

## **Albany County 2016 Platform**

*WE believe there are Timeless Truths that will always inform and direct our party and our country regardless of current events and circumstances, changing strategies, goals, and leadership. These Truths, put into action, maintain, protect, and defend our unalienable rights to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.*

1. All individuals are endowed by their Creator at conception with the rights to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. The primary purpose of government is limited to the Constitution of the United States for the purpose of securing these rights for all.
2. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Powers not enumerated in it are reserved to the States and the People. The most effective, responsible, and responsive government is government that is closest to the People. Government that governs least, governs best.
3. Every citizen, public and private, is equally protected by, and subject to, the law. All citizens are equal before the law. Laws must apply to all, equally.
4. Individuals must always be allowed to defend the lives, liberty, and property of themselves, their family, and others in need if threatened unlawfully.
5. The right of an individual to keep and enjoy his own property is foundational. Every individual has the right to develop his own potential, to use and enjoy his own property, tangible or intellectual, and pursue his own interests, free from the restrictions of arbitrary force. Individuals are always presumed to be the best stewards of their property.
6. The freedom to practice one's faith is a fundamental right under our Constitution. The separation of church and state describes the prohibition of an official, state sanctioned church, not the expulsion of religion from public life. We must keep in mind the Judeo-Christian principles of the Founding Fathers when they wrote it; the practice of faith under this tradition encourages good moral behavior and the development of character that helps secure the other fundamental bases of our national citizenship.
7. The family is the best institution to provide children with the training to develop their potential and prepare them to participate in our government which is of, by, and for the People.
8. Liberty is indivisible from economic freedom. The market economy, allocating resources by the free play of supply and demand, is the economic system best compatible with the requirements of personal freedom and constitutional government. Government's undue interference in the market, or the fiscal irresponsibility of government, or the favoring of one economic actor over another, always results in economic inequity. There exists no fundamental right to the fruits of another person's labor.
9. The Constitution of the United States enables us to form a more perfect union of sovereign states, not by rejection of the Constitution as outdated or irrelevant. The judiciary may not effectively change the document via its decisions. It may only be altered by the processes of correction provided within its four corners. The balance of power between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the federal government must be restored.
10. Our constitutional representative republic remains the best political system, derived from history and knowledge of human nature, to prohibit tyranny, assure equality, under the law and protect our individual rights.
11. The citizens of the United States are the ultimate authority. Governments possess powers derived only from the consent of the governed.
12. The United States has a responsibility to set an example by treating other countries with respect and justice. Above all, the United States must maintain its national sovereignty free from foreign influence that would infringe on the rights of the American People guaranteed by the Constitution. Relationships with international entities, and our general foreign policy, must serve the just interests of the United States.

*Finally, having thus set forth our distinctive principles and views, we invite the co-operation of all citizens, however differing on other questions, who substantially agree with us, to offer their affirmation and support.*