

# 2020 MNGOP State Platform

## Statement of Principles

### **Promote Economic Prosperity**

We believe economic prosperity is driven by individuals, not government. We support lowering the tax burden, exercising spending restraint, and creating and maintaining a fair, honest and competitive business environment to promote economic prosperity.

### **Preserve Civil Rights**

We believe we are “endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights.” We support defending the right to life, protecting religious and political liberties, and expect that government treats all of its citizens equally under the law. We support respecting personal privacy and property, protecting the right to bear arms, and giving workers the right to decide whether to join a union.

### **Protect our Health Care**

We recognize that the United States has the most advanced health care system in the world, leading in innovation and new technology development. Through genuine market competition and granting people choices, we can make health care more affordable, of higher quality and available to more Americans, while protecting privacy.

### **Educate our Children**

We believe that parents must have choices for their children’s education so that we can better educate, with more effective administration, while emphasizing traditional American values.

### **Strengthen our Families and Communities**

We recognize the blessings that God has bestowed on this great Nation. We also recognize the central role of the traditional family in our society and the necessity of traditional values for strengthening our families and communities.

### **Strengthen the Rule of Law**

We support limiting frivolous lawsuits, preserving judicial elections, holding judges accountable, and respecting the rule of law.

### **Enjoy and Protect our Natural Resources**

We believe that proper stewardship of our natural resources and agricultural lands is best achieved through sound science and adherence to constitutionally guaranteed property rights.

### **Make Government Smaller and Better**

We support keeping government functions in state, local or private hands, electing honest and responsive legislative bodies, advocating for fair election processes, and generally making government smaller and better.

### **Defend America at Home and Abroad**

We believe that we can maintain peace by having a strong national defense, securing our borders and by seeking principled international relationships. We believe that the most fundamental function of government is to keep citizens and our property secure.

# 2020 MNGOP State Platform

## Section 1 – Promote Economic Prosperity

We believe economic prosperity is driven by individuals, not government. We support lowering the tax burden, exercising spending restraint, and creating and maintaining a fair, honest and competitive business environment to promote economic prosperity.

### Lower Tax Burden on Families and Businesses

Republicans support comprehensive tax reform, abolishing the current tax code and replacing it with a simpler, fairer tax system.

Republicans seek to reduce the current burden of taxation.

### Exercise spending restraint

We favor reducing the size of the national debt by cutting federal spending.

We should dedicate all taxes, fees, and licenses from their revenue streams to their appropriate program funding. Specifically:

We support the abolition of the Federal Reserve System. Until then we support open and transparent annual audits in strict compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP).

## Create and Maintain a Fair, Honest and Competitive Business Environment

## Section 2 – Restore and Defend Civil Rights

We believe we are “endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights.” We support defending the right to life, protecting religious and political liberties, and expect that government treats all of its citizens equally under the law. We support respecting personal privacy and property, protecting the right to bear arms, and giving workers the right to decide whether to join a union.

### Defend the Right to Life

Republicans believe that every innocent human being, born and unborn, has an inalienable right to life from conception to natural death. The U.S. and Minnesota Constitutions should be amended to restore legal protection to the lives of innocent human beings from conception to natural death.

We call for overturning the Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Gomez decisions.

### Protect Religious & Political Liberties

We support protecting the right to religious freedom, religious expression and the rights of conscience for all peoples.

Everyone should have the right to form organizations based on their set of religious beliefs or principles including places of worship, charities, schools and hospitals.

To uphold all Americans’ right to free speech, we support campaign finance reform, allowing unlimited donations but requiring immediate, full disclosure of all sources.

We believe we are all Americans, not divided into subcategories. We reject any form of set-asides or quotas for employment, student admissions, faculty hiring, or the awarding of government contracts.

## Respect the Right to Personal Privacy and Property

As Republicans, we respect personal privacy, personal property, and the 4th Amendment

We disapprove of federal, state and local governments taking private property by eminent domain except for the general public good. It should NOT be taken for.

We believe interference by the federal government in private contracts should be prohibited.

We support compensating homeowners for property devaluation resulting from governmental action.

### Other Rights

We fully support the Second Amendment to the Constitution and believe that it protects an individual citizen's right to keep and bear arms.

We believe self-defense and defense of others is a fundamental human right, and support removing restrictions on and liability for self-defense.

All workers in Minnesota have the right to work without being forced to join a union and to organize through secret ballot to join a union or other association.

## Section 3 – Protect our Health Care

We recognize that the United States has the most advanced health care system in the world, leading in innovation and new technology development. Through genuine market competition and granting people choices, we can make health care more affordable, of higher quality and available to more Americans, while protecting privacy.

### Restoring Competition

As Republicans, we support programs that introduce genuine market competition to our health care system, minimize or eliminate government interference in health care or mandate the purchase of health insurance.

### Improve Quality

To improve quality of care, we should leave the choice of treatment to the doctor and informed patient, not government regulation.

Minnesota lawmakers should ban the sale and use of fetal tissue or body parts obtained through abortion, or of embryos or embryonic stem cells, for experimentation or research.

### Medical Data Privacy

Parents (or legal guardians) should have access to all of their minor child's health records and all patient records must be the sole property of the patient or legal guardian.

We believe parents must provide informed opt-in consent before newborn genetic testing and before the Minnesota Department of Health can retain their children's DNA. Furthermore, the Minnesota Department of Health should be required to destroy all DNA and genetic information collected without express parental consent.

## Section 4 – Educate our Children

We believe that parents must have choices for their children's education so that we can better educate, with more effective administration, while emphasizing traditional American values.

### Protect Parental Choice

As Republicans, we seek to improve the quality of education by maximizing parental choice.

We believe that Minnesota's educational system would be more effective and efficient if we eliminated federal and reduced state bureaucracies' control.

#### Better educate

Minnesota should have a well-rounded knowledge-based curriculum to prepare our students to be good citizens, with an emphasis on hard work, honesty, home and family, as well as a respect for America's religious and civic heritage.

Minnesota should devote the same amount of effort to educating gifted and talented students as it currently devotes to special education.

#### Ensure Effective School Administration

All public schools, including colleges and universities, should be held accountable for all funds received and spent in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Teachers should be paid based on performance and there should be periodic competency testing for public school teachers in both the academic curriculum and the subjects they teach.

#### Emphasize Traditional American Values

We believe that every classroom should be required to display the United States flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance daily. In keeping with our heritage, all history classes should include information about the important role religion played in our Nation's founding, including study of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and other original sources.

We should encourage and respect the voluntary expression of religious beliefs and traditions.

At the University level, we should restore academic and intellectual freedom for professors and students.

### **Section 5 – Strengthen our Families and Communities**

We recognize the blessings that God has bestowed on this great Nation. We also recognize the central role of the traditional family in our society and the necessity of traditional values for strengthening our families and communities.

We support restricting the promotion and sale of vulgar and obscene material to children, and support the use of pornography- blocking software in publicly-financed institutions.

We believe that marriage is between one man and one woman.

People in need should be assisted primarily through private charity, including faith-based programs instead of government welfare programs. We believe in real welfare reform that would require all able-bodied recipients to work or get training in order to receive benefits beyond some time limit.

We seek to eliminate all state-sponsored gambling and oppose any expansion of gambling in Minnesota.

### **Section 6 – Strengthen the Rule of Law**

We support limiting frivolous lawsuits, preserving judicial elections, holding judges accountable, and respecting the rule of law.

#### Limit Frivolous Lawsuits

Republicans believe that the legal system has been subject to abuse and want tort reform, including the following: limit attorneys' fees in class action lawsuits where the plaintiffs receive small payouts; reduce frivolous lawsuits, excessive numbers of lawsuits, and lawsuits intended primarily to advance a political aim. It would also limit any party's liability to its fair share of the damages.

### Protect Judicial Elections and Holding Judges Accountable

We support contested, not “retention,” election of judges as provided by the Minnesota Constitution and oppose any proposals to eliminate or limit these elections. We would limit the authority of the Governor to make judicial appointments for the purpose of avoiding a contested election.

A code of judicial ethics, enforced by a legislative Board on Judicial Standards, should be established by statute as a check on judicial power.

### Respecting the Rule of Law

We support: the nullification of unconstitutional federal law in accordance with state sovereignty, restoring states rights under the 10th amendment of the U.S. Constitution, reinstating the Constitutional separation of powers, and the election or appointment of strict constructionist judges who adhere to the principles of the U.S. and Minnesota Constitutions.

We oppose legislation by executive order, judicial rulings, or unelected regulatory agencies. We oppose the implementation of foreign law on American soil.

We recognize that “sanctuary cities” or “sanctuary states” are a violation of federal law and support withdrawal of all state and federal funding for those cities.

Asset forfeiture should be abolished except upon criminal conviction and where the asset is directly related to the crime.

## **Section 7 – Enjoy and Protect our Natural Resources**

We believe that proper stewardship of our natural resources and agricultural lands is best achieved through sound science and adherence to constitutionally guaranteed property rights.

We believe that economic development of natural resources can be balanced with environmental stewardship and should not be obstructed by radical environmentalist concerns. We oppose policies and mandates based on the Theory of Man-Made Global Warming, as well as any energy policies arising from it.

Those that cause the pollution should bear the cost of environmental clean-up.

We should follow commonsense practices in forest, wetlands and wildlife management, and promote multiple uses of natural resources in most cases. Republicans encourage free enterprise in the agricultural economy, and support technological advances in the creation, processing and use of agricultural products and natural resources.

The Republican Party of Minnesota opposes efforts to put all land or water under the control of the government.

## **Section 8 – Make Government Smaller and Better**

We support keeping government functions in state, local or private hands, electing honest and responsive legislative bodies, advocating for fair election processes, and generally making government smaller and better.

### Keep Government Functions in State and Local Hands

We believe government functions should return to the hands of state and local governments where they will be carried out more efficiently and with greater accountability than at the federal level. We reject Congress’ practice of coercing state and local governments by withholding funds if states do not give the federal government jurisdiction.

Republicans believe that we should abolish the U.S. Department of Education and oppose centralized educational authority at the expense of local school boards.

We believe that cities should not be allowed to annex townships without approval of the affected residents. Also, townships and counties should decide on where to place feedlots and logging roads.

**Elect Honest and Responsive Legislative Bodies**  
Republicans support reinstating a citizen legislature in Minnesota.

We hold our elected officials accountable.

**Advocate for Fair Election Processes**

We support the current Electoral College system and oppose electing our president based on the national popular vote. We promote a change in the way Minnesota casts its votes in the Electoral College, so that the votes from the individual Congressional districts go to the winner of that Congressional District and the Presidential Candidate that wins the majority of votes cast in the State receives two extra votes. We support fair redistricting without gerrymandering and with Senate districts that do not cross Congressional district boundaries. We must improve polling place procedures, specifically voter registration practices.

**Streamline Government**

All new federal regulations must have a positive cost-benefit analysis and be approved by Congress. We support limiting new biennium State spending to no more than the previous biennium's revenue.

Any new government program must include the program's purpose, cost and estimated completion date, with measures of performance and termination procedures if found ineffective.

All proposed legislation must include either a specific reference from the U.S. or Minnesota Constitution authorizing it, or a credible reason why none is needed.

Public worker compensation packages (including salaries, pensions and medical benefits) should be no better than those of private sector workers.

We support a State employee hiring freeze and contracting out of services as much as possible.

## **Section 9 – Defend America at Home and Abroad**

We believe that we can maintain peace by having a strong national defense, securing our borders and by seeking principled international relationships. We believe that the most fundamental function of government is to keep citizens and our property secure.

**Strong National Defense**

We believe America's military must be well prepared, well armed and ready to protect our national security interest.

We reaffirm our support for our troops, including active duty members, Reserves, National Guard, veterans and their mission.

We will continue to support efforts to keep our nation safe.

**Protect our Borders**

We support immigration reform that first strengthens our borders against criminals, terrorism and illegal immigrants, but see no need to offer amnesty or a pathway to citizenship for illegal aliens to get it.

**Support International Relations**

We reaffirm our commitment to free market economics, including free and fair international trade. We seek to maintain commercial, cultural and diplomatic ties with many nations while also promoting American industry and commerce. We should maintain trade policies that encourage other nations to seek democracy, capitalism and individual freedom for their citizens.

We should continue our efforts to become less dependent on foreign oil.

We believe foreign aid should, in most cases, be in the form of American goods, commodities and services.

We oppose any surrender of U.S. sovereignty or liberty through the United Nations or its initiatives.

We continue to support the right of the State of Israel to exist and to defend itself.

Protect Public Safety

Secure and punish criminals.