

Excerpts from the 2016 Republican Party Platform

We reaffirm the Constitution's fundamental principles: limited government, separation of powers, individual liberty, and the rule of law... The current Administration has exceeded its constitutional authority, brazenly and flagrantly violated the separation of powers, sought to divide America into groups and turn citizen against citizen...

Forty-eight Democratic senators, for instance, voted to amend the Bill of Rights to give government officials control over political speech... Limits on political speech serve only to protect the powerful and insulate incumbent officeholders...

Our national platform has repeatedly endorsed term limits for Member of Congress. In response, the GOP Leadership in 1996 brought to a vote, in both the House and Senate, a constitutional amendment. It failed to secure the necessary two-thirds vote in the House, where 80 percent of Republicans voted for it and 80 percent of Democrats voted against it. Every Senate Republican voted to allow a vote on term limits, but the Democrats killed it by a filibuster. ...to advance a constitutional amendment for consideration by the states, we must expand the current Republican majorities in both chambers...

Much of what the federal government does can be improved, much should be replaced, and much needs to be done away with or returned to the states. It is long past time for just tinkering around the edges of a bloated and unresponsive bureaucratic state...

Unelected bureaucrats must be stopped from furthering the Democratic Party's political agenda through regulatory demands forced upon citizen and businesses beyond that which is required by law...

The Administration's demands have focused on significantly expanding government spending and benefits for its preferred groups, paid for by loans that our children and grandchildren will have to repay. This is the path to bankrupting the next generation...

Republican budgets will prioritize thrift over extravagance and put taxpayers first. We support the following test: Is a particular expenditure within the constitutional scope of the federal government? If not, stop it...

We reject the old maxim that Social Security is the "Third Rail" of American politics, deadly for anyone who would change it. The Democratic Party still treats it that way, even though everyone knows that its current course will lead to a financial and social disaster. Younger Americans have lost all faith in the program and expect little return for what they are paying into it...

Cronyism is inherent in the progressive vision of the administrative state. When government uses taxpayer funding and resources to give special advantages to private companies, it distorts the free market and erodes public trust in our political system. By enlarging the scope of government and placing enormous power in the hands of bureaucrats, it multiplies opportunities for corruption and favoritism...

The federal workforce is larger and more highly paid than ever. The taxpayers spend an average of \$35,000 a year per employee on non-cash benefits, triple the average worker in the private sector...

The question is whether we are going to reinvigorate the private-sector institutions under citizen control or allow their continued erosion by the forces of centralized social planning. In that divide, the Republican Party stand with the people...

Two grave problems undermine the rule of law on the federal level: over-criminalization and over-federalization. Congress and federal agencies have increase the number of criminal offenses in the U.S. Code from 3,000 in the early 1980s to more than 4,500 today. The power of career civil servants and political appointees to criminalize behavior is one of the worst violations of constitutional order perpetrated by the administrative state...

We have been fighting the War on Poverty for 50 years and poverty is winning. Our social safety net – about 80 separate means-tested programs costing over \$1 trillion every year – is designed to help people born into or falling into poverty. It rarely lifts them out. Its apologists judge success by the amount of money spent to keep people in the system. That is a cruel measurement. Republicans propose to evaluate a poverty program by whether it actually reduces poverty and increases the personal independence of its participants...

Over-regulation of start-up enterprises, excessive licensing requirements, needless restrictions on formation of schools and day-care centers serving neighborhood families, and restrictions on providing public services in fields like transport close the opportunity door to all but a favored few. We will continue our fight for school choice until all parents can find good, safe schools for their children. To protect religious liberty we will ensure that faith-based institutions, especially those that are vital parts of under-served neighborhoods, do not face discrimination by government...

Education is much more than schooling. It is the whole range of activities by which families and communities transmit to a younger generation, not just knowledge and skills, but ethical and behavioral norms and traditions. It is the handing over of a cultural identity. That is why American education has, for the last several decades, been the focus of constant controversy, as centralizing forces from outside the family and community have sought to “remake” education in order to “remake” America. They have done immense damage....

Breaking the cycle of crime begins with the children of those who are prisoners. Deprived of a parent through no fault of their own, youngsters from these families should be a special concern of our schools, social services and religious institutions...

In solidarity with those who protect us we call for mandatory prison time for all assaults involving serious injury to law enforcement officers... The Republican Party must make clear in word and action that every human life matters...