

RSCC Declaration of Principles

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General Principles

Members of the Republican Study Committee of Colorado agree with the national Republican Study Committee in our dedication to a limited and Constitutional role for civil government, a strong national defense, the protection of individual and property rights, and the preservation of traditional family values.

Personal Responsibility

Individuals and families are responsible for their own behavior. Public policy should encourage and empower their efforts to provide for their own health, safety, education, moral fortitude, and personal wealth.

Limited Government

Federal, state, and local governments should be limited to their respective roles, in accordance with the Tenth Amendment. The size of government, government regulations, and entitlement and transfer programs, should be limited to essential, inherently-governmental functions.

Sanctity of Life

We acknowledge the fact that human life begins at the moment of fertilization. All human beings, whether unborn, handicapped, or infirm, have a God-given and Constitutionally-protected right to life. Therefore, by principle we oppose abortion, euthanasia, human cloning, and embryonic stem cell research.

Individual Liberty

The rights of American citizens proceed from The Creator, not from the government. Government authority proceeds only from the consent of the People. Individuals have the intrinsic right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. All citizens have the freedom to decide their own religion and worldview, and to acknowledge God individually and collectively within the public square, without hindrance or coercion from government.

Free Market

The rights of free enterprise, private property ownership, and private control should not be infringed. Public policy should encourage a vibrant economy, business competition, and private sector job growth. Industrial, technological, agricultural, and energy innovation should be encouraged. Workers have the right to join voluntary associations or unions without coercion or involuntary diversions of their dues for political activities.

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Family Integrity

American families should be encouraged and supported by policies to nurture strong marriages, to support traditional moral values, and to create, control, and maintain their individual wealth with minimal interference from the government.

Civil Liberties

National security, national sovereignty, public safety, the right of self-defense, the rule of constitutional and statutory law, and civil justice should be preserved without excessive burdens to civil liberty.

Legislative Integrity

Legislators should lead through personal moral integrity, and should consider this Declaration of Principles responsibly before supporting or opposing legislation. If proposed legislation violates these principles, is not clearly understood, or undermines the common good, it should be rejected regardless of political pressures or personal loss or gain.

Western Conservation

Public policy should honor private property ownership and encourage free market policies. Western conservation empowers the private sector to exercise personal responsibility to conserve the natural resources of Colorado for future generations.

Faith-Based Institutions

Church, synagogue, and faith-based charities that care for the poor, sick, and needy should be recognized and encouraged by state policy, and should not be restricted from their participation and influence in the public square.

Illegal Immigration

The State should enforce policies that reduce illegal immigration, enforce Federal immigration laws, and prevent the flow of infectious diseases and illegal drugs across state and federal borders.

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Medical Care

Citizens must retain the primary responsibility to provide for their own health care needs while employed, and in advance of their retirement. Federal and state overregulation has hamstrung efforts to modernize Medicaid, and the erosion of the original intent of Medicaid and plans for state-dictated universal health care coverage should be resisted. Patient choice and competition, not government administration and over-regulation, should determine the availability and pricing of medical services. Direct state financial aid should be limited to providing only a basic safety net and emergency services, based on financial and medical needs. State resources should follow the patient, and patients should be free to choose among cost-effective plans, doctors, treatments, and procedures that best fit their needs. The state should maintain policies that encourage non-profit and faith-based care providers to take primary roles in responding to the health issues among our poorest citizens.

Quality Education

Parents have the right to rear and educate their children according to high standards of character and quality, with minimal government interference. Parents are ultimately responsible for their family's education, and must be able to choose among government schools, or other alternative forms of education for their children. School children should not be restricted in their rights to voluntary prayer, religious expression, and the acknowledgement of God, the American flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, the Declaration of Independence, and the United States Constitution. Higher education should foster academic excellence, respect for Western civilization, and academic freedom without indoctrination or political coercion. Academic tenure should not be used as a vehicle to abuse authority, academic integrity, or professional ethics.

Lower Taxes

Individuals, families, and the government should be responsible in their spending. Hard working taxpayers expect the government to be efficient and avoid waste with their money. The State should only collect taxes from citizens to fund legitimate government functions, and should refund any excess to the original taxpayer. Government taxes and fees should be limited to essential, inherently-governmental functions, and not for the forced redistribution of wealth, disproportionate advantages for targeted interest groups, or partisan political gain.