



## **PLATFORM OF THE CATOOSA COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY**

Date: March 18, 2017

The Catoosa County Republican Party, an existing duly registered party within the 14<sup>th</sup> District of the Georgia Republican Party and existing under its Laws and having its address at 670 Lafayette Street, Ringgold, Ga 30736 (hereinafter referred to as the “Party”), after having discussed and approved the following platform at the called County Convention held on March 18, 2017

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

### **I. General Planks of Catoosa County Republican Party**

1. We support the National Platform of the National Republican Party
2. We support the State Platform of the Georgia Republican Party
3. We support the Pro Life Issue
4. We support not raising taxes at any level of government and an ever vigilant, perpetual determination, to reduce every existing tax, wherever possible.
5. A marriage not ordained by God is not a marriage. In the history of man God has not ordained a marriage except between a man and a woman. God ordains all marriages whether between believers or non-believers, in all cultures, nationalities, and races. Ecclesiastes 9:9-“Enjoy life with the wife you love all the days of your fleeting life, which has been given to you under the sun, all your fleeting days. For that is your portion in life and in your struggle under the sun. Whatever your hands find to do, do with all your strength, because there is no work, planning, knowledge, or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.”  
(HCS)

6. We support limited government and in any action of government, it should err on the side of liberty
7. While people in America come from different backgrounds, religions, cultures and nationalities, we demand that any person desiring to be a citizen support the Constitution of the United States and the individual liberties it guarantees.
8. We support elimination of unnecessary government regulations at all levels of government
9. We support the creation of a committee on ethics for Catoosa County government appointed by the executive committees of both the Catoosa County Republican Party and Democrat Party.
10. Elected officials shall not borrow against future taxes based upon election results regarding such issues as SPLOST, ESPLOST (this borrowing assumes that the public will approve the tax and it is gambling to assume it will pass every time).
11. The laws of God are a light unto the world and have created individual rights for all people, believers and non-believers alike, and our legislatures should be supportive of these laws and should not be working against these laws and attacking these laws.
12. We support ending tax incentives and property development for private companies. This is a risky use of taxpayer money and in essence picks winners and losers in the county's business community. In addition, this system creates an easy path to bribery and corruption. The Commissioners should not look at quick fixes to boost the economy through preferential treatment of certain businesses but shall work toward long term tax reform and inspire an economic climate that will create opportunities for businesses and for county residents.
13. All public meetings involving county government should be recorded via social media (such as Facebook Live, Podcast, etc.) and uploaded live to the County Web site.

## **II. PUBLIC TAX SUPPORTED EDUCATION NOW**

Why do we individually or collectively educate our children?

Solomon wrote, “Of making many books there is no end, and much study wears the body” (Ecclesiastes 12:12). Any student who has pulled an all-nighter, crammed for a test, memorized an equation, or pored over a textbook can verify the truth of that statement. Solomon’s point was that there are more important things than simply amassing knowledge—namely, fearing God and obeying Him (verses 13-14).

That is not to say that education is unimportant. In fact, Jesus Himself learned. One of the only things we know of His childhood is that He “grew in wisdom” as He grew “in stature” (Luke 2:52). That is, the Son of God voluntarily put Himself in a position where He needed to assimilate knowledge as a man. Education was part of the process.

The church has historically promoted education and the improvement of the mind. The Reformer John Calvin was a strong advocate for universal education, believing that every child should be trained in reading, writing, math, and grammar, as well as religion. Martin Luther taught that education was essential, “both to understand the Word of Scripture and the nature of the world in which the Word would take root.”

The modern Sunday school movement began in 1780 when Robert Raikes began educating poor children who were otherwise overlooked by society. Most universities, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Oxford, and Cambridge, were founded by Christians as religious schools.

In the book of Proverbs, a son is exhorted to heed his father's instruction, and the application of the knowledge learned is called wisdom. The word *education* may not appear in the English form in the Bible, but Scripture does say a lot about the process of education, and it begins with the parent and child. The command to parents is to nurture their children in the Lord (Ephesians 6:4), and the Greek word *paideia*, translated "nurture" in the KJV, carries with it the idea of training, education, instruction and discipline.

Solomon tells us that the basis of all true knowledge is the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 1:7). The word *fear* here does not carry the idea of terror or dread; rather, it is awe and reverence for the holiness and majesty of God and a reluctance to disappoint or disobey Him. Jesus said that when we know the truth, the truth will make us free (John 8:32). Freedom from fear comes from being educated in Truth.

1. Education of the children of the nation does not mean that the state should take the place of parents as is noted in Proverbs 1:8:9 Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.
2. Educational institutions of this state shall have the absolute right as given by the parents to maintain discipline in their classroom and school system. Children are expected to respect their teachers and obey the policies of the school; failure to do so should subject them to expulsion without retribution by anyone.
3. Parents should be allowed to have input into the curriculum of any school. The ultimate control should be with the administration but any PTA or other community organization connected with the institution shall be entitled to a public hearing into text books, media, materials used and curriculum used.
4. All public school officials shall be elected in a partisan election every four years and the election shall occur on the same day as the presidential election and all board members shall stand for election on that day.
5. School board members should have term limits and be allowed to serve 2 terms only.
6. Public schools shall publish their accounting records by line item on the Internet via the Board of Education Website and shall also indicate to whom expenditures were made. In other words any expenditure made to an individual or a company the total paid and to whom it was paid, and for what it was paid.

7. The Public School Board shall not fear rejecting Federal Funding.
8. The Public School Board shall be required to submit a budget to the Board of Commissioners and compete with other departments for funds.

### **III. EDUCATION IN THE FUTURE**

We believe that government control of education should be ended. We also believe that government can be of assistance in education for a very limited number of children in very special circumstances but as a general rule government is useless in education.

We believe that all children of this nation should be afforded an opportunity for a basic education which includes reading, writing, math, grammar, and history. A public that understands the principles of liberty, justice and individual God given rights is essential to a free republic. A universal truth in the Holy Scripture that supports this is noted in Proverbs 18:15 an intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

1. The responsibility of educating the children lies with the parents. Parents shall continue to have alternatives for their children's education ranging from home schooling, private schools, religious schools, public schools, trade schools and others. It is through freedom and enterprise systems that these alternatives can be available to parents and their children. Free enterprise is an expression of liberty. No education system shall be designed such to exclude parental participation.

2. If government is to play a role in education it might be in funding through a system of direct unfettered “no strings attached” grants to parents.
3. We also know that there is a system of taxation of the public presently used to fund public schools. While we are not satisfied with this form of funding or its results, it is nonetheless what we presently have. If options within the free enterprise system for schooling are to be made available funds must be diverted to interested parents in order to attract options.
4. We are opposed to the present “Voucher” systems as they all carry with them regulatory prohibitions on the free exercise of religion and speech that exist in public school. They also adopt many if not all curriculum restrictions. This is not acceptable. Liberty is acceptable. The liberty bell in Philadelphia has an inscription on it “Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof” Leviticus 25:10. The restraints upon liberty in today’s educational system are certainly improper and it is doubtful they were ever proper.
5. A system of direct grants without restraint is acceptable. These should be viewed as a tax rebate. It is the parent’s tax money being returned to them. It is their money. It is not a gift from the government. Whether the grant is given to the school directly or a check to the parents or a redeemable certificate is not the issue. The logistics can be worked out but liberty must be the goal and preserved.

#### **IV. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

The Board of Commissioners shall exercise sound business principles in the operation of County Government:

1. The County shall adopt Zero-based budgeting (ZBB) as the method of budgeting in which all expenses must be justified for each new period. Zero-based budgeting starts from a "zero base," and every function within the County organization is analyzed for its needs and costs. Implement line item departmental accounting. This will force constitutional officer's to budget their offices efficiently and when money in a department is over budgeted it must be explained and the funds will be returned to the county treasury.
2. Cease benefits for Commissioners. Commissioners shall be treated as a part time position and not a full time job. This will attract individuals who are interested in public service rather than personal compensation. Only out of pocket expenses and per diem should be paid to Commissioners. In the private economy part time positions do not have benefits nor should our part time commissioners.

3. The Zero Based Budgets with specific line item descriptions of each budget shall be implemented by all governmental offices and departments and made available to the citizens of Catoosa via the County website.
4. Nepotism shall not be allowed in County Government.
5. Conflicts of Interest in County Government shall cease. Conflicts in the county attorney's office have been pervasive throughout the county's history. A county attorney shall be a full time position and not a contracted private attorney. If litigation or other specialty is needed they should be separately hired upon recommendation of the county attorney.
6. The Commissioners shall pass a resolution every year noting that the constitutional officers are servants of the people and require every constitutional officer to sign the resolution each year.
7. All County departments, Constitutional departments, and Recreation spending shall be published for easy review by the public. All entities that receive public funding shall publish detailed accounting records reflecting their income and expenses. It shall not require a request for public record filing to acquire this information. It shall be published on the Board of Commissioners website.
8. The Board of Commissioners shall require that annual audits not be performed by any accounting firm for more than three years in a row.



**V. Clerk's Office:**

The clerk's office shall be required to broadcast via the county website recorded and posted for review at any time, on the Internet the selection of Grand Jury and Petit Jury persons. The people shall be instructed as to how this powerful system is created.

**VI. State Representative:**

1. Shall help implement the local party platform
2. Shall not raise taxes, whenever possible
3. Support liberty
4. Help implement the policies and actions in the resolutions passed by the County Convention

**VII. State Senator:**

1. Shall help implement the local party platform
2. Shall not raise taxes, whenever possible
3. Support liberty

4. Help implement the policies and actions in the resolutions passed by the County Convention