

Office of the Majority Leader
North Carolina
House of Representatives

2301 Legislative Building, Raleigh, NC 27601-1096
(919) 733-2962 – Paul.Stam@ncleg.net

*Representative
Paul Stam*



Not a Dimes Worth of Difference?? A Comparison of North Carolina State Party Platforms

Republican Party Platform is available at: <http://www.ncgop.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Platform-of-the-2012-State-Convention-As-Adopted.pdf>

Democratic Party Platform is available at: http://www.ncdp.org/sites/ncdp/files/2012_NCDP_Platform.pdf

Policy Area	Issue	Republicans Position	Democrats Position
Family	Marriage	“We support federal and state constitutional amendments to limit marriage to the union of one man and one woman” (Article I)	“We support marriage equality and domestic partnerships. (pg. 8)”

	<p align="center">Services and Rights for Families</p>	<p>“We support policies and laws that encourage the stability of marriage. We oppose taxpayer-funded initiatives that support cohabitation.” (Article I)</p> <p>“We want stiff penalties enforced for abducting, exploiting, or abusing children, including unborn children. We abhor domestic violence.” (Article IV)</p> <p>“We support adoption through significant tax credits.”(IV)</p>	<p>We support “measures to reduce teenage pregnancy, infant mortality, and domestic violence; to create and sustain a safe, nurturing and stable child care system accessible to more families; to encourage adoption and foster child programs; to improve youth advocacy in our courts and in our communities; and to promote responsible parenting and family preservation programs.” (pg. 1)</p>
<p align="center">Economy</p>	<p align="center">Regulation</p>	<p>“To protect [the inherent right to property], government ought to provide an environment for individual initiative and enterprise unencumbered by excessive regulation and taxation.” (Article II)</p>	<p>We support “a fair marketplace that is free from price fixing, unfair restraints on trade, deception, fraud, and other abuses that undermine the free enterprise system.” (pg. 2)</p> <p>“Democrats believe in fair business practices with full and honest public disclosure for stockholders, enforced by government regulations.” (pg. 2)</p> <p>“We support vigorous enforcement of existing anti-discrimination laws to ensure that all persons have access to good jobs at fair wages and benefits.” (pg. 9)</p>

	<p>Taxation</p>	<p>“The government should tax only to raise money for its essential functions” (Article II)</p> <p>“We support zero-based budgeting and a taxpayer’s bill of rights.” (Article II)</p> <p>“We oppose taxation of capital gains as ordinary income.” (Article II)</p> <p>“We support transition to a simpler, fairer, more efficient tax system that reduces the overall tax burden.” (Article II)</p>	<p>“We believe in a balanced approach to offering incentives to grow local business and to attract new business. We believe that economic incentives should result in a real net benefit for North Carolina citizens.” (pg. 3)</p> <p>“We believe that small and local business development in North Carolina is the best use of tax breaks and other support programs.” (pg. 3)</p> <p>“The use of a progressive tax system is the only way to fairly pay for the government services needed to build a solid foundation for our future economic security...any future changes in the tax laws should increase the progressivity of our tax system.” (pg. 9)</p>
	<p>Government Assistance</p>	<p>“We oppose bailouts and corporate welfare” (Article II)</p>	<p>We support “encouraging assistance for workers, job creation, new investment in hard hit areas, and leveling the trade playing field for North Carolina industries.” (pg. 3)</p> <p>“We will adopt measures to preserve and protect existing public and private pension plans... We will automatically enroll every worker in a workplace pension plan that can be carried from</p>

			<p>job to job and we will match savings for working families who need the help.” (pg. 3)</p> <p>“We support a living minimum wage” (pg. 9)</p>
<p>Individual Liberty</p>		<p>“We support the right of religious institutions to refuse to provide contraceptive or abortion services consistent with their religious tenets and oppose government mandates to require such coverage.” (Article III)</p> <p>“Government should treat all citizens impartially.” (Article III)</p> <p>“Private property should not be taken by eminent domain except for a public use, and upon prompt payment of just compensation.” (Article III)</p> <p>“Public schools should not discriminate for or against any religion or deny equal access to school facilities.” (Article III)</p> <p>“We support the ownership, sale, purchase, and “lawful carry” of firearms by law-abiding citizens.” (Article III)</p>	<p>“We demand civil rights for all people, races, genders, age groups and sexual orientations.” (pg. 2)</p> <p>“We continue to support responsible measures to limit the amount of information gathered by governmental agencies about individuals and to prohibit improper use of such information.” (pg. 8)</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Health</p>		<p>“We support a human life amendment. We oppose efforts to mandate the provision of abortion or to fund with taxpayer dollars organizations that provide or promote abortion services.” (Article IV)</p> <p>“We urge enactment of laws requiring written parental consent for abortion and contraceptives, to regulate abortion facilities as ambulatory surgical centers and to require abortion doctors to have admitting privileges in hospitals near their abortion clinics.” (Article IV)</p> <p>“We oppose human cloning and the destruction of human embryos. We strongly support adult stem cell research.”(Article IV)</p> <p>“We oppose euthanasia.” Article (IV)</p> <p>“We oppose infanticide. We urge the enactment of laws in this State to prohibit partial birth abortion and to require medical care for babies who survive abortions.” (Article IV)</p>	<p>“We support health care reform that provides universal and portable coverage, expanded preventive health care, and public effort to provide the prenatal care needed to reduce infant mortality.” (pg. 7)</p> <p>“We applaud efforts to provide State-supported health care to the poor and to uninsured and underinsured persons.” (pg. 7)</p> <p>“We encourage an increased level of support for stem cell research.” (pg. 7)</p> <p>We “authored and continued to support the Patients’ Bill of Rights.” (pg. 7)</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">State Government</p>		<p>“Legislative session limits must be accompanied by measures to ensure that policies are made by legislators and not be unelected employees.” (Article V)</p> <p>“We oppose gambling, including the state lottery.” (Article V)</p> <p>“Each level of government should fund the programs it requires of other levels of government.” (Article V)</p> <p>“We oppose “slush funds” as rewards from political support. Raiding of dedicated funds should not be allowed except in an emergency as determined by law.” (Article V)</p> <p>“We support the issuance of a driver’s license or state identification card only to those who are lawful residents.” (Article V)</p>	<p>We believe government employees “deserve fair wages and benefits comparable to those in the private sector.” (pg. 5)</p> <p>“We support annual pay raises within the limits of fiscal responsibility.” (pg. 5)</p> <p>“We further support efforts to increase the numbers of qualified women and minorities at all levels of government where they are under-represented.” (pg. 5)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Elections</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Voter Identification and Registration</p>	<p>“We support statewide procedures for updating voter rolls to insure accuracy.” (Article VI)</p> <p>“We support photo identification to deter voter fraud.” (Article VI)</p>	<p>“We will continue to advocate measures to make voter registration and voting easier and more accessible.” (pg. 6)</p> <p>“We oppose laws that require identification in order to vote or to register to vote.” (pg. 6)</p>

	<p>Election Procedure</p>	<p>“We oppose the appointment of state judges to full terms.” (Article VI)</p> <p>“Elected officials should not appear in “public service ads” during their election.” (Article VI)</p> <p>“The party affiliation of judicial candidates should appear on the ballot” (Article VI)</p>	<p>“We are committed to passing the Count Every Vote Act.” (pg. 6)</p> <p>“We will fully fund the Help America Vote Act and work to fulfill the promise of election reform.” (pg. 6)</p>
	<p>Campaign Finance</p>	<p>“We oppose funding election campaign with public or foreign funds.” (Article VI)</p>	<p>“We support tough campaign finance laws...measures to reduce the cost of campaigning for public office...We strongly support the effort to amend the United States Constitution to reclaim our democracy and clearly state that individual citizens, not corporations, are entitled to constitutional rights.” (pg. 6)</p>
<p>Education</p>	<p>General Policy</p>	<p>“We oppose caps on charter schools.” (Article VII)</p> <p>“We support the right of students to pray in school and at public occasions without censorship.” (Article VII)</p> <p>“We encourage expanding vocational curricula.” (Article VII)</p>	<p>“Democrats stand against the deep and unnecessary cuts that have been made by the GOP-controlled legislature during the 2011-2012 legislative session.” (pg. 4)</p> <p>“We strongly support the expansion of apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs to help our young people and displaced workers to develop</p>

		<p>“Education reform requires local control of curriculum, budget, textbooks, and personnel” (Article VII)</p> <p>“Teachers should be paid and promoted based on the quality of their work, not on longevity.” (Article VII)</p> <p>“Reform requires nationally normed testing, cutting administrative waste, and facilitating alternate teacher certification.” (Article VII)</p>	<p>marketable job skills.” (pg. 8)</p> <p>“We support continued decentralization of decision making in our public school system.” (pg. 4)</p> <p>“We encourage and support efforts of school systems to promote and maintain diversity.” (pg. 4)</p> <p>“We support the principles behind Head Start, Smart Start and More at Four programs.” (pg. 4)</p> <p>“We oppose any under funded or unfunded federal mandates, such as ‘No Child Left Behind’” (pg. 4)</p>
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	<p>Educational Tax Credits or Vouchers</p>	<p>“Choice and competition insure quality education. We support tax credits for parents who educate their children in private or home schools.” (Article VII)</p>	<p>“We oppose the implementation of private and religious school voucher programs.” (pg. 4)</p>
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	<p style="text-align: center;">Sex Education</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“We oppose sex education in public schools without parental consent.” (Article VII)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Public schools should not be used to teach children about homosexual behavior” (Article VII)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“We oppose school-based health clinics that provide referrals, counseling, and related service for abortion and contraception.” (Article VII)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“We support medically and factually-comprehensive, age-appropriate educational programs in our schools and public health agencies encouraging abstinence and providing information about safe sexual practices.” (pg. 4)</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Justice</p>		<p>“Premeditated and deliberate murder calls for the death penalty, which is directly proportional to the wrong perpetrated against the victim.” (Article VIII)</p> <p>“We condemn gratuitous violence and pornography in literature and music. We support mandatory labeling of these products.” (Article VIII)</p> <p>“Those who produce [child pornography]—and those who traffic in it—must be punished to the maximum extent of the law.” (Article VIII)</p> <p>“Prisons should focus on security, education, and labor, inmates should be required to work.” (Article VIII)</p> <p>“We support tort reform, including a cap on award for pain and suffering, and structure payments of awards for lost income.” (Article VIII)</p> <p>“We support mandatory educational and treatment programs for illegal drug users and alcohol abusers.” (Article VIII)</p>	<p>“We condemn and oppose all efforts to repeal the 2009 North Carolina Racial Justice Act.” (pg. 2)</p> <p>“We support continued efforts to develop appropriate alternative methods of dispute resolution.” (pg. 2)</p> <p>“We enthusiastically support family, neighborhood, and school-based programs aimed at turning away young people from the use of illegal drugs and alcohol... We also call for strong state support of treatment facilities, halfway houses, and drug courts for drug and alcohol abusers.” (pg. 2)</p> <p>“We oppose arbitrary caps on jury awards for victims of negligence.” (pg. 2)</p> <p>“We support just compensation and adequate care for the victims of occupational diseases and work-related injuries.” (pg. 8)</p>
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The
Environment

“If regulation is needed to protect the environment, government should only proceed with evidence that the benefits warrant the cost.” (Article IX)

“We support energy security and energy independence.” (Article IX)

“We support efforts to develop oil and natural gas through safe, clean hydraulic fracturing.” (Article IX)

“We support revenue sharing with those states directly affected by offshore exploration and development in federal waters.” (Article IX)

“We promote the research and implementation of alternative, sustainable, and renewable energy solutions.” (pg. 5)

“We support tax incentives and other benefits that encourage use of alternative means to disposal of chemical and waste by-products into the atmosphere, soil, and waters.” (pg. 5)

“We oppose any offshore exploration for oil or natural gas adjacent to this state.” (pg. 5)

“We believe we can and must take steps to reduce global warming.” (pg. 5)

“We support mandatory local and regional recycling of paper, glass, metals, plastic, and other reusable materials in order to reduce the need for landfills which are costly to build and operate.” (pg. 5)

We support “providing for the basic welfare of all animals, reducing cat and dog overpopulation and optimizing animal control and sheltering.” (pg. 6)

National
Policy

“Border security is essential to national security...the federal government should enforce its immigration laws.” (Article X)

“Rules against sexual misbehavior in the military should be retained.” (Article X)

“English should be the official language of the United States.” (Article X)

“We should withdraw from any treaty that compromises our sovereignty or undermines national defense.” (Article X)

“We support a Constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget.” (Article X)

“Social Security should be placed on a sound financial basis with a budget separate from the general fund...We support the expansion of private savings accounts.” (Article X)

“We urge Congress to repeal the federally mandated the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.” (Article X)

“We support medical savings accounts

“The federal government must balance the budget, pay the national debt to generate economic growth, and make prosperity achievable for all.” (pg. 3)

“We believe that [Social Security] is indispensable...We will not privatize it.” “We believe Social Security is a contract that must not be compromised. We oppose privatization and the diversion of Social Security funds for other purposes.” (pg. 3 and pg. 10)

“We will eliminate all federal income taxes for seniors making less than \$50,000 per year.” (pg. 3)

We support “participation in the International Criminal Court and the Kyoto Accords, and the full funding of our financial contributions to the United Nations, especially for humanitarian endeavors.” (pg. 7)

“We strongly oppose privatization of Medicare.” (pg. 9)

“We believe that military force should be used in combat zones only as a last resort.” (pg. 10)

		<p>which combine personal responsibility with access to affordable healthcare.” (Article X)</p> <p>“Legal barriers to competition among insurers and health care should be eliminated.” (Article X)</p> <p>“We oppose encroachments upon all rights which the Constitution has reserved to the states or to the people.” (Article X)</p> <p>“We support the right to work without being forced to join a union.” (Article X)</p> <p>“We support reinstatement of the “Mexico City Policy” which would prohibit federal funds from being given to any organization that promotes or provides abortions.” (Article X)</p> <p>“Our foreign policy should encourage freedom from slavery for all.” (Article X)</p>	
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