

1           **UNOFFICIAL MARKUP PREPARED BY CONDUIT FOR ACTION**

2   This markup shows changes proposed by the Republican Party of  
3   Arkansas from the 2020 Arkansas Republican platform to the proposed  
4   2022 platform.

5   To help you locate the changes we have added line numbers and have  
6   highlighted the location of additions and deletions.

7   **Additions are underlined.**

8   **Deletions are shown with stricken though**

9                           \* \* \* \* \*

10                   **REPUBLICAN PARTY OF ARKANSAS PLATFORM ~~2020~~ 2022**

11  
12   **OUR PRINCIPLES**

- 13       ● The power of faith in God Almighty and one’s right to personal
- 14       Prayer and collective Worship
- 15       ● The sanctity of life
- 16       ● Individual responsibility and initiative
- 17       ● Individual freedom and liberty secured by a limited government
- 18       ● Private property
- 19       ● Lower taxes to produce economic growth
- 20       ● Strong national defense
- 21       ● The personal right to own and bear arms
- 22       ● The equal and just enforcement of the law
- 23       ● Separate and ~~equal~~ independent branches of government

24  
25   **Preamble**

26  
27   We, the Republican Party of Arkansas, believe the United States Constitution is the fundamental  
28   framework for our federal government and is a **literal document that is as relevant today as it**

29 **was when our nation’s Founders adopted it.** We support its precepts and, as patriots, vow to  
30 defend the rights of our fellow Arkansans guaranteed by the Bill of Rights generally, and the  
31 Ninth and Tenth Amendments specifically.

32  
33 We believe our platform affirms the greatness and exceptional nature of our country, the  
34 importance of our Great State as an equal member of a Union built upon a foundation of great  
35 dreams and grand realities, and the spirit of a people who live by the simplest and most  
36 poignant mission statement of all: *Regnat Populus*, the People Rule.

37  
38 **We believe in the power of faith in God Almighty** and reaffirm that **God is the source of our**  
39 **rights**, and they are protected by imperfect individuals who rely on their God-given gifts to  
40 serve their neighbors.

41  
42 We believe that the self-evident truths at our nation’s founding are **still self-evident today.**

43  
44 We are created equally with **Individual freedoms and liberties** that, through our own exercise  
45 of **individual responsibility and initiative**, can result in great outcomes independent of  
46 government.

47  
48 As we are endowed with these abilities by God Almighty at our creation, we assert the **Sanctity**  
49 **sanctity of human life** and affirm that unborn children have a right to live that cannot be  
50 infringed.

51  
52 Without the personal right to **own private property**, individual rights are diminished. **We are**  
53 **against Socialism, Communism and Marxism and the inevitable decline and poverty each has**  
54 **caused in the world. Individual initiative and choice, rather than governmental control is the key**  
55 **to the success of a free market.**

56  
57 We recognize the importance of **lower taxes** to spur economic growth and to ensure that  
58 individuals reap more of the benefits of their hard work.

59  
60 We strongly believe in the **equal and just enforcement of the law**, especially as it pertains to an  
61 overreaching government threatening private lands, businesses, and inherent freedoms.

62  
63 Our self-evident rights must always **continue to be secured** at the individual, state, national,  
64 and international levels.

65  
66 We believe in a **strong national defense** and honor those men and women who, for the long  
67 history of our country, have stood sentry on our behalf and, in some cases, given us their last  
68 full measure of devotion.

69

70 We also believe in **securing our national borders** to protect our homeland while still welcoming  
71 legal immigrants and visitors.

72

73 Without the **right to own and bear arms** to serve as an individual’s hedge against government  
74 overreach and as a means for self-defense in our home, on our property, and of our person,  
75 none of our rights and freedoms can be guaranteed.

76

77 Our republican form of **limited government requires three separate and independent**  
78 **branches** (Legislative, Executive, Judicial) as spelled out in both our federal and state  
79 constitutions in order to facilitate a robust system of checks and balances so that no one branch  
80 of government—whether located in Washington, D.C., or Little Rock—should wield more  
81 authority than the other two.

82

83 We therefore submit this platform to the people of Arkansas and to its elected representatives  
84 to serve as a roadmap to our state’s continued prosperity and as an invitation to hardworking  
85 Arkansans to **join us on our continuing journey to realize a positive conservative vision** of a  
86 strong and modern Arkansas.

87

88 **May God continue to pour out His blessings on the Great State of Arkansas and forever shed**  
89 **His grace on the United States of America.**

90

91

## 92 **Economic Prosperity and Job Growth**

93

94 The State of Arkansas is the Land of Opportunity. The abundant resources of our Natural State  
95 are blessings equaled only by the **hardworking people who call her home.**

96

97 Our state is home to global leaders of their industries which began as small businesses. Today,  
98 other entrepreneurs are using their God-given talents to build futures for their families as well  
99 as their neighbors whom they will employ.

100

101 However, despite our history of business successes, **a global pandemic has past natural**  
102 **catastrophes and pandemics have** harmed hardworking Arkansans and the small businesses  
103 who employ them.

104

105 We salute the Arkansas-based businesses and entrepreneurs who **made make** innovative  
106 changes to their work focus in order to **protect their fellow Arkansans** during **the pandemic**  
107 **emergencies** and to weather the economic downturn inflicted upon them through no fault of  
108 their own.

109

110 As Republicans, we believe it is our responsibility to empower our citizens to **repair, renew, and**  
111 **restore**—in an expeditious and safe manner— our dynamic economy rooted in **free enterprise,**  
112 **economic freedom, and personal liberty.**

113

114 Our primary belief for a strong economy for our state is this:

115

116 **PEOPLE CREATE BUSINESSES; BUSINESSES CREATE JOBS; GOVERNMENT DOES NOT!**

117

118 Arkansas’s **small businesses are the drivers of our economy.** All levels of government must do  
119 all they can to understand and meet the needs of small businesses during our recovery.

120

121 We adamantly believe a strong and dynamic economy should **span the width and breadth of**  
122 **our state.**

123

124 In order to continue moving forward in our economic **recovery growth,** businesses in Arkansas  
125 need to operate **freely from overly burdensome regulation and over-taxation.**

126

127 We support government development of programs that facilitate the creation of new business  
128 and encourage growth in economically distressed areas.

129

130 Our state’s response to the global pandemic illustrates our **strong belief in being individually**  
131 **responsible for their place in society** and our compassion by helping our neighbors obtain and  
132 secure the rewards of hard work to provide for themselves, their families and those unable to  
133 care for themselves.

134

135 We strongly support the use of economic development investments to help establish domestic  
136 businesses in Arkansas so that our citizens do not have to rely on sources beyond our borders  
137 that affect our security or our independence.

138

139 As part of our responsibility to strengthen our state’s economic footing and to overcome  
140 circumstances where an individual may not earn a living wage, we continue to support  
141 programs and incentives that **enable people to seek employment with the goal of becoming**  
142 **self-sufficient.**

143

144 Our responsibility for economic growth requires us to promote Arkansas, its products, and its  
145 produce in the national and global marketplaces.

146

147 While we favor free and fair trade, we **oppose sacrificing Arkansas-based jobs to other**  
148 **countries** in the pursuit of trade agreements, and we similarly oppose trade policies or  
149 agreements that encumber the ability of Arkansans to export their products.

150

151 Our farmers are excellent stewards of their land, and they provide the world with safe and  
152 wholesome food and natural resources. **We support Arkansans’ rights to use their land in the**  
153 **way they see fit**, including the use of diverse production methods and technologies free from  
154 burdensome federal regulations.

155  
156 Our state’s farm production holds a preeminent place on the world stage, and we support  
157 efforts to open new international markets to our products. Additionally, we support policies  
158 that will increase the ability of our farmers and producers to sell directly to our citizens.

159  
160 We support recycling to reduce waste, energy conservation, and the use of **cost-effective**  
161 **renewable energy**. We believe economic prosperity can be advanced through market-based  
162 initiatives that maintain air and water quality, conserve our world-renowned wetlands and  
163 natural beauty, and clean and redevelop waste sites **without additional overreaching**  
164 **intervention from government or international agreements**.

165  
166 We further believe our nation should continue to **move away from dependence on foreign**  
167 **sources of energy by utilizing domestic resources**—especially those located within our state’s  
168 borders—while protecting our environment. We also support efforts that would allow energy  
169 resources developed in Arkansas to be further utilized domestically and exported globally.

170  
171 While our state has many blessings for which to be thankful, our most valuable economic  
172 resource is the hardworking people that epitomize the Land of Opportunity.

173  
174 Recognizing the importance of all Arkansans possessing the opportunity to be able to put a roof  
175 over our heads, clothes on our backs, and food on our tables, Arkansas Republicans strongly  
176 believe in our **right to work** in any job free from compulsory group membership with associated  
177 mandatory or suggested fees.

178  
179 We support Arkansas workers in their right to collectively bargain if they so choose.  
180 Furthermore, we believe every Arkansas worker has the right to be fully informed by both sides  
181 in any organizing effort. We strongly believe a worker’s right to a secure ballot to be  
182 guaranteed.

## 183 184 **Education Reform**

185  
186 We acknowledge our dependence upon God Almighty and ask His blessings upon our students  
187 and their parents, our teachers, and this nation.

188  
189 We believe, it is the right and responsibility of Arkansas parents to direct their child’s education,  
190 without intrusive federal or state government overreach.

191

192 We strongly salute the efforts of educators across the state and the necessary role they play in  
193 the education of our children.

194  
195 ~~The education of Arkansans goes hand-in-hand with our desire to grow the state economically.~~  
196 ~~To become greater players on the global stage, our children must be given the tools to succeed~~  
197 ~~in their chosen fields through education.~~

198  
199 With a focus on the future, Arkansas Republicans proudly offer this simple statement to be the  
200 heart of our vision:

201  
202 EVERY EDUCATION DECISION WE MAKE IS WITH THE  
203 STUDENTS AND PARENTS FIRST IN OUR MINDS!

204  
205 We believe that our students and school district employees have the First Amendment right to  
206 practice their faith on public campuses. Likewise, we support their right to pray during functions  
207 and their ability to form faith-based organizations while enrolled in public schools.

208  
209 **Arkansas’s children deserve a world-class education, developed by parents, educators, and**  
210 **leaders accountable to our citizens, regardless of their ZIP code.** ~~The education of Arkansas~~  
211 ~~children goes hand-in-hand with our desire to grow the state economically and will help~~  
212 ~~Arkansas to become a greater player on the global stage.~~ This requires openness to every type  
213 of educational system available: homeschooling, distance learning, public school, private  
214 school, charter school, and vocational or technical school.

215  
216 Every tool should be given equal consideration and be utilized in a manner that puts the  
217 student’s needs above all **“to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of**  
218 **education.”**

219  
220 ~~Because students should be the first consideration, parents also have an important~~  
221 ~~responsibility in the education of their children.~~ Every opportunity for every family to enroll  
222 each child in the **school of its his/her choice** should be secured by government and offered to  
223 Arkansas families. We also believe the student’s educational tax dollars should follow the  
224 student to his/her choice of educational procurement. Parents must have the ability to make  
225 informed choices regarding the education of their children and should not be restricted by lines  
226 on a map or the cost of tuition. This establishes a more student focused education system and  
227 incentivize advantages and opportunities.

228  
229 We believe **all students should have access** to courses in the arts, civics, and United States  
230 history including our founding documents, critical thinking skills, financial literacy, life skills,  
231 vocational or technical training, and computer science.

232

233 We support continued emphasis on investment in computer coding and rural broadband in  
234 order that Arkansas can remain at the forefront of the learn-to-code movement and make our  
235 state a national leader in computer science and STEM education.

236  
237 We support parents’ or legal guardians’ right of prior notification and consent before any type  
238 of screening begins and before access to their child’s educational and medical records or  
239 assessments are released.

240  
241 Additionally, as healthy minds reside in healthy bodies, we support increased opportunities for  
242 physical exercise—from personal fitness to interscholastic athletics—in every grade level.

243  
244 ~~Discipline must be enforced in our schools and the~~ The physical security of students, staff, and  
245 school buildings should never be in doubt. Their safety is our highest priority; therefore,  
246 discipline must be enforced in our schools.

## 247 248 **Government Reform**

249  
250 Reform of government begins with the election of **trustworthy and qualified Arkansas**  
251 **Republicans** to office at every level of government. This will ensure responsible and effective  
252 management of our state’s fiscal and natural resources and honor ~~the~~ hardworking taxpayers.

253  
254 **Honest elections are the foundation of our republican form of limited government,** and we  
255 strongly applaud every effort Arkansas Republicans have previously taken to ensure our ballot  
256 is protected and that access is guaranteed for all authorized voters, including the elderly, ~~the~~  
257 military members, and young voters.

258  
259 **EVERY TIME THAT A FRAUDULENT VOTE IS CAST, IT EFFECTIVELY**  
260 **CANCELS OUT THE VOTE OF A LEGITIMATE VOTER!**

261  
262 As Republicans, we believe **providing photo identification** to vote protects the sanctity and  
263 security of the ballot box, and we support requiring proof of citizenship at the time of voter  
264 registration. We also **strongly encourage all members of our party to participate in the**  
265 **election process through working at polling sites.**

266  
267 We support the efforts of county election commissioners to modernize ~~the~~ voting equipment  
268 used in our elections in order to protect against voter fraud of any kind.

269  
270 In order to guarantee that our state’s election laws are followed, we call for their vigorous  
271 enforcement as well as the aggressive prosecution of violations.

272

273 By the will of Arkansas’s citizens, the Republican Party of Arkansas is the **majority party in our**  
274 **state** ~~for the first time since Reconstruction~~ and has therefore been given the responsibility to  
275 set policies that reflect this will.

276  
277 We are opposed to any effort by special interests who would thwart the will of the people and  
278 steal away the mandate that Republican elected officials set fair and equitable legislative  
279 district lines in the next apportionment process.

280  
281 We support the Electoral College process and **oppose any effort to alter Arkansas’s role** ~~in~~ **in**  
282 electing the President of the United States.

283  
284 We firmly support **transparency and openness at every level of government**. Those elected,  
285 appointed, and employed in government work for the taxpayers of this state and must provide  
286 public information when requested, in line with Arkansas’s Freedom of Information Act.

287  
288 We support requiring that notice of public meetings be given not only to the press but also  
289 directly to the people by **posting notices on government websites and social media accounts**  
290 **and** sending them by e-mail to interested parties.

291  
292 We support continuing efforts to make clear to local governments that officials are not to  
293 conduct public business outside the parameters of duly noticed public meetings so that the  
294 public has the opportunity to see the entire decision-making process and to participate if they  
295 so choose.

296  
297 ~~As supporters of increased transparency, Arkansas Republicans applaud the work of the~~  
298 ~~General Assembly to require~~ **Likewise, we support requiring** electronic filing of fundraising and  
299 expenditure reports for state level elected officials, candidates for office, and political  
300 organizations. We support continued government investment in technology to allow efficient  
301 filing of reports so that the public may **quickly and efficiently search and compile this**  
302 **information**.

303  
304 Arkansas Republicans believe **the right of free speech includes the ability of our citizens to**  
305 **devote their resources to whatever cause or candidate they support**. We are opposed to any  
306 restrictions that would discourage Arkansans from fully exercising their First Amendment rights  
307 or limit their commitment to their beliefs. We further oppose any state or federal efforts to  
308 impair Arkansans’ free speech rights guaranteed in the Constitution and upheld by the Supreme  
309 Court.

310  
311 State government must continue to **live within its means** and we applaud the hard work of the  
312 legislative and executive branches to follow our state’s revenue stabilization law. We strongly  
313 believe ~~Arkansans’s~~ **Arkansans** are best able to spend the money they earn and deserve to be

314 free from the hassle of burdensome taxes and fees. We applaud the ongoing efforts of  
315 Arkansas's Republican majority to lower taxes and govern efficiently.

316  
317 Arkansas Republicans continue to support the absence of death taxes in our state and strongly  
318 support the repeal of the federal death tax. We also support the elimination of the state tax on  
319 capital gains. We applaud income tax cuts made into law by Arkansas Republicans in recent  
320 years and strongly support the further expansion of income and other tax relief for **all of our**  
321 **citizens.**

322  
323 In order to bolster the ability of Arkansas Republicans to carry out this charge from our citizens,  
324 we continue to support the **rules governing both chambers of our legislature that reflect our**  
325 **party's majorities in both chambers.**

326  
327 We believe that the Republican nominee for the Senate President Pro Tempore and Speaker of  
328 the House of Representatives must be selected by the majority of the Republican Caucus of its  
329 respective chamber and call on each Republican member of the General Assembly to support  
330 their chamber's nominee.

331  
332 We further support allowing each party's legislative caucus determine among themselves which  
333 of them are to serve on legislative committees, as we believe the best legislators should serve  
334 on the committee that best suits their talents.

335  
336 We believe in strong legislative oversight of state government spending and support continued  
337 openness and transparency in the spending of appropriated money. Arkansas Republicans  
338 recognize the importance of such funding for local projects but believe that all those seeking  
339 state funds for special projects should be subject to examination and oversight of the people's  
340 elected representatives through the appropriations process.

341

## 342 **Justice Reform**

343  
344 We strongly believe that all legal proceedings should be conducted and adjudicated based  
345 **solely on the United States Constitution, the Arkansas Constitution and the statutory and**  
346 **case law framework of federal and state law, without reference to or influence by any**  
347 **foreign law.**

348  
349 Both federal and Arkansas law require juveniles and adult offenders be held separately. We  
350 support age-appropriate juvenile programs that are coupled with crime-appropriate terms of  
351 confinement. These programs and this confinement must be carried out in a humane manner.

352

353 Arkansas Republicans believe that **crime victims must have a voice throughout the criminal**  
354 **justice process**. We support efforts to incorporate crime victims' rights into our justice system  
355 and that they be honored by law enforcement and the judiciary.

356  
357 Significant changes to parole and probation systems still need to continue, to support the  
358 mission of public safety. We support the **ending of furloughs for those who have been**  
359 **convicted of and incarcerated for violent crimes**. Our prisons should place an emphasis on  
360 both incarceration for punishment and rehabilitation efforts during that incarceration. We  
361 support the expansion of private sector efforts and community support for the employment of  
362 offenders who have fulfilled their sentences as tools to help with the reintegration of offenders  
363 into society and to avoid recidivism.

364  
365 Capital punishment, when properly applied, is a punishment for a particular crime and a  
366 deterrent to others and should be used swiftly following an inmate's last appeal. We support  
367 **consideration of alternative methods** consistent with constitutional protections in the event  
368 the state's current method becomes untenable.

369  
370 Substance abuse continues to tear apart our way of life across all socioeconomic levels. We  
371 **support a balanced approach to fighting illegal drug abuse** including tough law enforcement,  
372 effective drug education efforts, and the continued expansion of drug treatment with  
373 accountability and effective drug court programs. We oppose decriminalization of dangerous  
374 drugs including marijuana. We applaud and support the efforts of government leaders to  
375 **combat the scourge of opioid abuse**.

376  
377 We believe **health care costs can be reduced by tort reform**. Medical liability regulations and  
378 statutes should be revised by limiting the circumstances under which such cases may be  
379 properly pursued and the extent of damage claims involving pain and suffering. As such, we  
380 strongly support medical tort liability reform through an amendment to the state  
381 constitution. We further support the creation of a legal environment for pharmaceutical  
382 companies to develop new drugs and lower costs to consumers.

383

## 384 **Domestic Security**

385

386 As citizens of a nation of immigrants, **we recognize the important contributions immigrants**  
387 **have made to the economic and cultural strength** of the United States. We also believe that,  
388 as a nation of laws, the integrity of our immigration system is undermined through flagrant  
389 disregard of our laws by those who illegally enter our country and those who overstay their  
390 visas.

391

392 We also recognize that workers from other countries will continue to use every means to come  
393 to the United States as long as there are employers who will hire them. For that reason,

394 **We we** support an employer verification system that will require the employer to verify legal  
395 status prior to hiring or offering employment.

396  
397 Arkansas Republicans believe that **English is our official language** and oppose the publication of  
398 government forms, including ballots, in any other language.

399  
400 **We strongly support legal immigration** and proudly welcome legal immigrants into our state.  
401 We encourage those who work hard to fulfill their obligations to community and country,  
402 and their assimilation into the social fabric of our great state.

403  
404 We support focusing deportation efforts on criminal aliens while granting renewable residency  
405 status, without any path to citizenship, to those who have established roots in our society,  
406 meeting criteria such as worthiness, family ties, and payment of a fine. We support a federal  
407 and state homeland security policy that recognizes our enemies, stops terrorists before they  
408 attack, and treats terrorism as a martial offense rather than a criminal one.

409  
410 We also support a greater partnership by the State of Arkansas and federal authorities in the  
411 area of immigration enforcement. We encourage the **training of the Arkansas State Police and**  
412 **local law enforcement agencies to assist in the enforcement of immigration laws.** We strongly  
413 believe that deportation efforts should be focused on those who violate our criminal laws.

414  
415 We back the increased statutory level of our armed forces and increased support of our  
416 veterans with high-quality health care and the full benefits they have earned for themselves  
417 and their families through their service and sacrifice to our country.

418  
419 We continue to believe that Islamic extremism is as menacing as any enemy this country has  
420 ever faced. We support the efforts by our armed forces against all terrorists and the nations  
421 which enable and support them. Arkansas Republicans strongly support consistent and  
422 unequivocal acknowledgment from our leaders **that a terrorist attack on American soil is “a**  
423 **terrorist attack.”**

424  
425 We strongly support law enforcement officers, firefighters, medical professionals, and other  
426 emergency personnel who are on the front line here at home to protect, rescue, and assist us  
427 when the need arises.

428

## 429 **Individual Freedom**

430  
431 The First Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion.  
432 Article 2 of the Arkansas Constitution guarantees that “no human authority can, in any case or  
433 manner whatsoever, control or interfere with the right of conscience.”

434

435 We believe in our “**natural and infeasible right to worship God Almighty ~~God~~ according to**  
436 **the dictates of our own consciences.**”

437

438 We further affirm our **defense of religious freedom** for all peaceful religions and that all citizens  
439 have the absolute right to make public references to God in all public functions and venues.

440

441 **Arkansas Republicans believe that marriage is the foundational unit of a healthy society.** We  
442 believe in the sanctity of marriage and that the integrity of this institution should be defended,  
443 protected, strengthened, and nurtured at all levels of government.

444

445 Arkansas Republicans support the traditional definition of marriage as a God-ordained, legal  
446 and moral commitment **between one man and one woman.**

447

448 We believe that an Arkansas family has the primary responsibility for its own welfare, including  
449 the education and moral training of its children.

450

451 We are beings created in God’s image; and as such, we believe all Americans should have **equal**  
452 **opportunity to succeed** regardless of race, nationality, origin, gender, or creed and should be  
453 granted no special preferences based on these criteria.

454

455 Most importantly, we believe **all unborn children have a fundamental right to live** in order to  
456 avail themselves of these equal opportunities. We commend all those who provide or promote  
457 alternatives to abortion. We also oppose assisted suicide, euthanasia, genocide, infanticide,  
458 cloning, and embryonic/fetal stem cell research.

459

460 We applaud all legislation passed by Arkansas Republicans that promotes life and withholds the  
461 use of public monies to pay for abortions or finance groups that enable it.

462

463 Furthermore, we support the appointment and election of judges who **respect traditional**  
464 **family values, the sanctity of human life, and are committed to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.**

465

466 Arkansas Republicans support legislation that **ensures abortion coverage is prohibited** **From**  
467 **from** being mandated in state-sponsored health care exchanges, federal exchanges, federal-  
468 state partnerships, and high-risk pools created under the Patient Protection and Affordable  
469 Care Act.

470

471 We oppose federal efforts to force doctors and hospitals to **treat patients according to self-**  
472 **perceived gender identity** and federal rules requiring state health programs to offer coverage  
473 for that treatment.

474

475 Healthcare is not a right; it is a service. As a compassionate society, we will aid those in need;  
476 however, a government takeover of healthcare is detrimental to the entire health care system.

477  
478 Arkansas Republicans support the freedom of every Arkansan to **choose the health insurance**  
479 **plan that best suits his or her needs**, as well as the freedom not to choose without the threat  
480 of reprisal from the federal government through taxes or fines.

481  
482 We strongly support the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and its replacement with laws where  
483 Arkansans have multiple patient-centric health choices and states have full flexibility and  
484 authority to design a Medicaid program that best fits their needs through federal block grants.

485  
486 Arkansas Republicans strongly commend our state’s efforts to **combat human trafficking**. We  
487 salute those in law enforcement who rescue the victims of human trafficking and support all  
488 efforts to provide victims comfort and healing from their nightmare.

489  
490 We also applaud the **bipartisan work of the Arkansas General Assembly to improve our laws**  
491 so that we may do our part to defeat this modern-day scourge and call for continued  
492 vigilance so that no person shall be held in slavery or servitude.

493  
494 **Equality of individuals before the law has always been a cornerstone of our party.** Bigotry has  
495 no place in our state. **Arkansas Republicans denounce those persons, organizations,**  
496 **publications, and movements that practice or promote racism, hate actions, or religious**  
497 **intolerance.**

498  
499 As Republicans, we fully support the **Second Amendment’s guarantee of our individual right to**  
500 **keep and bear arms.** We call on governments at all levels to strictly enforce existing gun laws.  
501 We remind all Arkansas law enforcement and prosecutors that Arkansas law recognizes the  
502 right of **our citizens to freely carry handguns in the open.** Furthermore, we support efforts to  
503 expand reciprocity agreements to allow Arkansans with concealed weapons permits to travel  
504 freely on interstate journeys.

505  
506

## Epilogue

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Those who consider themselves conservative will find **a home in the Republican Party of Arkansas**. We welcome all who wish to serve their communities, state, and nation by becoming engaged in public matters and helping shape the debates that will set a course toward the future.

Our state’s future prosperity is contingent upon **new generations of Arkansans** who are raised with common-sense conservative values and who desire those values to be protected and strengthened in order that they may be passed on to our heirs.

We welcome those who cherish learning and who use the tools of the digital age to educate themselves in order to be citizens **prepared to participate** in our republican form of limited government.

We seek and welcome conservative activists who we hope one day will seek elective and appointed offices so that they may fight for a future where **prosperity, freedom, and liberty** **Are are** our citizens’ rewards for good work.

In 1960, Winthrop Rockefeller held a “Party for Two Parties” on Petit Jean Mountain. His goal: **to turn Arkansas into a two-party state** after nearly a century of Democratic domination. It took 50 years to realize his dream. Since then, our party has grown significantly.

Along the way, some Arkansans who were conservative made the choice to wear the Republican label. We recognize that not all conservatives in our state are quite ready to make that leap. Rest assured that even if you’re not ready to join us quite yet, **we are fighting for you and your family every day**.

When you choose to knock on our door, you will find yourself welcome with open arms.

God bless you, our great state, and our exceptional nation.