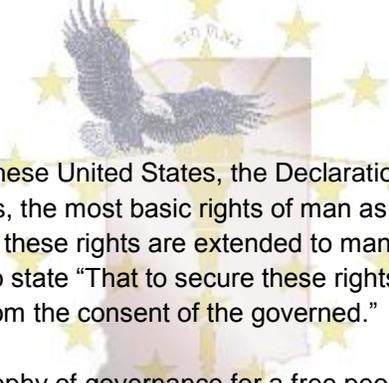


Constitution Party of Indiana's State Platform

Revised and approved at the Sept. 22, 2012 State Convention



Preamble

In the foundational document of these United States, the Declaration of Independence, the founding fathers enumerate, in broad terms, the most basic rights of man as "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of happiness" and further affirm that these rights are extended to mankind from our Creator, Almighty God. The Declaration goes on to state "That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

The Declaration lays out a philosophy of governance for a free people, and the Constitution establishes an operating system to guarantee and protect those rights and to limit the power of government to prevent their usurpation. While the Declaration outlines the rights of citizens in broad terms, the Constitution in its first ten amendments, the Bill of Rights, lists those rights specifically. The relationship between the people, the several States and the federal government is specifically defined and the powers granted to and the limitations placed on each are clearly delineated.

The key provision of the Bill of Rights is the Tenth Amendment which states "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." We contend that the federal government has, on numerous occasions, abrogated its responsibilities to the people and the several States by interfering unlawfully in areas constitutionally beyond its legal jurisdiction.

Therefore, we, the Constitution Party of Indiana, invoking the blessing of Almighty God on our endeavor, call for a return to the Constitutional government envisioned by the founders of the Republic. To that end we adopt the following platform.

Sanctity of Life

"...secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity..."
-US Constitution Preamble

"We declare, that all people are created equal; that they are endowed by their CREATOR with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness;..."
-Constitution of the State of Indiana, Article I, Section 1

Based on the scientific knowledge that the genetic code of the pre-born person is clearly distinguishable from that of either of its parents, we recognize that the pre-born are persons entitled to the protection of law. That being the case, we call upon our state officials to fulfill their obligations to uphold the US Constitution and the state constitution by taking immediate action to end the practice of abortion in Indiana.

We further call upon our state legislators to amend the Indiana Constitution to recognize personhood from the moment of conception until natural death.

We condemn the practice of so-called "assisted suicide" and call upon our state legislators to resist any and all attempts to legalize euthanasia and suicide.

Agriculture

We affirm the right of farmers to sell their products on their own property or in farmers' markets, as long as they are in compliance with local health codes that are free from excessive and burdensome fees and regulations and equitably enforced. ◀

Commerce

U.S. Constitution Article 1, Section 8

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

10th Amendment

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

"...what more is necessary to make us a happy and a prosperous people? ...a wise and frugal Government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government." Thomas Jefferson, First Inaugural Address – Wednesday, March 1, 1801

The principles of free, fair and moral commerce are essential to a strong economy. The Constitution Party of Indiana believes that all men may sell goods and services for whatever price they deem fit. Nothing in the Constitution, writings of the Founders, or in logic, can imagine a God-given right to earn a specific wage or buy at a specific price.

The Constitution gives the federal government power only to control commerce between the states. Indiana and the people thereof, reserve the power of commerce within their own borders. The federal government has no power within the state to determine the goods and services sold within that state.

We affirm the right of Indiana to decide which companies may or may not conduct business within our borders. The state may invite or remove businesses within its borders without interference from federal government.

We affirm that the people may purchase whatever product is available, so long as it complies with local rules and regulation and without interference from the federal government or other states.

We deny that the federal government can set wages, prices, labor laws, or unemployment benefits within the state of Indiana.

Constitutional Convention

We affirm the original text of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. We affirm that the nation's Charter, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution contain the foundational law of the federal union. We condemn, therefore, all legislative, executive, and judicial action that departs from the texts and intent of the Charter and the Constitution and their original meaning.

We oppose any attempt to call for a Constitutional convention, for any purpose whatsoever, because it

cannot be limited to any single issue, and such convention could seriously erode our constitutionally protected unalienable rights.

We urge the Indiana General Assembly and the Governor of Indiana to resist all pressure to participate in such a Convention.

Energy

We support an individual's right to choose and use any form of energy free from governmental subsidies or excessive fees and legislation.

Domestic Federal Aid

Domestic federal "aid" not authorized by the Constitution is not only illegal, it is immoral.

We call upon the state of Indiana, therefore, to decline to accept all monies from the federal government for any purpose not specifically and clearly articulated in the Constitution, and reject all federal mandates and regulations which are unconstitutional, thus restoring the intended balance of power between the states and their creation, the U.S. Government.

Drug Abuse

Decriminalization of drugs, not legalization, would reduce state and federal deficits by eliminating expenditures on prohibition enforcement including arrests, prosecutions, and incarcerations. The federal government spends billions of dollars housing drug related prisoners. If drugs were decriminalized, the government would save around \$25 billion dollars in state and local expenses and \$15 billion in federal government expenses annually.

Our legal system is completely overburdened. According to the Department of Justice, many rapes, murders and burglaries go unsolved. Murderers and rapists have been freed from crowded prisons to make room for nonviolent drug users. Civil-forfeiture laws have been enacted, in clear violation of the Fifth Amendment, under which property can be confiscated without due process. Anti-money-laundering laws violate our rights to privacy in our transactions.

People practice vices for what they perceive as their own happiness—not to violate the rights of another. In a free society people have the right to destroy their own lives but not those of others. When government coercion is used to promote virtue, there cannot be liberty. However, there is conduct that people might engage in under the influence of narcotics, such as impaired driving, robbery and burglary to fund their habit, and other acts that threaten the rights of others. Such acts are already criminal and should be punished.

Education

We recognize that it is the right and duty of parents to direct the education of their children to including opting their child out of events and materials that the parent decides is inappropriate. Further, we affirm the parent's right to choose the schooling appropriate for their children, to include home schooling, private/parochial schools, public schools or chartered schools.

Because the federal government has absolutely no jurisdiction concerning the education of our children, the United States Department of Education should be abolished; all federal legislation related to education should be repealed. No federal laws subsidizing or regulating the education of children should be enacted. Under no circumstances should the federal government be involved in national teacher certification, educational curricula, textbook selection, learning standards, comprehensive sex education, psychological and psychiatric research testing programs, and personnel.

Election Reform

Article 2, section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana guarantees that “All elections shall be free and equal”. The current system of ballot access hinders both the freedom and fairness of elections.

To encourage free and fair elections, all candidates must be treated equally. We call for an end to designated "Major Party" status that gives an unfair advantage to some candidates by providing ballot access and taxpayer dollars, while requiring others for the same office to gather petition signatures or meet other, more stringent criteria.

Family

We believe that the basic unit of society is the family. We affirm marriage as between one man and one woman. As such, we oppose state recognition of any other union outside the marriage of one man and one woman.

According to the U.S Constitution, Article IV, Section 2, the federal government, including the judiciary, has no authority over the issue. Therefore, we oppose a federal marriage amendment.

Gambling

The negative societal cost of gambling far outweighs any revenue the state gains from gambling. Gambling is promoted as a “get-rich-quick” scheme that makes the Indiana citizen only get poorer even quicker.

By encouraging people to gamble, it spreads the burden of supporting legitimate government disproportionately among the citizens. We are opposed to government sponsorship, involvement in, or promotion of gambling, such as lotteries, or subsidies in the name of education or economic development.

Gambling revenue is not a legitimate or stable source of income. We are opposed to state sanctioned gambling and especially opposed to any expansion to the gambling industry.

Gun Rights

*“The people shall have a right to bear arms, for the defense of themselves and the State.” -
Constitution of the State of Indiana, Article I, section 32*

The right to bear arms is inherent in the right of self defense, defense of the family, and defense against tyranny, conferred on the individual and the community by our Creator to safeguard life, liberty, and property, as well as to help preserve the independence of the nation.

The right to keep and bear arms is guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the Constitution; it may not properly be infringed upon nor denied.

The Constitution Party upholds the right of the citizen to keep and bear arms. We oppose attempts to prohibit ownership of guns by law-abiding citizens, and stand against all laws which would require the registration of guns or ammunition.

Immigration

The federal government has the constitutional authority to oversee and regulate naturalization which is different than immigration. Therefore, the issue of immigration would fall under the 10th amendment.

The federal and state of Indiana governments should cease handouts (welfare, public education, etc.) to illegal immigrants which give them incentives to come and stay in the U.S. illegally.

Personal and Private Property Security

We affirm the Fourth Amendment right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, including arbitrary or de facto registration, general and unwarranted electronic surveillance, national computer databases, and national identification cards. We also reaffirm that civil governments must be strictly limited in their powers to intrude upon the persons and private property of individual citizens, in particular, that no place be searched and no thing be seized, except upon proof of probable cause that a crime has been committed and the proper judicial warrant issued.

We further reaffirm the common-law rule that protects the people from any search or seizure whatsoever when that search or seizure violates the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

We deplore and oppose vigorously legislation and executive action that deprive the people of their Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights under claims of necessity to “combat terrorism” or to “protect national security.”

We support privacy legislation that prohibits private parties from discriminating against individuals who refuse to disclose or obtain a Social Security number. We also call for legislation prohibiting all governmental entities from requiring the use of the Social Security number except for Social Security transactions. Additionally, we call for the repeal of all laws, regulations, and statutes that require the use of the Social Security number for any purpose other than Social Security transactions.

Religious Freedom

We call upon all branches of government to cease their attacks on the religious liberties of the people and the states, regardless of the forum in which these liberties are exercised.

We assert that any form of taxation on churches and other religious organizations is a direct and dangerous step toward state control of the church. Such intrusion is prohibited by the Constitution and must be halted.

We assert that private organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America, can determine their own membership, volunteers, and employment based on their oaths and creeds.

Right to Work

The Constitution Party of Indiana strongly believes in the power of people to organize and collectively bargain, but it also believes equally strongly that a person has the right not to participate in such endeavors. In any discussion about Right-to-Work Laws vs. Unions, it is important to distinguish between the Free Agent employee under Right-to-Work, Private-sector Unions, and Public-sector Unions.

RIGHT-TO-WORK: The Constitution Party recognizes that the Right to Life is intrinsically connected to the Right to Work to support that life, therefore it supports the right of individuals to contract for their labor independent of an organized Union and should not be forced or mandated to belong to a union to be hired or to keep a job. Right-to-Work laws give people the right to work without union membership—they do not prohibit unions. This has the effect of weakening bargaining power but, as people have the

Freedom to Associate under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, they also have an equal Freedom to Not Associate.

PRIVATE-SECTOR UNIONS: The Constitution Party has always supported the right of people to organize and bargain collectively, the Freedom of Association being protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution "*Congress shall make no law...abridging... the right of the people peaceably to assemble,*" the Right to Peaceably Assemble being related to the Right of Association. Therefore, the Constitution Party supports private-sector unions, but does not support mandated membership as a condition of employment, the Freedom to Dis-associate having equal status to the Freedom of Association.

PUBLIC-SECTOR UNIONS: The Constitution Party does not recognize the existence of a right of government employees to collectively bargain or participate in strikes. Allowing Public-Sector Unions is unjust because these public unions exist at the expense of taxpayers who have little or no say in their hiring, firing, or contract negotiating. They are not the equivalent of private-sector unions at a factory or other place of employment who bargain collectively for better pay and working conditions. Those private employees have no ability or interest in lobbying their employers to constantly increase taxes for their benefit. For the private sector, if the union drives costs up, the public can simply choose to shop somewhere else, as they often do. In public sector union, the taxpayers do not have the option of shopping somewhere else, it takes away choice. The recent teachers union in Chicago is a good example. The parent must send the child to public school or else be faced with jail time. Private school is not really an option for most families. A system that allows public-sector unions to form and exist is unsustainable because virtually every state is now technically bankrupt, as is the federal government.

State Sovereignty

We demand that our State Legislators repudiate unconstitutional federal government mandates (including the individual purchasing of health insurance), regulations, programs, and enticements, and that they assert their authority under the Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to defend the sovereignty of the State of Indiana.

Taxes

Since 1913, our Constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property have been abridged and diminished by the imposition on each of us of Federal income, payroll, and estate taxes. This is an unconstitutional Federal assumption of direct taxing authority

The Internal Revenue Service is the enforcement arm of the Federal government's present unjust tax system. Citizens, both in groups and as individuals, have repeatedly sought responses from the IRS bureaucracy as to the basis for the agency's tax policies and procedures. No answers have been forthcoming although a responsible government must be answerable to the people and has a duty to those it is supposed to serve.

We propose legislation to abolish the Internal Revenue Service, and will veto any authorization, appropriation, or continuing resolution which contains any funding whatsoever for that illicit and unconstitutional agency. We are opposed to the flat-rate tax, national sales tax, and value added tax proposals that are being promoted as an improvement to the current tax system. The Sixteenth Amendment does not provide authority for an un-apportioned direct tax.

Terrorism and Personal Liberty

America is engaged in an undeclared war with an ill-defined enemy (terrorism), a war which threatens to be never ending, and which is being used to vastly expand government power, particularly that of the executive branch, at the expense of the individual liberties of the American people.

We deplore and vigorously oppose legislation and executive action that deprive the people of their rights secured under the Fourth and Fifth Amendments under the guise of “combating terrorism” or “protecting national security.” Examples of such legislation are the National Security Act, the USA PATRIOT Act, the proposed Domestic Securities Enhancement Act (colloquially known as “Patriot II”), the Military Commissions Act, the National Defense Authorization Act and the creation of the Department of Homeland Security.

The USA PATRIOT Act permits arrests without warrants and secret detention without counsel, wiretaps without court supervision, searches and seizures without notification to the individual whose property is invaded, and a host of other violations of the legal safeguards our nation has historically developed according to principles descending from the Fourth and Fifth Amendments.

The National Defense Authorization Act gives authority to the President of the United States to have persons arrested including U.S. citizens without a warrant, without a trial, indefinitely.

The Constitution Party is unalterably opposed to the criminal acts of terrorists, and their organizations, as well as the governments which condone them. Individuals responsible for acts of terrorism must be punished for their crimes, including the infliction of capital punishment where appropriate. In responding to terrorism, however, these United States must avoid acts of retaliation abroad which destroy innocent human lives, creating enmity toward these United States and its people.

In accord with the views of our Founding Fathers, we must disengage this nation from the international entanglements which generate foreign hatred of these United States, and are used as the excuse for terrorist attacks on America and its people. The ‘war on terrorism’ is not a proper excuse for perpetual U.S. occupation of foreign lands, military assaults on countries which have not injured us, or perpetual commitment of taxpayer dollars to finance foreign governments.

Veterans

The Constitution Party appreciates the contributions of our veterans to the preservation of American freedom. We shall continue to recognize their contributions to the national welfare by providing equitable pay and benefits to our military personnel, and generous health, education, and other benefits to veterans.

We vigorously resist the attempt by any government agency to nullify or reduce earned benefits to veterans and their survivors, including but not limited to, compensation, pensions, education, and health care.

We also call on all veterans to remember their oath, “To support and defend the Constitution of the United States against ALL enemies, foreign and domestic.” It is time to rise up once again, this time to take on the domestic enemy.

For all other issues we uphold, please refer to our National Party By-laws which can be found at http://www.constitutionparty.com/party_platform.php