

2016 West Virginia Republican Party Platform

Adopted at the 2016 Republican Party Convention on June 25, 2016 in Charleston,
West Virginia

PREAMBLE

We STILL hold these truths to be self-evident, 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. We will continue in our efforts to return our state and country to the founding principles that made us the greatest nation on earth. Being entrusted with the governing of the State of West Virginia, we pledge to support constitutionally limited government, to be fiscally responsible with the people's money entrusted to the government, to hold all elected and appointed officials accountable to the highest ethical standards, and to create a free market environment in this State which will lead to economic liberty, high paying jobs, and the return of our families, children and grandchildren to West Virginia.

PRINCIPLES

The Republican Party of West Virginia believes the following:

A. That individuals, as endowed by their Creator with inherent and unalienable rights, are the bedrock of the basic rights guaranteed in both the United States Constitution and the West Virginia Constitution.

B. That free enterprise is essential to economic growth and that all citizens have economic liberty and the right to participate in a free economy.

C. That all citizens are guaranteed equal rights and justice before the Law.

D. That all citizens have the freedom to pursue work and enjoy the fruits of their labor; that all citizens are guaranteed the freedom to contract, to own, and to control their property.

E. That the honor and dignity of the Flags of the United States of America and the State of West Virginia should always be protected.

F. That every individual citizen of West Virginia is encouraged to assume personal responsibility for self, family and community.

G. That traditional values, education, and religious freedom are the foundation of our country's future.

I. REFORMING THE GOVERNMENT TO SERVE THE PEOPLE

The Republican Party of West Virginia believes that governments exist to serve and protect the interests of the individual, without compromising the rights of life, liberty,

1 *property, and the pursuit of happiness. We believe that smaller, more accountable and*
2 *fiscally responsible state and local governments will better serve the citizens of West*
3 *Virginia. We believe that Government should not grow beyond the growth in population*
4 *and the rate of inflation, and that budget surpluses should be returned to the taxpayers*
5 *who have paid them with a simplified and modernized tax system fair to all. Further, we*
6 *support returning local control to all levels of government when constitutional*

7 The Republican Party supports:

8 A. Reduction of the gasoline tax.

9 B. Continuing the elimination of unnecessary regulations along with the streamlining of
10 bureaucratic positions and departments.

11 C. Increasing voters' rights by establishing Initiative, Referendum and Recall at all levels
12 of government. We support the current two-term limit for Sheriffs and establishing term
13 limits for all other elected public offices.

14 D. Maintaining roll call voting on bills in the House and Senate, and extending this process
15 to committee votes for increased accountability.

16 E. Broadcasting the regular sessions of the legislature and posting on the internet in a
17 timely manner, along with written committee reports on bills.

18 F. Basing state elected officials pay raises on increases in per capita income of West
19 Virginia families.

20 G. Providing pay and benefits for state employees that are comparable and competitive
21 with local public and private labor markets. We support defined contribution retirement
22 plans, rather than defined benefit plans.

23 H. Establishing a responsible and sustainable framework for a free market, and a patient
24 controlled health care system that emphasizes wellness, prevention, early detection, and
25 choice in medical care, including medical health saving accounts and other private sector
26 solutions. We support repeal of government health care exchanges and other related
27 legislation in West Virginia, and oppose any Federal encroachment upon our citizens'
28 health care decisions and the nullification thereof.

29 I. Improving accessibility to medical care and allowing more choice with less government
30 control and regulation between physician and patient.

31 J. Implementing additional tort reform measures directed at reducing lawsuit abuse with
32 a focus on individual responsibility. We also support loser pays.

33 K. The creation of an intermediate court of appeals to help guarantee the right to an
34 appeal for all.

35 L. Instituting a constitutional review of the State Code.

- 1 M. Eliminating unfunded state mandates and opposing unfunded federal mandates which
2 shift responsibility to lower levels of government without adequate funding.
- 3 N. Providing for legislative reapportionment by an independent, nonpartisan Commission,
4 with 100 single-member House of Delegate districts and 34 separate State Senatorial
5 districts that respect community boundaries and geographical continuity for increased
6 accountability.
- 7 O. Strengthening of ethics legislation and the additional empowerment of the West
8 Virginia Ethics Commission, including the aggressive pursuit of public officials using
9 public funds for self-promotion and personal gain, and prohibiting state public officials
10 including key governor's staff, cabinet and department heads and members of the board
11 of public works from lobbying the West Virginia legislature and administration for two
12 years following departure from their position.
- 13 P. Requiring that testimony given before legislative committees be made under oath.
- 14 Q. Requiring a vote of the people before incurring new state debt or imposing new state
15 taxes.
- 16 R. Providing good, safe working conditions for public employees and fostering
17 cooperation between public bodies and their employees.
- 18 S. Preventing collective bargaining for public employees in order that essential services
19 are not interrupted.
- 20 T. Maintaining English as the official language of West Virginia for conducting government
21 business to minimize taxpayer expense.
- 22 U. Establishing a freeze on the further expansion of new state sponsored gambling and
23 elimination of state subsidies for all gambling related activities.
- 24 V. An amendment to the United States Constitution allowing for the nullification of any
25 Federal action by a majority vote of 60% of state legislatures.
- 26 W. Enacting a freeze on all new state government spending until such time as an open
27 and transparent audit of all state government offices and programs can be completed as
28 a way to eliminate wasteful spending, duplicative programs, and prioritizing the service
29 the state should provide.
- 30 X. Welfare guidelines with accountability, including drug testing and rehabilitation for
31 those on public assistance as a pathway to self sufficiency. We also support random drug
32 testing of all Government employees and elected officials.
- 33 Y. Rejection of any Global or United Nations authority over our states, country or citizens.
34 We further reject any judicial system based upon any other theological foundation other
35 than our Judeo-Christian tradition or any other legal system other than English common
36 law.

- 1 Z. An amendment to the United States Constitution that mandates that treaties be ratified
2 by both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives
- 3 AA. A re-emphasis on the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to prevent the
4 federal government from wielding powers over the States in areas not specifically granted
5 and spelled out in the Constitution, thereby rescinding any subjugation of our state's rights
6 to the federal government.
- 7 BB. A balanced Federal budget amendment which limits the growth of government to
8 increases in population and inflation.
- 9 CC. An Article V Convention of States to limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal
10 government in addition to passing the balanced budget amendment and term limits.
- 11 DD. The national Electoral College voting process as preferable to the national popular
12 vote proposal.
- 13 EE. Requiring the Parkways Authority to pay off the current debt with the tolls, without
14 further borrowing, and eliminate the Parkways Authority.
- 15 FF. A mandate requiring the Attorney General to return settlement monies to the
16 taxpayers and the state legislature.
- 17 GG. Encouraging and promoting the recruitment and retention of first responders,
18 including volunteer firefighters and emergency responders, by providing financial
19 incentives and/or other means, including covering Workers Compensation.
- 20 HH. A commitment to improve roads, bridges, and transportation infrastructure.
- 21 II. A systemic review and renovation of the Division of Highways, utilizing suggestions
22 and results found in the audit in 2015 including streamlining hiring processes and making
23 more transparent the funds allocation and resource deployment.

24 **II. EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE PROSPERITY**

25 *We believe that economic growth can best be achieved by unleashing free enterprise,*
26 *reducing regulations and creating a free-market business environment. This includes*
27 *developing a climate that encourages business investment, economic diversification and*
28 *job creation.*

29 To encourage growth of the economy, the Republican Party supports:

- 30 A. Elimination of the business franchise tax; the business personal property tax on
31 equipment, machinery, vehicles, and inventory; and reduction of the corporate net tax to
32 not more than the national average in order to promote job growth and foster a friendly
33 business environment.
- 34 B. Repeal of the income tax and adoption of the Fair Tax Act nationally, and reforming
35 West Virginia's tax policies to make our state more competitive.

- 1 C. Policies that emphasize the importance of small businesses as well as corporations in
2 the development of a strong base of employment for our state, with the encouragement
3 and development of individual entrepreneurship.
- 4 D. Preventing the reimposition of a state prevailing wage rate law.
- 5 E. Opposing project labor agreements (union only contracts) being required for local,
6 state or federal contracts within West Virginia and promoting state contract purchasing
7 reform that would require contracts to be limited to a 3% contingency and eliminate any
8 change orders.
- 9 F. Paycheck protection where no employees can be forced through union dues to support
10 PACs without their consent.
- 11 G. Providing maintenance for orphan roads and making them a part of the state highway
12 network.
- 13 H. An increase in the standard deduction for computing West Virginia income tax.
- 14 I. The enforcement of licensing laws for in-state and out-of-state contractors.
- 15 J. A prohibition on internet taxation, and on any government regulation or censorship of
16 the internet.
- 17 K. The requirement of a "super majority" vote in the Legislature or a vote of the public for
18 all state tax increases.
- 19 L. Strengthening and enforcing laws to eliminate illegal immigration so as not to take jobs
20 from legal residents of West Virginia and cause an unnecessary drain on West Virginia
21 resources, while holding employers accountable.
- 22 M. West Virginia's workforce, private and public, having the right to work, regardless of
23 union affiliation, membership, or dues.
- 24 N. Auditing the Federal Reserve and further urging that our nation be returned, as soon
25 as may be practicable, to a system of sound money.
- 26 O. Opposing the death tax in any form.

27 **III. ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

28 *In a nation whose security is threatened by dependence on foreign sources of energy,*
29 *West Virginia is blessed with an abundance of coal, natural gas and substantial oil along*
30 *with other carbon based fuels. We support the responsible promotion, expansion and use*
31 *of West Virginia's natural resources.*

32 The Republican Party supports:

- 1 A. Affirming the right of the state of West Virginia to self-determine the nature and manner
2 in which we extract and utilize our natural resources for the greater economic good of the
3 state.
- 4 B. The organized promotion of West Virginia's abundant natural resources and their
5 responsible use.
- 6 C. Legally challenging the federal efforts to stop all carbon-sourced energy from reaching
7 market. We vehemently oppose the current administration's and the Democrat
8 leadership's war on coal. We support developing an energy policy that incorporates all
9 sources of energy, continuing to ensure that federal environmental regulatory agencies
10 do not bankrupt West Virginia.
- 11 D. Focusing attention on the emerging shale natural gas development and maximizing
12 the involvement of local businesses and workers to capture the economic gain from these
13 activities, including not only resource extraction but downstream 'value added' economic
14 activity that will benefit our citizenry.
- 15 E. Enforcing clean air and water standards using sound science and common sense and
16 insisting that the EPA use accurate data before requiring the state and West Virginians
17 to spend precious dollars to clean up the Chesapeake Bay without providing specific
18 sources of pollution. The EPA is putting unnecessary burdens on states within the
19 Chesapeake Bay watershed and other potential watersheds without proper
20 documentation.
- 21 F. Policies that encourage the responsible preservation of our state's environment.
- 22 G. Asserting state and local jurisdiction and rejecting federal jurisdiction over ephemeral
23 and intermittent streams and vigorously defending the citizens' right to use such streams.
- 24 H. Respecting all property rights of the landowners and mineral owners. No statute will
25 be enacted that would prohibit free market rate agreements for the owners of the surface
26 or minerals. The State Legislature shall not enact laws that will establish lease terms
27 between a company and a royalty owner.
- 28 I. All oil and gas wells having fair and accurate disclosures of all measurements, taxation,
29 and accuracy of payment of royalty and taxation due to the state and royalty owners.
- 30 J. No enacting of laws by any legislative body that would force our citizens to give up their
31 Constitutional right of a trial by jury of their peers for the settlement of legal disputes.
- 32 K. Metering all oil and gas wells drilled to provide measurement of all products removed
33 from the well head. These meters must be equipped to communicate live readings to the
34 State Tax Department and each royalty owner by the use of the internet or radio
35 frequency.

36 **IV. EDUCATION**

1 *We support an academic, disciplined system of education that restores decision-making*
2 *authority over public school policies and finances to parents, locally elected school boards*
3 *and taxpayers, thus relieving and eliminating layers of bureaucracy which obstruct true*
4 *education. State education dollars should be redirected from a top heavy bureaucracy to*
5 *teachers and students where they are needed most. Neighborhood schools should be*
6 *maintained whenever possible and practical. Education is a constitutionally provided*
7 *function of state and local government.*

8 The Republican Party Supports:

9 A. Local control of public schools by elected officials representing parents and taxpayers.
10 We support insuring the integrity of academic appointments so that they are made on the
11 basis of academic credentials and qualifications rather than on the basis of political
12 connections.

13 B. An emphasis on basic reading, writing, science, and mathematics along with life skills
14 while challenging students to reach their potential in areas that will prepare them for the
15 future. We further affirm our commitment to improve early childhood reading proficiency
16 in all 55 counties.

17 C. No social promotions of students who have not acquired the basic academic skills.

18 D. Revised funding mechanisms that are more flexible and providing resources where
19 they are needed to ensure students obtain a thorough education.

20 E. Balanced funding for special education as well as full funding for services, staffing and
21 Title 19 Waiver Programs for the disabled.

22 F. The right of all parents and/or legal guardians to choose the most appropriate education
23 for their children, including the traditional public education, charter schools, home
24 schooling, private and/or religious education.

25 G. Homeschooling families and their students by respecting their efforts and financial
26 sacrifices. We support homeschooling students being permitted to participate in
27 extracurricular activities in public schools.

28 H. Providing state education funding that follows the student or tax credits to promote
29 choice in education.

30 I. The strengthening of higher education, adult and community education, and the
31 authority of the local governing boards. We support the expansion of community colleges
32 to continue the improvement in the college attendance rate of West Virginia high school
33 graduates, and we support the Promise Scholarship.

34 J. A higher education system, insulated from political influence, that promotes intellectual
35 diversity while defending the rights of faculty and students to be treated fairly regardless
36 of their political or religious beliefs.

1 K. Consideration being given to the recommendations of the Independent Education
2 Efficiency Audit of West Virginia’s Primary and Secondary School System.

3 L. A school system that guarantees students a minimum of the equivalent of 180 days of
4 classroom instruction that can be managed by local school boards.

5 M. Advising parents in advance of any new or controversial programs in the schools, and
6 giving them the option to participate or not without penalty to the student. We adamantly
7 oppose Common Core, Next Generation Standards, Smarter Balanced Assessment, or
8 any standards that are brought forth from federal regulators. Furthermore, we believe
9 West Virginia academic standards should be developed by West Virginia educators and
10 parents.

11 N. The elimination of the U.S. Department of Education and elimination of all federal
12 oversight from state education.

13 O. County education systems that require all students to be taught U.S. History, Civics,
14 and Government, and all pertinent documents including the U.S. Constitution, Bill of
15 Rights, Declaration of Independence, and the Federalist Papers.

16 **V. PROMOTING FINANCIALLY STABLE FAMILIES**

17 *The number of people depending on government assistance must be reduced by*
18 *promoting self-sufficiency.*

19 The Republican Party Supports:

20 A. Strengthening families and recognizing them as the foundation of our representative
21 society.

22 B. That in government buildings, including schools and school-related activities,
23 individuals may only participate on sports teams and use restrooms, locker rooms and
24 changing facilities that correspond to their genetic sex.

25 C. Reduction of the number of people depending on government assistance by promoting
26 self-sufficiency.

27 D. Moving West Virginians who are able from welfare to work as quickly as possible,
28 putting all people on a path of employment and independence. We also support welfare
29 guidelines with accountability, including drug testing and rehabilitation for those on public
30 assistance, as a pathway to self sufficiency.

31 E. Holding parents responsible for their children, ensuring that both parents fulfill the most
32 basic financial obligations, including locating parents nationwide who are deficient in their
33 financial obligations.

1 F. Eliminating the state income tax on Social Security and exempting other retirement
2 income for senior citizens, making state tax exemptions the same as those for the federal
3 government, and eliminating the double taxation on rental property.

4 G. Shared parenting initiatives, putting children first in custody hearings, and with parents
5 having the liberty to direct the care and upbringing of their children as a fundamental right.

6 H. Creating a legal protection to prevent a parent or other guardian from unfairly leaving
7 the state with a child or children, and providing remedies if such action takes place, to
8 ensure that all parents are able to have reasonable contact with the children, in addition
9 to providing financial support.

10 I. Committing to explore all current and emerging techniques to combat the raging drug
11 abuse epidemic and the manifold issues that stem from that blight.

12 J. Lowering the tax burden on West Virginia families and opposing any new taxes or
13 increased taxes.

14 **VI. SUPPORTING THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS AND INCREASING**
15 **SECURITY IN OUR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES**

16 *We are fortunate to live in a state with one of the lowest crime rates in the nation. We*
17 *believe in strictly upholding gun ownership rights and enforcing the existing laws when*
18 *crimes have been committed. We oppose any attempt to limit the purchase, manufacture*
19 *or ownership of firearms and ammunition by law abiding citizens.*

20 The Republican Party Supports:

21 A. The promotion and protection of the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to
22 ensure the right of self-defense, liberty and freedom for all Americans as also spelled out
23 in the West Virginia Constitution. (“A person has the right to keep and bear arms for the
24 defense of self, family, home and state, and for lawful hunting and recreational use.”
25 Ratified November 4, 1986.)

26 B. A ban on punitive government lawsuits against manufacturers and dealers of firearms
27 and other legal products, and stopping harassment of gun dealers because of technical
28 paper work errors.

29 C. The Alaskan model of not requiring concealed weapon permits except for those
30 wanting them for reciprocal agreements with other states. We also support concealed
31 weapon permit laws with reciprocal agreements with other states; and authorization to
32 carry on school/college campuses, court houses, and the Capital complex outside the
33 Supreme Court area.

34 D. The Castle Doctrine.

- 1 E. The imposition of mandatory minimum sentencing for the use of a weapon during the
2 commission of a violent crime, and the reforming of mandatory minimum sentences for
3 nonviolent offenders.
- 4 F. Reinstatement of the death penalty for heinous crimes where the identity of the
5 perpetrator is not an issue, where the guilt of a person is established beyond a reasonable
6 doubt, including with DNA testing or other evidence.
- 7 G. Fair and just punishment for the commission of violent crimes, including life without
8 the possibility of parole.
- 9 H. Revision of the Criminal Code for consistency and uniformity, including that dealing
10 with mandatory sentencing guidelines, plea bargaining and parole.
- 11 I. Arrest upon probable cause of the accused person in cases of domestic abuse in order
12 to deter continued criminal conduct within the home.
- 13 J. A requirement that criminals pay restitution to their victims, in addition to criminal
14 sentencing, earning the money through supervised work.
- 15 K. Tougher juvenile laws, coupled with more effective enforcement of violent offenders
16 and parental responsibilities, including trying juveniles as adults in serious felony cases.
- 17 L. Continuing a justice reinvestment program for the non-violent addicted in a drug
18 rehabilitation and recovery program in the local area to reduce recidivism.
- 19 M. Reform of civil asset forfeiture laws.
- 20 N. Establishing by law that Federal Agents and Federalized Peace Officers do not
21 possess prosecutorial or qualified immunity in state courts.
- 22 O. Affirming support of our constitutional right of due process.

23 **VII. AFFIRMATION OF THE INSTITUTION OF TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE, THE**
24 **RIGHT TO LIFE, TRADITIONAL FAMILY VALUES, AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE**

25 *We affirm the institution of traditional marriage between one man and one woman, the*
26 *right to life, traditional family values, and a good quality of life.*

27 A. The West Virginia Republican Party believes in the importance of the institution of
28 marriage being between one genetic man and one genetic woman and supports the
29 immediate adoption of a State Constitutional amendment in support of this and the
30 appointment of new U.S. Supreme Court Justices who agree with this view. We are
31 opposed to same-sex marriage, civil unions or any other entity or institution that is
32 intended to gain equal or similar status or recognition as the traditional marriage of a
33 genetic man and a genetic woman. We also oppose any policies written by state agencies
34 that further the homosexual agenda, including the creation of a protected class.

- 1 B. We believe that any unborn child has a fundamental, individual right to life that begins
2 at conception, and must be protected. We oppose infanticide, and the trade and sale of
3 baby body parts. We also adamantly support the ban on partial birth abortion.
- 4 C. We vigorously oppose any use of public funds for abortion. We commend the efforts
5 of those individuals and religious or private organizations that are providing alternatives
6 to abortion, including tax relief for adoption by traditional families.
- 7 D. We reaffirm our support for the election and appointment of judges at all levels of the
8 judiciary who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life.
- 9 F. We believe that senior citizens have the right to remain independent and to be treated
10 equally in all matters. We support policies that protect the rights of our senior citizens to
11 live full and productive lives and to age with dignity. We support property tax relief for
12 senior citizens to offset the effect inflation has had on the homestead exemption.
- 13 G. We honor the symbols of our American Heritage and understand that the Ten
14 Commandments are the basis for our basic freedoms and the cornerstone of Western
15 legal tradition. We oppose any governmental action to restrict, prohibit, or remove any
16 public display of our foundational documents or religious symbols.
- 17 H. We believe that America is founded on Judeo-Christian principles, which include the
18 idea that every individual has the right to worship or engage in religious expression
19 according to the dictates of his or her own conscience. We affirm the constitutional right
20 of all individuals to worship or engage in religious expression in the religion of their choice.
- 21 I. We support the sanctity of the pulpit and oppose any attempt to criminalize or stigmatize
22 messages based upon sincerely held religious beliefs.
- 23 J. We reject any and all Federal mandates pertaining to the issues in this section.
- 24 K. While we encourage self reliance and personal responsibility, West Virginians take
25 pride in taking care of our own in times of need. The compassion of West Virginia
26 Mountaineers is best extended through community and faith based organizations. We
27 urge all West Virginians to support and become involved in such activities in their
28 communities.
- 29 L. We believe in protection for individuals, churches, religious organizations, ministries,
30 and private businesses from being compelled to perform or participate in any same sex
31 marriage, same sex civil unions, or similar ceremony, including but not limited to being
32 compelled to grant access to their equipment and facilities for the same purpose.
- 33 M. We support those who are practicing drug-abuse prevention efforts at the local and
34 state levels and oppose the normalization, legalization, or decriminalization of any illicit
35 drugs.
- 36 N. We support the adoption of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in West Virginia
37 that requires that government shall not burden a person's exercise of religion even if the

1 burden results from a rule of a general applicability, including an exception if such
2 regulation is necessary for the furtherance of a compelling government interest and that
3 the rule must be the least restrictive manner in which to further the government interest.

4 **VIII. SUPPORTING OUR HEROES, MILITARY AND VETERANS**

5 *The State of West Virginia has the highest per capita number of veterans in the United*
6 *States. Her citizens have suffered the highest casualty rate in the last four wars and have*
7 *been awarded the highest per capita number of Medals of Honor. We fully support our*
8 *veterans and active duty personnel and honor their service.*

9 In recognition of those Mountaineers who have served their country, the Republican Party
10 supports:

11 A. Exempting military retired pay from West Virginia taxation.

12 B. Exempting Reserve and National Guard military pay from West Virginia taxation.

13 C. The further development of West Virginia's veterans' hospitals and facilities, including
14 training and assistance programs emphasizing care for returning service members and
15 those with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

16 D. Encouraging, through vigorous statewide educational promotion, more West Virginia
17 students to apply for entrance to our Nation's service academies.

18 E. The ability of active duty, reserve, or National Guard to carry loaded firearms anywhere
19 in West Virginia.

20 F. Opposition to the deployment of the West Virginia National Guard into combat without
21 a Constitutional Declaration of War.

22 **IX. CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS**

23 *We support campaigns and elections which are clean, fair and above reproach.*

24 In order for the people to have confidence, trust and faith in our government, West Virginia
25 government must be truly of the people, by the people and for the people. The purpose
26 of the United States Constitution is to limit power of the federal government, not the
27 American people. Therefore, the Republican Party supports:

28 A. Clarifying and enforcing our election laws to the fullest extent, ensuring the security of
29 ballots and ballot boxes, offering updated, practical training for poll workers, providing
30 adequate compensation for poll workers and changing state election law to allow
31 independent observers to ensure free, fair and clean elections. We also support a
32 mandate that all counties follow Federal Election Law regarding maintenance of poll
33 books.

- 1 B. Healthy, positive, one-on-one debates as the best vehicle to discuss issues with the
2 people during an election season. We strongly encourage a series of debates among all
3 candidates for all elected offices.
- 4 C. Elections which are clean, fair and above reproach. Voter rolls must be kept up to date,
5 with those who have not voted in two elections cycles or have relocated or died purged
6 from the voting rolls on an annual basis.
- 7 D. The elimination of the practices of vote-buying, corruption and undue political influence
8 - too often prevalent in our history. When the outcome of an election is decided by less
9 than 0.2 percent a recount at public expense may be requested.
- 10 E. The current registration law which closes three weeks before an election. In as much
11 as the Republican Party is opposed to voter fraud, we oppose same day voter registration,
12 as County Clerks need an adequate period of time to verify the authenticity of the voter
13 and the voter's address.
- 14 F. Photo voter ID requirements to increase the integrity of the voting process, and the
15 authorization of poll workers to ask which party ballot independent voters may wish to
16 receive. For those who cannot afford a state photo ID, a free state photo ID shall be
17 provided.
- 18 G. Having all special elections, including bond and levy elections, conducted during
19 regularly scheduled primary and general election dates.
- 20 H. We oppose online voting without verification of identity.

21 **CONCLUSION**

22 The Republican Party is guided by historic maxims: constitutionally limited government,
23 fiscal responsibility, accountability of elected officials, and economic liberty. To these
24 ends the Republican Party has worked to improve our state and implemented positive
25 changes for our citizens with the cooperation of the Legislature. Initiatives have been
26 launched to strengthen West Virginia families, educate children and develop the
27 economy, so that young West Virginians can remain in their home state. The principles
28 of the Republican Party have worked for over a century in the United States and around
29 the world. As we face the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, we know these
30 principles work in West Virginia, and with a united effort we will complete our mission. -
31 See more at: <http://wvgop.org/about/platform>