

**WYGOP Platforms and Resolutions and Bylaws Committee Recommendation for the 2012
Election Cycle**

Approved by the State Central Committee on August 27, 2011

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Dear Central Committee,

This document contains the Platforms and Resolutions and Bylaws Committee's Recommendations for the 2012 election cycle. The Committee has spent considerable time working on these recommendations and sought input from representatives of every county in Wyoming. We want to stress to you that other than a few requirements concerning format and structure, these are just recommendations. Every county is different and needs to operate in a fashion that best fits its needs. This document was drafted in an effort to address concerns with the process as well as provide some useful guidance on how to proceed forward into 2012. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and thank you to everyone on the Committee for all your hard work.

Sincerely,

Dicky Shanor
Vice Chairman, Wyoming Republican Party

Platforms and Resolutions

(a) Purpose

The 2012 Wyoming Republican Party Platform will contain a one page “Preface” which sets forth the purpose of the Party Platform, how it was created, and the difference between a Platform Plank and Resolution.

*-Purpose-*The Platform is a sales and marketing tool for the Republican Party. It is to be used by grassroots activists in recruitment efforts and serve as a starting point for policy discussions. Our elected officials should consider it when they are making policy decisions.

*-Creation-*Every registered Republican in the State of Wyoming has an opportunity to be heard in the Platforms and Resolutions process. Starting with the individual County Caucuses, Wyoming Republicans are provided a venue to voice their opinion on what the Republican Party principles should be (Platforms) and where the Party stands on specific issues (Resolutions).

*-The Difference-*The terms “Platforms” and “Resolutions” have caused considerable confusion over the years. A Platform, or more specifically a Platform Plank, is a simple and basic core principle. A Platform Plank should be drafted to address a global and philosophic concept that is relatively “timeless.” On the other hand, a Resolution is drafted to deal with a more specific, contemporary concern. Both a Platform Plank and a Resolution can address an issue of national or state concern. There is no distinction to be made between Platform Planks and Resolutions regarding issues of national or state concern.

Proposed Preface:

The 2012 Wyoming Republican Party Platform is the result of a biennial process that begins with each county party in the state and culminates in the statewide Republican Convention. We invite every registered Republican in the State of Wyoming to join us in the Platform process.

The first part of this document is our Party Platform. This is a statement of broad principles and timeless truths. The Platform is not something that changes with the whim of a political moment.

The Appendix of Resolutions addresses the issues of the day. The individual Resolutions deal with specific events and specific issues, and often, in the Resolved portion, propose specific actions to solve a problem. The Whereas portion gives relevant facts and principles, often the principles in the Platform.

Because of the relationship between the Platform and the Resolutions, they are organized in parallel, with identical chapter headings. This makes a clear connection between the Resolutions and the Platform principles that guide their creation.

Since any political party is a coalition, we do not ask anyone to agree with everything here. But if you agree with a majority of this, you probably are (or should be) a Republican.

Tammy Hooper,
Chairman, Wyoming Republican Party

(b) Structure and formula

The Wyoming Republican Party Platform will be one document. It will consist of three sections, (1) Preface; (2) Platform; and (3) Appendix of Resolutions. It may also contain a table of contents and/or index, depending on what the Committees decide at State Convention.

(1) Preface-This was discussed in section (a) above.

(2) Platform-The Platform will be divided into 9 sub-categories:

1. Jobs and the Economy
2. Crime and Law
3. Land, Agriculture, and Environment
4. Government and Budgets
5. Education
6. Health and Society
7. Immigration and (Illegal) Immigrants
8. Energy
9. Foreign Policy and Defense

The final document will have no more than 8 planks per sub-category. (It will be recommended to each county that they submit a range of 7-10 planks per sub-category for the committees to review at State Convention).

(3) Appendix of Resolutions-The Appendix of Resolutions will be divided into the same sub-categories as the Platforms:

1. Jobs and the Economy
2. Crime and Law
3. Land, Agriculture, and Environment
4. Government and Budgets
5. Education
6. Health and Society
7. Immigration and (Illegal) Immigrants
8. Energy
9. Foreign Policy and Defense

There will be no limit on how many Resolutions are approved other than that anything not actually debated and voted on at the floor of the State Convention will be tabled until the next Convention.

(c) Process Coordination

The Committee is adamant that County Parties conduct their business as they deem fit. To aid in the process, the State Party will send each County Party a “skeleton” Platform document in Word format for the County Platforms & Resolutions Committees to fill in. Once

each County Party passes its County Party Platform, it will be emailed to the State Party in .docx (Word) or .odf (Open Source) using the skeleton form within 10 days of its County Convention.

(d) County Convention Floor Rules

The Committee encourages each County Party to set its own floor rules. The following rules are what the State Party intends to implement at State Convention. The Committee is only presenting these rules for purposes of full disclosure and information:

2012 WYGOP State Convention Floor Rules:

1. There will be no limit on number of speakers when debating a Platform Plank or Resolution. Debate will be conducted in alternating order, one in favor and then one against. Debate will stop if: (1) if one side of the debate runs out of speakers; or (2) Privileged Motion: The Chair will recognize any motion that is presented between speakers that moves for the previous question. This motion has to have a second and is not debatable. If the majority is in favor of the motion, debate on that individual item ends.
2. Debate on each person's part shall be limited to 2 minutes per Platform Plank or Resolution.
3. No spokesperson shall be allowed to reserve time or transfer speaking time to any other person.
4. Each sub-category will be submitted to the floor en masse as a "consent agenda" item. Any items that a delegate wishes to discuss individually will have to be specifically removed from the sub-category upon proper motion and second. The remaining items not removed will be approved en masse.
5. Submissions of Platform Planks will not be accepted from the floor. Resolutions may be submitted from the floor only if they address issues that came to light after the conclusion of the delegate's County Convention. Any Resolutions submitted from the floor will be submitted before noon of the day of the Convention and in electronic format (email, internet, disc, or thumb drive). It is preferred that any of these submissions be made to the Thursday and Friday committees. Resolutions submitted to the committees will be given preference over Saturday submissions.
6. Platforms will be debated first. Resolutions last. Privileged Motion: The Chair will recognize any motion for the convention to rise and report on the consideration of resolutions (or planks, bylaws, etc.) and indefinitely table the consideration of any other resolutions (or planks, bylaws, etc.).

(e) Preparation for State Convention

Again, please submit your Platform using the "skeleton" from the State Party in .docx or .odf format.

(f) State Convention Committees/State Convention Floor Rules

(1) Committees

As we have done in the past, there will be two committees, Platforms and Resolutions, each comprised of two Co-Chairs and one representative from each county. However, these committees will only meet on Friday. Thursday's meetings will be nine separate sub-committee meetings based on the 9 sub-categories (jobs and economy, etc...). Each sub-committee will consist of at least one representative from the Platforms Committee and one representative from the Resolutions Committee. If more members of the Platforms and Resolutions Committees would like to participate in the Thursday sub-committees, they will be evenly disbursed among the sub-committees at the discretion of the Platforms and Resolutions Committee Co-Chairs. No sub-committee will exceed five people. Each sub-committee will review the submissions for all counties only for that specific subcategory. The sub-committees will bring their chosen Platform Planks or Resolutions to their respective committees on Friday.

The Friday committees will then fill in the "skeleton" document with their agreed upon Planks and Resolutions for debate on the floor. The Platforms Committee will come to the floor with no more than eight Planks per subcategory. There will not be a specific limit on Resolutions brought to the floor by the Resolutions Committee, the number will be in the discretion of the Committee. However, it is recommended that the Resolutions sent to committee be focused and not be omnibus or contain excessive "WHEREAS" clauses. The Committee will reject Resolutions based on mechanical grounds, not content.

(2) Floor Rules

See section (d) above.

Bylaws

The Committee encourages each County Party to adopt Bylaws to fit its own unique needs. The State Party's role in the Bylaws process will be:

(1) To suggest that each County Party create a Bylaws Committee to evaluate its current Bylaws for compliance with state statute and State Party Bylaws. State Party Co-Counsel, Dicky Shanor, and Mike Kelly will work with each County Bylaws Committee in an advisory role to point out potential legal issues;

(2) To accept submittals from the County Conventions concerning changes to State Party Bylaws.