



## WEST VIRGINIA REPUBLICAN PARTY

### **West Virginia Republican Party — 2024 Platform**

Each presidential election year brings an opportunity for our citizens to renew their commitment to American civilization and American greatness. This platform is an expression of our core values as Republicans in West Virginia. It is also a snapshot in time, an historical artifact for future generations to know what we stood for and what we believed.

We, the West Virginia Republican Party, believe that a person's individual rights come from God, and the right to govern is loaned to the government by the people. The Declaration of Independence states unequivocally 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 – That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." The Republican Party is the party of traditional American values: strong national defense, personal responsibility, support for law enforcement and the rule of law, fiscal restraint, economic freedom, free enterprise, and traditional family values.

Therefore, in the same spirit as the first Republican President Abraham Lincoln, who founded West Virginia in 1863, we present this platform "with malice towards none and charity to all" to a candid world.

#### **Timeless Principles**

1. **God is real.** We acknowledge that God is real and that God governs the affairs of men. We believe that America is founded on Judeo-Christian principles, which include the idea that every individual has the right to worship or engage in religious expression according to the dictates of his or her own conscience. We affirm the constitutional right of all individuals to worship or engage in the religious expression of their choice. We revere the symbols of our American Heritage and understand that the Ten Commandments are the basis for our laws and the cornerstone of Western legal tradition.
2. **The nuclear family is the bedrock of a stable society.** The nuclear family is the form of government that God created in the garden of Eden. We believe that God made men and women as two separate biological sexes and that there are only two genders. We oppose any attempt to alter biological sex by any means, especially of a minor. We oppose funding any entity that promotes or performs gender reassignment. We believe that marriage is defined as a union between a biological man and a biological woman. We believe that children are healthier and happier when raised by their mother and their father. We seek to help single parents and single-parent homes and will always dedicate ourselves to fighting for the dignity of the individual.

3. **America is the greatest country in the history of man.** The United States has an English-speaking heritage, which should be the official language. Our country was made great by the courage, foresight, and sacrifice of those that came before us, and we acknowledge their sacrifice and revere the dedication and duty of the Founding Fathers. Our schools and many of our government-funded organizations too often promote and teach the opposite of this. All government funding for universities and any other taxpayer-funded organizations that promote anti-American propaganda, such as Critical Race Theory, DEI programs, and the 1619 Project, should be immediately cut-off. Our elected leaders must stand up and change the system to promote American values and not teach children to hate our country.
4. **The U.S. Constitution is the world's finest governing document created by man and must be protected and defended at all costs.** The West Virginia Constitution is based on the U.S. Constitution and expands and strengthens the codification of our rights. Individual Liberty & Inalienable Rights are given by God, not government, and cannot be abrogated for any reason. Any elected leader or candidate who casts a vote for or supports any proposition that would curtail these rights for any reason, including war, pandemic, pestilence, or plague, is not fit to hold office.
5. **Individuals have a God-given right to defend themselves, their family, and their property.** The Second Amendment and West Virginia Constitution enshrine these rights into the supreme governing documents of our nation and state. We oppose efforts to infringe upon those rights, including so-called "red-flag laws." We support efforts to expand the right to keep and bear arms.
6. **Free markets and responsible tax control are the primary catalysts in achieving the American dream for a prosperous economy.** Our economy works best when our citizens have the right to make their own choices, take risks, and compete in the marketplace. Free enterprise built our country. Never in history has the wealth of citizens grown as quickly and exponentially as in the United States. We believe in the right to create and accumulate wealth without excessive taxation. Taxation beyond the basic necessities of government is theft.
7. **Government that governs least governs best.** We believe that there is a proper role for government, which is to be small and limited. Government should regulate and spend no more than absolutely necessary. Government must protect our homeland, build infrastructure, deliver mail, conduct elections, fund the military and law enforcement, and maintain order. Beyond these purposes, the government must be limited. Once we cut the shackles of burdensome regulation, our economy will soar. Elected officials with budgetary powers should utilize the power of the purse to close and eradicate overburdensome regulatory agencies that plague every citizen. When the Code of Federal Regulations has 176,000 pages, it is possible that anyone can break a law they do not even know exists. That is not freedom.
8. **Energy independence using our fossil fuels is necessary for success.** We believe in an "all of the above" American energy plan. We must rely on coal, which built West Virginia and our great nation, and also continue utilizing natural gas, nuclear energy, and hydroelectricity. We reject the notion of man-made climate change and do not submit to a radical climate agenda that seeks to weaken America.

9. **Our borders must be secured.** Without borders, we do not have a country. Our borders should be secured immediately by any means necessary, including building a wall. The record illegal immigration that has been occurring is nothing less than an invasion. No illegal immigrant should be eligible for any public assistance. We welcome anyone legally admitted to our country and support deporting anyone who comes to our country illegally. We support an America First legal immigration policy that puts the interests of American workers, families, and communities ahead of all other interests.
10. **Parents are best qualified to determine the education of their children.** All schools, but especially public schools, should teach facts, patriotism, and fundamental principles of our nation, its founding, and its heritage. Parents are the sole arbiter of where their children go to school and what they are taught. Our current system needs substantial improvement. Schools should be turned over to their local communities, and public education funds should follow the student.
11. **Life begins at conception and must be protected.** We believe that life begins at conception. We oppose abortion on demand. We applaud the United States Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson* to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and believe that abortion law should be made by the people and their elected representatives – and not by judges. We affirm and work to build a culture of life that lifts up vulnerable mothers and babies to choose life; we support efforts to make adoption easier.
12. **Judges should interpret the law as it was written with the intention contained in that original drafting and centered within the legal tradition of natural law.** We applaud the appointment of originalist United States Supreme Court Justices. We support conservative judges who do not legislate from the bench.
13. **Equal Justice Under the Law is a bedrock principle of the American justice system, which should never be used to unjustly harm political opponents.** We condemn the actions of any public officials to use lawfare and the weaponization of the law to persecute and prosecute political opponents – whether it is prosecuting Catholics for praying outside of abortion clinics, targeting parents for speaking up at their children’s school board meetings, or attempting to unjustly imprison their leading opponent in a presidential campaign. We support the faithful enforcement of laws against public corruption, election fraud, and, most of all, treason as described by the Constitution.
14. **Elections must be safe and secure and have to be held with honesty and integrity.** We reject Universal Vote by Mail and expanded absentee voting. We reject the attempted federal takeover of our elections. We support the Electoral College and reject any attempts to abolish this institution. Qualified voters should be required to show a government-issued photo ID. We believe that the State of West Virginia must follow the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and regularly purge voter rolls. We oppose private funding of elections.
15. **A strong national defense is important for the preservation of American civilization.** We believe that “Peace through Strength” is the best way to ensure that America is never attacked by foreign adversaries and is always prepared to defend our homeland. We support our military but

are concerned by the leadership of the military that seeks to purge conservatives from the ranks of service. The military can only thrive by cohesion, discipline, and devotion to country. The military exists for one purpose, the complete defeat of the nation's enemies. This is accomplished by forcing the capitulation or eventual elimination of the enemy. The military must never be a place for social experiments. America's foreign policy should be an "America First" foreign policy. We reject being the world's police force and efforts at nation-building.

16. **We believe in personal responsibility and opportunity.** When the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, they had a simple rule: if you do not work, you do not eat. Work gives us purpose. Every American should strive to work and succeed and not to be reliant on government largesse or unearned welfare. A safety net is just that; it is there to protect you from a fall, not to become your bed, house, car, and cell phone for generations. We support Social Security and Medicare. We also support efforts to return those on welfare to the workforce.
17. **The American Dream of prosperity is within the reach of families at all socioeconomic levels.** This is the land of opportunity. We need to make sure that those who make wise decisions and are not a detriment to society can and do succeed. We support a colorblind society that values hard work, skill, and merit and oppose the addition of protected classes with special privileges.
18. **America's veterans and law enforcement officers are heroes, and they should be honored for their service to this great nation.** The military and our veterans are part of West Virginia's culture, and we remain committed to honoring all who have served our state and nation in the military or law enforcement. We reject the attempts to demonize our heroes and make it more difficult for them to keep us safe. We reject draconian unrealistic defense cuts to pay for large welfare programs, and we reject attempts to defund the police. America's veterans should be treated like heroes.
19. **Foreign economic attachments and transactions must benefit America First.** We demand fair and reciprocal trade agreements that boost American jobs, strengthen our economy, and assert our national interest on the global stage.

We present this platform to the citizens of West Virginia. We recognize that this platform is just the beginning. With this platform, we will recruit quality candidates who represent these values and will work to implement policies that live up to these values, we will raise money to elect those candidates, and we will recruit volunteers and activists to get involved and help elect Republican leaders who will work tirelessly to defend the timeless values we espouse in this document – from the court house to the White House.