific reference to the U.S. or
Minnesota constitutional relevance/authority, or a
notation/explanation as to why the legislation is
not a constitutional violation. We should adopt an initiative and
referendum law that would allow the citizens of Minnesota to
vote on important issues. We support the election and
appointment of strict constructionist judges who adhere to the
principles expressed in the U.S. and Minnesota Constitutions.

We hold our elected officials accountable by supporting codes
of conduct for all Minnesota elected officials that require
resignation and loss of pension and benefits upon conviction of
a felony or any crime involving dishonesty or moral turpitude.
We advocate submitting to the people federal and state
Constitution amendments for an effective recall procedure for
all elected officials. We support term limits for all elected
officials. Congressional compensation should be limited to
salary during service, with no retirement benefit beyond Social
Security.

849 **Advocate for Fair Election Processes**

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We support fair redistricting without gerrymandering and with
Senate districts that do not cross Congressional district
boundaries. We must improve polling place procedures,
specifically voter registration practices. This includes
eliminating the practice of vouching for
individuals at polling places, requiring voters to be registered at
least 30 days prior to an election and requiring that voters
present a valid proof of U.S. citizenship and state residency and
a photo ID at the time of registration and when voting. We
oppose the implementation of any voting schemes that violate
the principle of one man, one vote including "Instant Runoff
Voting."

In order to uphold all Americans' rights to free speech, we
support campaign finance law reform allowing American
citizens to donate their time or money to political campaigns
without limitation. We support requiring immediate and full
disclosure of all sources of campaign funding and repealing the
Bi-Partisan Campaign Reform Act (McCain-Feingold). We
oppose reinstatement of the so-called "Fairness Doctrine." We
oppose public financing of campaigns and political parties. All
school district elections, including, but not limited to board
elections and referenda, should be required to be held in
November on regular election days.

949 **Section 9 – Defend America at Home and Abroad**

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We believe that we can maintain peace by having a strong
national defense, securing our borders and by encouraging all
people to seek freedom, democracy and free enterprise.

999 **Protect our Borders**

1000 We should continue to strengthen our borders against
terrorism and illegal immigrants via increased border patrol
funding and completion of the border fence. We are against
amnesty for illegal aliens including any program that will allow

709 We reaffirm our commitment to free market economics
710 including free and fair international trade and we seek to
711 maintain commercial, cultural and diplomatic ties with many
712 nations while also promoting American industry and
713 commerce. We should also maintain trade policies that
714 encourage other nations to seek democracy, capitalism and
715 individual freedoms for their citizens. We should continue our
716 efforts to become less dependent on foreign oil, including the
717 development, promotion and conservation of all available fuel
718 sources such as nuclear power and opening the Arctic National
719 Wildlife Refuge and other domestic sources to oil drilling.

720 **Support International Relations**

721 The Republican Party of Minnesota believes that foreign aid
722 should in most cases be in the form of American goods,
723 commodities and services. We believe that China should no
724 longer hold the permanent most favored nation status and that
725 the United States should urge the WTO to expel China until
726 they cease their human, civil and religious abuses, including the
727 persecution of religious believers. As Republicans, we oppose
728 the Law of the Seas Treaty (L.O.S.T.), any movement toward a
729 North American Union including any NAFTA superhighway, and
730 the ratification of the UN Rights of the Child Treaty. We
731 continue to support the right of the State of Israel to exist and
732 defend itself.

733 **Commendatory**

734 *Since its inception, our party has embraced core American*
735 *principles and chosen extraordinary leaders. Those leaders –*
736 *like Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, and Ronald Reagan*
737 *– not only embodied the very best in Republican values, but also*
738 *led America to new triumphs of peace, prosperity, achievement*
739 *and spirituality. Today we are blessed with a new generation of*
740 *American and Minnesota leaders who proudly carry on those*
741 *Republican traditions.*

742 Therefore, we commend former President Bush for his eight
743 years of strong leadership of our country, through times of peril
744 he has remained steadfast, his moral and just leadership has
745 risen to the occasion, and America is a greater nation because
746 of him. We commend the current elected Republican officials
747 for their hard work and service to our nation and to the people
748 of Minnesota including U.S. Congressman Erik Paulsen, U.S.
749 Congressman John Kline, U.S. Congresswoman Michele
750 Bachmann, Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, Minnesota
751 Lieutenant Governor Carol Molnau, House Minority Leader Kurt
752 Zellers, Senate Minority Leader Dave Senjem and all the other
753 endorsed, elected Republicans. We commend Governor Tim
754 Pawlenty for his hard work during the past year and for his
755 efforts at holding down taxes at this crucial time in our history.

756 For their many acts of heroism and multiple tours of duty, for
757 their unwavering dedication to the preservation of our
758 freedom, for their unselfish sacrifice of life and their undying
759 love of their fellow countrymen, we hereby grant our full
760 support and gratitude to the heroes of the United
761 States Military.

762 We recognize all state and local Republican officials and
763 volunteers for their hard work and dedication, and sacrifice in
764 order to strengthen the party and further its principles. We
765 support efforts to make the Republican Party an inclusive,
766 majority party without compromising our values, principles,
767 and ideals.

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709 amnesty for illegal aliens, including any program that will allow
710 illegal aliens to remain in the United States, and we should
711 continue with deportation. Also, children born to illegal aliens
712 inside the United States should not automatically obtain
713 citizenship. Ultimately, we should reduce the number of legal
714 immigrants to help with assimilation and we should also allow
715 for more extensive background checks before issuing visas. We
716 strongly support making English the official language in
717 Minnesota and the United States of America and that all state
718 forms should be in English only. We must effectively limit the
719 amount of access that illegal immigrants have to our society
720 including employment, public benefits, scholarships, subsidies
721 of any kind, driver's licenses, permits, identification cards or
722 taxpayer identification numbers. ~~However, we oppose~~
723 ~~participation in the "The Real ID Act."~~

724 **Support our Troops and Allies**

725 We should continue to build America's military so that they are
726 well prepared, well armed and ready to protect our national
727 security. We will deploy American troops overseas only to
728 further American interests or to defend a faithful ally and only
729 if they are under the command of American officers. Not only
730 should the United States abstain from surrendering its national
731 sovereignty to the United Nations or any other international
732 organization, but we believe the United States should end its
733 participation in the United Nations altogether.

734 We reaffirm our support for our troops, including active duty
735 members, Reserves, National Guard, veterans and their
736 mission. ~~We seek the adoption of an amendment to the U.S.~~
737 ~~Constitution prohibiting the desecration of the United States~~
738 ~~flag.~~ We believe that active duty members should be exempt
739 from paying state income tax on all military income and that
740 Minnesota law should recognize retired military personnel as
741 veterans ~~and that the Minnesota Constitution should authorize~~
742 ~~that bonuses be paid to veterans of the global war on~~
743 ~~terrorism.~~ We should maintain the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"
744 policy and the 1993 law banning open homosexuals from
745 serving in the military.

746 We will continue to support efforts to keep our nation safe and
747 fight the Global War on Terror and oppose calls to "cut and
748 run" until the job is finished. We believe it is important to
749 continue assisting the people of Iraq and Afghanistan as they
750 develop democratic institutions in their countries. As
751 Republicans, we believe that we should deny foreign aid to any
752 country that protects and supports terrorists. We support the
753 continued development and deployment of defense systems
754 and Strategic Missile Defense, to protect Americans from
755 terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. Enemy
756 combatants and all non-U.S. citizen terrorists should be tried in
757 military tribunals and should not be granted the criminal rights
758 of U.S. citizens.

759 **Encourage International Trade**

760 We reaffirm our commitment to free market economics
761 including free and fair international trade and we seek to
762 maintain commercial, cultural and diplomatic ties with many
763 nations while also promoting American industry and
764 commerce. We should also maintain trade policies that
765 encourage other nations to seek democracy, capitalism and
766 individual freedoms for their citizens. We should continue our
767 efforts to become less dependent on foreign oil, including the
768 development, promotion and conservation of all available fuel
769 sources such as nuclear power and opening the Arctic National
770 Wildlife Refuge and other domestic sources ~~to oil drilling.~~

771 **Support International Relations**

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818 ~~efforts at holding down taxes at this crucial time in our history.~~

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