

2020 Missouri Republican Party Platform

“Continuing to Secure America’s Future”

PREAMBLE

Most of what is important in life we do for ourselves, without the government. We form our own families and raise our own children. We choose what we want to do in life. We pray to our God as we choose; we form and join the religious and civic groups that care for our neighbors in need and shape the direction of our state. There are only a few things we need the government to do for us; but it should do those things well and faithfully.

Missourians deserve a state and national government with the vision to see the bright future ahead and the effective leadership to guide us there. We pledge to continue providing both the vision and the effective leadership Missourians deserve.

WE BELIEVE all people are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is our fundamental belief that our morals, our values, and our culture are derived from Almighty God. To quote the Psalmist, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” Psalm 33:12.

WE BELIEVE the strength of America is in the hearts and homes of its citizens.

WE BELIEVE in the right of Missourians to be secure in their persons, their homes, and their communities.

WE BELIEVE government governs best when it governs least.

WE BELIEVE all political power is vested in, and derived from, the people; all government originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole by protecting the unalienable and God-given rights of the people.

WE BELIEVE the role of the federal government should be "to ensure domestic tranquility, to provide for the common defense, and to promote the general welfare," and we believe the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution grants all other duties to the states.

WE BELIEVE United States law and/or the laws of the individual states shall not be subservient to the laws, religious regulations, and/or cultural mores of the United Nations and/or any other country or countries.

WE BELIEVE the Republican Party is the best vehicle to build on the principles of free enterprise, personal responsibility, economic opportunity, strong families, moral values, protection of innocent human lives, and sound government.

WE COMMEND the efforts of elected Republican officials at the county and local levels. We encourage their work to advance good government.

WE COMMEND the efforts of elected Republican officials at the state level. Without question, Missourians are better off with Republicans leading both chambers of the Legislature.

WE COMMEND the efforts of elected Republican officials at the federal level. We encourage their continued efforts to balance the federal budget, to reign in the growth of the federal bureaucracy, to empower the states, and reverse the trend towards socialism and the high taxes that pay for it.

WE BELIEVE the Trump Administration has attained great achievements in the economy and kept campaign promises from the 2016 election.

Workers keep winning in the Trump economy as more Americans are employed than ever before. Minorities continue to benefit from a strong economy as Hispanics and African Americans have seen historically low unemployment under the Trump Administration and veterans' unemployment rates are lowest in nearly 20 years. Trump's economy has pulled disenfranchised Americans off the sidelines and into the labor market while wage growth has remained solid growing well above inflation.

Campaign promises made to the American people have been kept by President Trump. The United States withdrew from the disastrous Paris Climate Accord and pulled out of the Iran Nuclear Deal. Trade agreements have been negotiated with Canada, Mexico, the European Union, Japan, and continuing negotiations with China. Bureaucratic red tape has been cut under Trump by eliminating a record number of regulations and removing the individual mandate on Obamacare. President Trump signed the biggest package of tax cuts and reforms in history allowing for the United States economy to thrive once again. The strategy to defeat ISIS has been changed, eliminating the ISIS strongholds in Iraq and most of Syria. After decades of delays, the promise was kept to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem and officially recognize Jerusalem as the official capital of Israel.

WE BELIEVE the re-election of a Republican president and regaining control of both houses of Congress will rein in Washington and restore government to its proper place, giving our citizens the opportunity to realize the American Dream.

WE BELIEVE continuing to maintain the Republican leadership in our state, including the election of a Republican governor and other statewide officials, will make Missouri safer, stronger, and more economically competitive.

Freedom

The people of Missouri should be taxed only to the extent necessary to provide a balanced budget, funding the essential functions of government in a manner that is simple, equitable, and uniform. Missouri families can be trusted to know how to spend their money more wisely than government. Free enterprise and fiscal responsibility go hand in hand. Creating an environment in which high-quality, family-supporting jobs can flourish must be a priority.

Job Creation

We believe the free market creates jobs and allocates resources much more efficiently than government. Extreme and unnecessary federal regulations have stifled innovation, killed jobs, and restrained the economic recovery. Whenever possible, the government should get out of the way and allow entrepreneurs and businesses, small and large, to do what they do best: put Americans back to work.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party **SUPPORTS:**

- Reducing government regulations and restrictions that prevent the creation of jobs and the growth of Missouri businesses.
- Ending forced unionism by enacting a Right to Work law that gives workers the power to decide whether to join and pay dues to a union.
- Enacting a moratorium on new federal regulations to reduce regulatory uncertainty caused by out-of-control federal bureaucracies.
- Reforming the workers' compensation system to balance the rights of employees and their employers.
- Continued efforts to reduce costly frivolous lawsuits, which may result in killing jobs or harming the economy in other ways.
- Opening new markets for Missouri products.
- Eliminating the Death Tax.
- Eliminating the Alternative Minimum Tax.
- Reducing the overall combined tax burden.
- Revitalizing Missouri's urban communities through policies that encourage the creation of jobs and economic opportunities in those areas.
- A strong transportation infrastructure because of its importance for jobs and economic development.

Spending & Debt

In recent years, the federal government has seen an unprecedented explosion of debt that will have to be paid off by future generations. This must be reversed. Governments must learn to live within their means—just as Missouri families do every day.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party **SUPPORTS:**

- Passage of a federal Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to be adopted by the states and NOT by constitutional convention.
- Balancing the state budget without increasing taxes.
- Streamlining of government services to avoid duplication at the city, county, and state level.
- Continuing to streamline the state and federal government by eliminating fraud, waste, and abuse.
- Using technology and improved management principles to deliver the highest quality of government services at the lowest possible cost.
- Keeping and enforcing the Hancock Amendment and electing officials who respect its goals and principles.
- Performance of government functions at the level of government closest to the people who can most efficiently perform the task.
- An independent audit of the Federal Reserve Banking System.
- Elimination of the use of baseline budgeting for future federal budgets

Health Care Freedom

Every Missouri citizen, regardless of age, should be able to choose and access a health plan that meets their needs at a fair market price, without the interference of the federal or state government.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party **SUPPORTS:**

- Efforts leading to a full repeal of “Obamacare”.
- Promoting a consumer-driven healthcare economy by avoiding Medicaid expansion and preventing a single-payer healthcare system.
- Allowing every American to purchase health insurance policies across state lines.
- Giving every American the ability to maintain a Health Savings Account (HSA) and removing any requirement that individuals must obtain a high-deductible insurance policy before opening up an HSA.
- Empowering Missourians to purchase their own personal health insurance, including allowing small business owners to join together to purchase quality, affordable health insurance for themselves and their employees.
- Missouri’s tort reform law that stopped the abuse and misuse of Missouri’s judicial system through the filing of frivolous lawsuits and has allowed doctors to remain in our state.
- Empowering consumers and the market to control health care costs by increasing price transparency from providers.

- Giving small and large businesses the flexibility in choosing what is provided in their health insurance plans.

The Environment

Some liberals in Washington have proposed extreme, job-killing environmental measures, such as the so-called “Green New Deal”. While it is important to balance economic growth and the environment, these regulations, which would raise prices on every single person in the country, are far too extreme. Instead of extreme measures that make energy more expensive, we need an all-of-the-above approach to energy that utilizes the United States’ vast energy resources—our economic and national security depends on it.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party **SUPPORTS:**

- Opposition to socialist polices masked as environmental measures.
- Efforts to prevent any state or federal cap & trade scheme from taking effect.
- Efforts to prevent the EPA from unilaterally regulating carbon dioxide or implementing any regulations without approval of Congress.
- Providing reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy for America's future, reducing our dependence on foreign sources of energy and responsibly providing for the development of our domestic energy sources.
- Efforts to promote conservation and diversify our energy supply.
- Environmental regulation premised upon sound free market principles and the elimination of environmental regulation that imposes excessive financial burdens for insubstantial benefit.

Educating Our Children

The education of Missouri's children is much more than the first fiscal priority mandated in the Missouri Constitution—it is our moral imperative. Education is a true vehicle of opportunity, but we believe excessive federal government intervention in local schools hinders achievement. Control over schools should be returned to the local level, where parents have more say in how their children are educated.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party **SUPPORTS:**

- The fundamental right of parents to raise their children according to the convictions of their family and faith, to be the primary authority to determine and direct the nurturing, health care, education, guidance, discipline, and moral upbringing of their children, including the ability to home-school or send children to faith-based schools free of burdensome government regulations.

- The God-given right for parents to choose how to educate their children, whether home education, private, charter, or public, etc.
- The authority of parents as the primary educators of their children in all matters, including morality, sexual orientation, sexuality and sexual health, and responsibility.
- Rejecting the establishment of school-based clinics/health links that dispense contraceptives and provide abortion counseling.
- Requiring the informed consent of a parent or guardian before providing health, mental health, or substance abuse treatment services to minor students in public schools or referring students to health or treatment professionals.
- Efforts at the state and federal levels to adopt a fair system that grants parents the ability to help their children escape failing schools and attend schools of their choice—whether private, charter, home educated, or public.
- Quick action to address the urban education crisis that has already undermined the progress of generations of young people.
- The foundation formula that funds education based on the needs of our children rather than the taxing capacity of a school district.
- Education savings accounts that are tax exempt and may be used for meeting educational expenses for each individual or family member without penalty for withdrawal.
- Local school boards in their efforts to guarantee quality instruction and to remove an unfit teacher.
- Eliminating the Department of Education and rejecting all efforts to establish a national curriculum, thereby, retaining control of schools at the local level.
- Encouraging parents to have an active and important role in their children’s education.
- Reforming teacher tenure to ensure that the best teachers, regardless of their length of employment, remain in classrooms.
- Establishing a merit pay system rewarding the most effective teachers and ensuring a system which is not based solely on students’ test scores.
- Policies to reduce bullying in schools.
- Policies that stress the importance of parents in the education system and allow and encourage parents to play an active role in their local education system.
- Protecting children, in our public schools and any public entity where computers and the Internet are made readily available, from explicit material on the Internet.
- The right of parental refusal to student data collection, and full disclosure to parents about the collection, storage, and use of their children’s data for those parents who permit it.
- Empowering local school districts to determine how best to handle the teaching of creationism and the theory of evolution.
- Encouraging people who have professional experience to teach in their field of expertise in elementary and secondary schools.
- The bodily privacy rights of our students, and population as a whole, and the prevention of opening sex-specific restrooms and locker rooms in our schools to members of the opposite sex.

- Protecting students' and professors' Constitutional rights at our state universities, including freedom of speech, campus carry, and balancing Title IX regulations with the people's legal rights.
- Fully informing parents before giving consent for the collection of student data and the offering of treatment for students regarding their health and other needs.
- Focusing on the purpose of schools to educate and not socially engineer our students. Parents should be able to opt their children out of curriculums where they feel the school is focused on social engineering rather than education.

Property Rights & Agriculture

Landowners have the right to manage their property, as good stewards of the land, without government interference. We believe the source of our riches is embodied in the production of our foods and the protection of our environment. We realize the wealth of our nation comes from the land and the conservation and wise use of our resources are essential to the future of America. We understand that agriculture is Missouri's largest industry and we support the great work of all individuals and families involved in agriculture production.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party **SUPPORTS:**

- The restricted use of eminent domain only in cases when it is necessary for the benefit of the general public and only when full and adequate compensation is provided to the property owner.
- Preventing small and large bodies of water from being under federal control.
- Policies and programs enhancing agricultural production.
- Current state law allowing children to work on family farms.
- Value-added production and job growth by processing our raw agricultural products in Missouri.
- A long-term agricultural policy enhancing Missouri family farms and their ability to compete.
- A common-sense approach to environmental policy by federal, state, and local governments without infringing upon the rights of landowners.
- Limitations upon excessive land-use regulation and zoning that deny property owners the fair use of their property.
- Policies recognizing food production and environmental protection are both essential to life in our society.
- Sound river management policies, especially those enhancing flood control and navigation.
- Encouraging the pursuit of agriculture, promoting agriculture-based economic opportunities, and protecting farming in Missouri by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict.

Ethics

While a vast majority of elected officials are honorable individuals who serve for the right reasons and hold themselves to the highest standards, a handful of examples of unethical behavior in Missouri and across this country have caused the public to grow increasingly cynical about those seeking or serving in public office.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party **SUPPORTS**:

- Transparency for lobbyists, elected officials, and key legislative and executive staff with regards to campaign finance disclosures.
- Term limits for Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, and Auditor that mirror those already in place for Governor and Treasurer.

Protecting the Integrity of Elections

The legitimacy of our republic comes from the knowledge that every American has an equal say in the elections that determine the direction of our nation. Those who cheat not only dilute the lawfully cast ballots of their fellow Missourians, but also undermine the foundation of our entire political system.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party **SUPPORTS**:

- Requiring voter photo-identification to prevent voter fraud.
- Efforts to ensure fair and honest elections, making sure all legally cast votes are not diluted but are counted so that all participants safeguard the integrity of the election.
- Creating a more efficient and secure system of voting by our military personnel to guarantee that those who are on the front lines have a say in governing our country.
- Strict and swift prosecution of election fraud.
- The use of fair and nonbiased ballot language for petition-driven initiatives.
- Reforms to the initiative petition process including reducing out of state influence for this process and requiring more than a simple majority vote to change the Constitution.
- Efforts to oppose the National Popular Vote interstate compact, which would eliminate the Electoral College.
- The right of the State Legislature to alter and revise, with respect to the intention of the voters, legislation passed through ballot proposition in order to protect Missourians from misleading campaigns.
- Establishing closed primaries requiring all voters casting a ballot to declare a partisan affiliation and make maintaining such declarations as public record.
- Paper ballots to prevent voter fraud.

Faith & Family

Families are the bedrock of Missouri. This question should measure every public policy: Does it strengthen or weaken our families? Policies strengthening our families should be pursued. Those weakening the family structure must be discarded.

The Fundamental Right to Life

God-given rights for all citizens, including the fundamental right to life for born and unborn children, the aged, the terminally ill, and the handicapped, should be provided for in our laws and in our Constitution. Life begins at conception, and therefore we reaffirm our support for a Human Life amendment to the United States Constitution. We endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children and encourage those institutions, including faith-based initiatives, which take a proactive approach in teaching sexual responsibility, including abstinence, to our young people.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party **SUPPORTS**:

- Overturning Roe v. Wade and the appointment of federal and state judges who respect the sanctity of innocent human life.
- Current state law providing women seeking an abortion with information regarding alternatives such as adoption, providing a reflection period of 72 hours between providing such information and the performing of the abortion, and increasing tax credits to encourage alternatives to abortion.
- Current state law requiring that a minor obtain parental notification and consent before obtaining an abortion.
- Legislation requiring that a minor obtain parental notification and consent before obtaining invasive birth control or contraceptive measures.
- Current state law banning abortion when the baby's heart beat begins and banning partial-birth abortions.
- Current state law preventing taxpayer money from subsidizing abortions or organizations performing abortions or making abortion referrals.
- Current state law preventing public employees or agencies from making abortion referrals or otherwise facilitating abortion in any way, shape, or form.
- Current state law ensuring abortion clinics meet the same Department of Health standards required of comparable surgical facilities in the state.
- The compassionate work of individuals and organizations offering alternatives to abortions by meeting the physical, emotional, and financial needs of pregnant women and those support systems necessary for legal adoption.
- Legislation to correct the incorrect definition of human cloning placed in the Missouri constitution.

- Legislation to prohibit both the public funding and the conducting of all human cloning, scientifically known as Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer, and research requiring or encouraging the destruction of living human embryos.
- Efforts to encourage Economic Development and job growth by focusing on ethical forms of stem cell research instead of research destroying living human embryos.
- Legislation to prohibit and penalize coercion of women to have an abortion.
- Legislation to prohibit "assisted suicide" and "euthanasia."
- Legislation banning abortions using the "dilation and evacuation" method, also known as "dismemberment abortion."
- Legislation clearly strengthening regulations regarding the disposition of fetal remains and prohibiting any sale, procurement, or donation of fetal remains for valuable consideration of any kind.
- Legislation to insert the protective language of 196.1127 on all economic development bills as follows: "Public funds shall not be expended, paid, or granted to or on behalf of an existing or proposed research project that involves abortion services, human cloning, or prohibited human research as defined in RSMo Section 196.1127."
- Rescinding the HHS definition of "religious employer" which excludes charities, hospitals, and colleges serving people of faith and subjects these entities to the mandate that all private health care plans must cover sterilization, abortifacients, and contraception.

Family

The traditional family is the foundation of our great history and is critical to our future. Building futures through hard work and personal responsibility are American values to be encouraged by government policy.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party **SUPPORTS**:

- Marriage as being between one man and one woman.
- Efforts to promote healthy marriages.
- A permanent end to the marriage penalty in the tax code.
- The protection of the lives of In Vitro Fertilized embryos and all other human embryos from the beginning of biological development.

Faith

Missouri's many and diverse faith communities are critical to the rich fabric of our society. Government has nothing to fear from people of faith and much to gain. Faith communities should be embraced and allowed to offer assistance to those in need without undue bureaucratic interference. The most powerful sources of charity, virtue, and shared prosperity in our society are not found in government, but in families, houses of worship, charities, and free markets. The Missouri Republican Party believes in protecting the religious freedom of citizens.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party **SUPPORTS**:

- Freedom to practice religion, as an individual choice, including the ability to pray in school.
- Conscience legislation so no person, business, or organization can be penalized for its exercise of religious freedom by not providing services violating their religious beliefs.
- Protecting the acknowledgment of God in our public life.
- Keeping the phrase "one nation under God" in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.
- Keeping "In God We Trust" on our currency and in other public declarations.
- All efforts to honor and preserve America's religious heritage, including the public display of the Ten Commandments or other religious symbols, and to remain true to the principles upon which this nation was founded.
- The Prayer Amendment, adopted overwhelmingly by Missourians in August 2012.

Security

Freedom is not America's gift to the world; freedom is God's gift to each individual. America has a solemn duty to stand for freedom, at home and abroad, and a special responsibility to help make the world a more peaceful place. Fighting for freedom in foreign lands helps prevent the necessity of fighting the enemies of freedom in our homeland.

Homeland Security

America needs to continue making progress to protect and defend our homeland. We must improve the government's ability to protect our infrastructure, guard our borders, and patrol our skies.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party **SUPPORTS:**

- Combating global terrorism by taking the fight directly to the enemies of freedom.
- Greater security at our borders to prevent illegal immigrants and terrorists from entering our country.
- Congressional oversight and approval of all refugee entry programs to ensure proper background vetting for those entering our Country, which will allow the free exercise of States Rights and the ability of individual states to either participate or not participate in such programs at their own discretion.
- Requiring all refugees introduced into the state of Missouri to register with the state of Missouri.
- The continued work of the federal and state Departments of Homeland Security and the increased coordination in the gathering and use of intelligence.
- The fair application of the Patriot Act as a means to provide law enforcement authorities with the tools necessary to prevent terrorist attacks while protecting our individual liberties.
- Increased efforts to combat the emerging threat of cyber-terrorism.
- Revamping the system of monitoring the status of all visas, including student and work visas, and mandating better background checks on all aliens applying for visas.
- All efforts to root out the agents of terror and protect Americans from the evils of terrorism.

Strong National Defense

Defending the nation against its enemies is the first and fundamental commitment of the federal government. America must use its position of unparalleled strength and influence to create a balance of power in the world favoring freedom.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party **SUPPORTS:**

- Protecting the size and strength of our armed forces.

- A strong national defense protecting our strategic interests and those of our allies.
- Extending the peace by seeking to spread the benefits of freedom and prosperity across the globe and fostering an era of good relations among the world's great powers.
- Committing the resources necessary to defeat global terrorism, including ongoing military and civilian operations around the world.
- Defending the peace by opposing and preventing violence by terrorists and outlaw regimes both at home and abroad.
- All efforts to ensure Iran cannot build or obtain nuclear weapons.
- The expansion of all technologies, including the national missile defense system, which will allow the United States to intercept any nuclear attack before it reaches our borders.
- Expanding access to care and treatment options for all returning troops, active duty, Guard, and Reserve, during and after military service including improved oversight of the Veterans Administration Services.
- Improving the compensation provided to military personnel and providing better benefits to their spouses and families.
- Honoring our commitment to all military personnel, veterans, and their families.
- Maintaining and expanding each of our excellent military facilities in Missouri.
- A strong Missouri National Guard and Reserve as an element of the national military structure and support to civil authority in times of emergency or disaster.
- All troops of the United States government at home and abroad.
- The integrity and independence of our U.S. troops under U.S. command.
- The military's courageous efforts to protect us from the threat of global terrorism.
- The special relationship between our state and nation and our strong ally Israel.
- The integrity of all military chaplains and their historic unfettered ministries, including the use of insignia and unregulated religious performance liberties.
- The Missouri National Guard's 'Partner in Care' program, linking local churches as a support network for chaplains' and ministry needs of our service men and women.

Protecting our Borders

America's immigrants helped forge a nation built on a foundation of laws. We welcome those who continue to look to America to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness legally—and we owe it to the legal immigrants who respected our nation's laws to prevent those who break our rules from entering the country illegally. Securing our borders against illegal immigration must be a priority in the ongoing battle against international terrorism and in our efforts to ensure that only law-abiding citizens receive the benefits to which they are entitled.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party **SUPPORTS:**

- An immigration policy not inclusive of amnesty for illegal immigrants.
- Preventing illegal immigrants from receiving taxpayer benefits.
- Securing the border to prevent illegal immigrants or terrorists from entering the country.

- Fair and effective efforts to assure that people who register to vote in our elections are indeed citizens of the United States lawfully entitled to cast a ballot.
- Empowering state and local law enforcement agencies with the authority, responsibility, and resources needed to detain illegal immigrants within the course of their regular duties.
- Punishing employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants.
- Prohibiting federal funding for so-called sanctuary cities.
- Interpreting the U.S. Constitution in a way that does not automatically allow children born to illegal immigrants in the U.S. to become American citizens.
- Mandatory use of E-Verify or a similar system ensuring illegal immigrants are not illegally employed.

Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice

The Missouri Republican Party is committed to supporting our brave law enforcement personnel and a fair and swift judicial system that protects us from those who would hurt our families or threaten our communities. Missourians deserve protection from crime and drugs. Our law enforcement officers are putting their lives on the line every day to protect us. They need and deserve our help.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party **SUPPORTS**:

- The men and women who serve in law enforcement.
- Protection of individual liberties guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution and the Missouri Constitution.
- Appointment of federal and state judges who believe in the rule of law, uphold the Constitution, and understand that the role of a judge is to interpret our laws, not make them.
- Preventing activist judges from violating the U.S. Constitution by legislating from the bench or through excessive administrative rules.
- Opening to the public a selection process for Missouri State Judges in accordance with the Sunshine Law.
- Efforts by the Missouri General Assembly to improve the selection of Missouri judges and reduce the influence of special interests in the selection process.
- Expansion of state laws protecting our children against sexual predators.
- Aggressive enforcement of existing laws related to child pornography and adult-oriented industries that target Missouri families and children, and further development of law enforcement tools to protect Missourians from such exploitation.
- Aggressive prosecution of those who deprive individuals of their God-given right to liberty by engaging in human trafficking.
- Continued efforts to address the special concerns of spouses, children, older people, and others who become victims of abuse.
- Strong oversight of the Department of Justice and the Internal Revenue Service to ensure federal laws are fairly enforced and applied.

- An act of Congress mandating the supremacy and controlling authority of the U.S. Constitution and federal law and the constitutions and laws of the several states and prohibiting federal courts from according any United Nations or foreign court declaration, law or precedent any weight or authority greater than such federal and state constitutional and statutory authority.
- Prohibiting the transfer of power and sovereignty from our United States government to foreign powers and international organizations.
- Prohibiting the further expansion of gambling within Missouri beyond that already authorized.
- An amendment to the U.S. Constitution to prohibit the desecration of the American flag.
- Strict enforcement and prosecution of current laws on gambling.
- Strict enforcement and prosecution of laws on illegal drugs.
- Efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to enhance the enforcement of obscenity and decency standards on television and radio and to increase the punishments for violators.
- Swift judgment and sure and appropriate punishment of those who are guilty, with limits on the number of appeals.
- Capital punishment, where called for and administered in a fair and constitutional manner, with all protection afforded by judicial review but without protracted and frivolous appeals.
- Greater latitude for law enforcement officials to use incriminating evidence in the courts.
- Continued efforts to reform Missouri's municipal court system by ending "taxation by citation."
- Creating a consistent standard for trying violent juvenile offenders as adults.
- Making records of violent juvenile offenders available to school and local authorities.
- Requiring drug testing for welfare recipients when there is reasonable suspicion that the individual is using illicit substances.

Second Amendment

The Founding Fathers enshrined the Second Amendment as a way to secure all of our other rights. The right to bear arms is as important now as it was centuries ago, and we believe every law-abiding citizen has the right and responsibility to defend themselves, their families, and their property.

Therefore, the Missouri Republican Party **SUPPORTS**:

- Preserving and interpreting the Bill of Rights, including the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, in the manner intended by the Founding Fathers.
- State law allowing law-abiding Missourians to carry concealed firearms and other Second Amendment protections such as the Castle Doctrine and the protection of those rights during emergencies.
- The strict enforcement of existing gun laws but not the creation of new and unnecessary gun control laws.
- Limiting frivolous lawsuits against gun manufacturers.
- Limiting government's ability to over-regulate or reduce the manufacturing, sales, or ownership

2020 Missouri Republican Party Platform Committee

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