



Republican Party of Minnesota 2008 Standing Platform

Section 1 – Creating an Environment for Economic Prosperity: Controlling Taxes, Spending, and Regulation

Republicans believe that limited government is the best government and that free enterprise is the best path to prosperity for all Minnesotans. We support reducing taxes, spending and regulation to create business opportunities for our hard-working families and businesses. Therefore, we support:

- A. Reducing the burden of existing taxation on our economy, supporting President Bush's tax cuts and making those cuts permanent; abolishing federal and state capital gains taxes as well as taxes on marriage, sickness, death, inheritance, Social Security and veterans' benefits and pensions, the Alternative Minimum Tax and keeping Internet access and sales free of taxation.
- B. Limiting the ability of Congress and the Legislature to use tax increases as the first solution to every problem by requiring a supermajority vote in Congress or the Minnesota Legislature to enact such increases; by a state Constitutional amendment limiting growth in state spending to inflation plus population growth; by requiring that all state surpluses be returned to the taxpayers in proportion to the taxes paid; and adopting a United States Constitutional amendment requiring a balanced federal budget, and reducing the national debt.
- C. Reforming our tax systems, including our complex state property tax system, abolishing the current IRS tax code and replacing it with a simpler, fairer tax system that favors a national sales tax or a flat tax.
- D. Dedicating all taxes, fees, and licenses from their revenue streams to their appropriate program funding.
- E. That gas and motor vehicle taxes shall be dedicated to funding road maintenance and construction; and opposing any public funding of commuter rail or light rail construction and operation.
- F. Ceasing to charge Minnesota state sales tax on local government purchases.
- G. Public employee retirement fund deficits not be funded by taxes, fees or borrowing from the public.

H. Maintaining the principle that sports, public broadcasting, entertainment and the arts should be funded by users and voluntary donors and we oppose any use of taxpayer money to subsidize professional sports facilities.

I. A fair and honest competitive business environment and therefore we oppose corporate welfare.

J. Ending the use of 'earmarks' for specific projects in appropriations and other bills.

K. Requiring that before any new government project or program is initiated, that its purpose, cost and anticipated life be set forth and that performance measurements and dismantling plans be established in case the project or program does not meet expectations.

L. No mandate imposed by any branch of government on any other unless it includes the funds necessary to implement that mandate.

M. Equal access for non-union contractors to government and school district projects, without mandating that contractors sign project labor agreements.

N. The repeal of state and federal legislation that imposes mandated wage rates on government and school district projects.

O. Legislation that abolishes government-mandated employee benefits, and enables small businesses to assemble and pool assets for the purpose of funding employee health care insurance programs.

P. Allowing all Americans to invest some or all of their Social Security payments, continuing to fulfill our obligations to older Americans, and prohibiting Congress from using Social Security funds for any other purpose.

Section 2 – Preserving Civil Rights

The Republican Party, the Party that abolished slavery, believes that the government should treat all of its citizens equally under the law. Therefore, we advocate:

A. Adopting policies that reflect that every innocent human being, born and unborn, has an inalienable right to life from conception to natural death.

B. Abortion without exception is wrong and should be opposed. We oppose partial birth abortions and forced taxpayer funding of abortions or abortion providers. Abortions performed on minors without parental consent are wrong and should not be forced on the people of Minnesota by their government.

C. Providing women considering abortions with information on alternatives to abortion as well as on the emotional and physical repercussions of abortion, including information on the pain felt by unborn babies, even at early stages in pregnancy.

D. 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.

- E. The Republican Party of Minnesota should urge members of the Minnesota House and Senate to introduce and support 'right to life' legislation that establishes 'personhood' at the time of conception.
- F. Action should be taken leading to legislative guarantees and protection of the father's inalienable right to decide against any unilateral or preemptive decision to terminate his child's developing life.
- G. Submitting to the people a vote on a Constitutional amendment to overturn the Minnesota Supreme Court's decision to force taxpayers to pay for elective abortions.
- H. Prohibiting U.S. promotion or funding of abortion in any nation.
- I. Research and experimentation on fetal tissue or body parts obtained through abortion must be banned, including the sale of such tissue or body parts for any purpose.
- J. Prohibition of all human cloning, whether reproductive or so-called 'therapeutic' cloning, and the use of human embryos or embryonic stem cells should be prohibited.
- L. That the lawful definition of a 'Human Being' shall be: 'When the DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) of Mankind is joined.'
- M. Requiring informed opt-in consent of parents for newborn genetic testing and for the Minnesota Department of Health to retain their children's DNA.
- N. Protecting charities, schools, and hospitals run by religious organizations from being compelled to provide services or information in conflict with their beliefs and teachings.
- O. Condemning religious, political, and ethnic persecution in any country, specifically the oppression, slave labor, torture and murder of religious believers.
- P. In cases where public prayer is offered at government events, chaplains and lay people be allowed to pray in the name of a specific deity.
- Q. The right of clergy and houses of worship to support principles and candidates without the threat of losing their tax-exempt status.
- R. Protecting the right to religious expression, including the display of the Ten Commandments, in any public setting in which the freedom of speech is protected.
- S. Legislation protecting the First Amendment right of private organizations to set their own standards for membership and the right to maintain in their policies those aspects that support their fundamental and legal beliefs.
- T. Encouraging respect for our American heritage and our status as American citizens rather than as members of any group; prohibiting any forms of discrimination by government including preferences or quotas for employment, student admissions and faculty hiring, or set-asides in the awarding of government contracts; repealing all statutes which require unequal treatment or special preferences for such groups; and prohibiting the collection or storage of data on any person by any government agency for the purpose of identifying and discriminating among such groups.

U. Protecting personal privacy by prohibiting the use of Social Security numbers for any purpose other than Social Security identification and prohibiting the collection or release of any personal, financial, or other private information by anyone without the express consent of the person involved.

V. Amending the Minnesota Constitution to reaffirm the individual citizen's right to bear and keep arms.

W. Reaffirming a responsible, competent citizen's right to self-defense through registration-free gun ownership and a 'must issue' carry permit system and removing restrictions and liability in the face of attack.

X. That a state-declared emergency may not include gun confiscation.

Y. That all workers in Minnesota have the right to work without being forced to join a union.

Z. Supporting the right of employees to organize through secret ballot, to join a union or other association, and to not have dues used to support political candidates, and requiring unions to receive written permission from their members before collecting funds for any political purpose.

AA. Legislation prohibiting federal, state, and local governments from taking private property for commercial or recreational use by eminent domain.

AB. That any government entity be prohibited in condemning a business or property through the process of eminent domain for the sole purpose of increasing tax revenues rather than the general public good or taking private property from one owner in order to favor another private entity.

AC. Legislation prohibiting the USDA, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture from requiring federal and state premise and individual identification on all livestock animals used for small farm market, private, or individual use.

AD. Opposing reinstatement of the so-called "Fairness Doctrine".

Section 3 – Educating our Children

Republicans believe that parents are responsible for their children's education and that parents, teachers and local school boards can best make decisions about our children's education. Therefore, we support:

A. Improving the quality of education by maximizing parental choice through expanded support for charter schools, school choice programs, parental rights to home school their children and more competitive and accountable public school systems, and by preserving and expanding tax credits, deductions, and school voucher programs.

B. A well-rounded knowledge-based curriculum to prepare our children to be good citizens and to compete in the rapidly evolving economy of the 21st century, and

emphasizing traditional values of hard work, honesty, home and family, and respect for America's religious and civic heritage, including the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

C. A statewide testing system that emphasizes basic skills in an academic curriculum.

D. Devoting the same emphasis to educating Minnesota's gifted and talented children that is now devoted to special education.

E. Making the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program available annually in every Minnesota elementary and middle school.

F. School districts and teachers including original sources showing the important role of religion in our Nation's founding when teaching history.

G. Rigorous standards for math, science and other core curricula.

H. Requiring the presence of the United States flag in all classrooms, the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, and encouraging the voluntary expression of religious beliefs and traditions by students.

I. Requiring sexual abstinence to be taught in public schools, that premarital sex and extramarital sex is wrong, and that the use of contraceptives is not safe sex. We oppose the dispensing of or referral for birth control drugs and devices in schools. We oppose dispensing any prescription drugs in schools without written consent of the parents.

J. Enforcement of existing laws prohibiting promotion of acceptance of homosexuality, bisexuality, or transgenderism when they are discussed in Minnesota public school classrooms.

K. That education funding formulas should be simplified to make them understandable.

L. Eliminating education funding or discounts based on the number of children who receive free or reduced meals.

M. Holding all public schools, colleges and universities accountable to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for all funds received and spent.

N. Requiring that at least 70% of school district budgets be spent in the classroom.

O. Prohibiting public universities from imposing fees that support student clubs and organizations without student consent.

P. Protecting educators from disciplinary action for including discussion of creation science, and adopting science standards that acknowledge the scientific controversies pertaining to the theory of evolution.

Q. Reforming tenure, limiting public school teachers' right to strike and restoring balance to the Public Employment Labor Relations Act. We would institute pay for performance and periodic competency testing for public school teachers in both the academic curriculum and the subjects they teach.

R. Making Minnesota's education system more effective and efficient by reducing the federal and state bureaucracies' control.

S. State requirements for schools to notify parents in advance of administering non-academic tests, and that notification must include an accurate description of the content of the survey.

T. Retaining the current governance system for Minnesota Independent School Districts rather than aligning school district boundaries with county boundaries.

U. Abolishing the U.S. Department of Education and all its unfunded mandates and opposing any new state or federal laws that seek to centralize educational authority at the expense of local school boards. We oppose reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act and until then Minnesota should opt out.

V. Repealing teacher licensure rules based on the Profile of Learning and replacing them with new licensure rules to be adopted based on new state standards.

W. Prohibiting the establishment of universal (mandatory for all children) pre-school programs in the State of Minnesota.

X. Prohibiting state and federal support of International Baccalaureate (IB) and the adoption of IB by local school districts.

Y. The prohibition of universal mental health screening of students in K-12 schools, pre-schools, and in early infancy. We also oppose social and emotional outcomes being incorporated into the school curricula.

Z. Mastery of the English language for all students and encouraging English immersion instruction as a method to quickly achieve this.

AA. Requiring public universities to protect academic and intellectual freedom of both professors and students.

AB. Parents having the right to observe their child in the classroom.

Section 4 – Strengthening Families and Communities

The Republican Party recognizes the blessings that God has bestowed on this great Nation. We declare our faith in Him and ask His continued guidance as we work to preserve this government of "One Nation Under God". We also recognize the sanctity of human life and marriage, and the central role of the traditional family in our society. Therefore, we believe that:

A. We need to change laws regarding marriage, divorce, adoption, child support, welfare, taxes, and others, to encourage families to stay together. Minnesota's laws governing marriage should be amended to offer a 'Covenant Marriage' option, entailing extensive pre-marital counseling and limits on divorce. Parental privileges of fathers in child custody issues should be restored to comply with the 14th Amendment of the U.S.

Constitution. Grandparents and other relatives should be considered as the first option and the logical choice when children cannot live with their parents.

B. We should amend the U.S. Constitution and the Minnesota constitution to define marriage as the legal union between a man and a woman. We oppose civil unions or their legal equivalents between same-sex couples.

C. Domestic partner benefits should not be publicly funded.

D. Racial preferences in adoption are wrong, and Minnesota should make it easier and less costly for traditional married couples to adopt a child of any race.

E. Laws and regulations restricting the production, sale and promotion of vulgarity and obscene material, especially to children, should be strengthened, and pornography-blocking software should be installed on all computers having internet access in publicly financed institutions.

F. We should provide assistance to people in need primarily through private charity, including faith-based programs, rather than government welfare programs. Such programs should be encouraged through tax credits at the federal and state levels with the objective of replacing as much government-sponsored welfare with private incentives as possible.

G. The federal government should not establish a national identification system for U.S. citizens.

H. The Minnesota legislature should pass legislation increasing the legal age for gambling in Minnesota to 21 years of age.

I. We should amend current gambling laws so that the State of Minnesota is allowed to tax profits/revenue of tribal casino gambling in Minnesota.

J. We should eliminate all state-sponsored gambling and oppose any expansion of gambling in Minnesota.

K. We should adopt real welfare reform in Minnesota by requiring all able-bodied welfare recipients to work as a condition of receiving benefits, by stopping the practice of offering cash incentives for unmarried welfare recipients to bear children, and by requiring proof of legal in-state residency as a condition of receiving aid.

L. Programs that reduce health care costs by introducing genuine market competition into the system and eliminating state mandated coverage of various illnesses and conditions. We oppose all proposals for socialized (i.e., 'single payer') medicine, and support the repeal of Minnesota Care, and opposing programs that ration health care.

M. Parents have the right to all of their minor children's health records, including sexual health records without requiring their minor children's consent.

N. Medicare reimbursement should not be determined by the location of the provider.

- O. Governmental interference with the practice of medicine should be minimized, including not allowing any government 'best practices' legislation.
- P. Minnesota should prohibit any medical procedure or therapy that would deliberately cause or hasten death, including physician-assisted suicide and deprivation of food and water.
- Q. All health care expenses should be fully tax deductible, and health savings accounts should be expanded so that individuals can purchase and control their own health care without going through a third-party payer.
- R. Minnesota patient privacy laws should be strengthened to require informed, written, voluntary consent for all disclosures of patient data.
- S. Allowing individuals to be able to purchase a health insurance plan licensed anywhere in the United States that offers benefits of their choosing and not based on insurance mandates set by the federal or state governments.

Section 5 – Protecting the Public's Safety

Republicans believe that the most fundamental function of government is to keep our property and us secure. Therefore, we support:

- A. Establishing mandatory minimum prison sentences and substantially higher sentences for repeat offenders, ending probation for violent criminals, and establishing life sentences without the possibility of parole for the state's most dangerous sex offenders.
- B. Building whatever new prisons are necessary to protect the public by incarcerating violent criminals. Prisons are for the protection of the public and the punishment of criminals and should not be designed for recreation.
- C. Requiring criminals to provide complete restitution to victims and the state for crimes committed, supporting victim's rights and requiring offenders to be held personally responsible, including juveniles.
- D. That as a condition of parole, an inmate must have participated in Adult Basic Education.
- E. Re-instituting capital punishment for the most serious crimes.
- F. Enforcing existing firearm laws, particularly those relating to violent offenders, rather than creating new and unnecessary laws restricting the use of firearms.
- G. Crime legislation that applies to all offenders of a specific crime; and oppose any legislation that would designate 'hate crimes' against specific 'protected class' groups.
- H. The passage of Jessica's Law in Minnesota to ensure that a child sex offender be given a minimum sentence of 25 years without parole.

I. That police, in the course of their regular duties, will be instructed not to ignore immigration status of non-citizens when said status is not in good standing with relevant requirements as required by law. Furthermore, we oppose the establishment of sanctuary cities for illegal aliens.

Section 6 – Strengthening the Rule of Law

Republicans believe that our legal system has been subject to abuse in the form of frivolous lawsuits; excessive numbers of lawsuits; and lawsuits that are intended to advance a political agenda, rather than adjudicate real controversies. Therefore, we support:

- A. Limiting attorneys' fees in class action lawsuits and other cases where plaintiffs receive insignificant damages, so that fees are not disproportionate to any recovery obtained in the litigation.
- B. Enacting federal legislation limiting any party's liability in a civil case to its fair share of the damages, as determined by the percentage of fault assessed by the jury.
- C. Empowering juries to determine that a suit was without merit, and in such case requiring the plaintiff and his attorney to pay the defendant's attorneys' fees and court costs.
- D. Limiting prisoners' ability to file frivolous lawsuits.
- E. Judges who will exercise their authority to review, and when necessary limit, excessive awards of damages and attorneys' fees.
- F. A check on judicial power by the establishment of a code of judicial ethics by statute.
- G. Removing the word "incumbent" after judicial candidates' names on the ballots.
- H. Filling judicial vacancies by appointment only until the next general election.
- I. Requiring that those voting in judicial elections be only those residing in the county in which the judge will preside.
- J. Electing judges as spelled out in the Minnesota Constitution and opposing any proposals to eliminate or limit these elections, including the "Missouri Plan" or anything similar to it.

Section 7 – Enjoying and Protecting Our Natural Resources

The Republican Party believes that proper stewardship of our natural resources and agricultural lands will best be achieved through sound science and adherence to Constitutionally guaranteed property rights. Therefore, we support:

A. Maintaining clean air, water and land by addressing those threats proven by peer-reviewed scientific research, using sensible and economically reasonable solutions. We oppose government policies, legislation, and mandates that are based on the theory that humans are the primary cause of global climate change (ie. Theory of Man-Made Global Warming). We oppose energy policies that raise the cost of energy to consumers and do nothing to protect the environment.

B. Imposing the cost of environmental clean up on those who cause pollution.

C. Following commonsense practices in forest, wetlands and wildlife management and promoting multiple uses of natural resources in most circumstances.

D. Free enterprise in the agricultural economy.

E. Encouraging technological advances in the creation, processing and use of agricultural products and natural resources.

F. Opposing federal 'heritage area' acts that would generically provide funding and other opportunities for bureaucracies and other nongovernmental organizations to use tax dollars to lobby and prepare for regulation of our land and resources.

G. Adhering to the original intent of the 1978 BWCAW law and Public Law 91-661 in managing the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park and opposing all attempts by the judiciary or federal government to usurp constitutionally protected states' rights.

H. Opposing cities annexing by ordinance without the approval of the affected township residents.

I. That there be no net gain of land by the Minnesota DNR or nonprofit land trusts and that all conservation easements should be limited to a maximum of 21 years.

J. Eliminating government subsidies of ethanol production and opposing government mandates for ethanol in gasoline.

K. Opposing any and all legislation to regulate carbon dioxide (CO₂).

L. Opposing efforts to put all land and water under the control of the federal government.

M. Opposing legislation that places statewide moratorium on feedlots and logging roads since townships and counties should decide these matters.

N. Compensating owners for property devaluation when government regulations or other governmental actions cause a decline in property values, and support reducing or restricting government ownership of our land to no more than 40%.

O. The right of all property owners to govern the legal consumption of tobacco within their properties.

P. That the federal government should be required to meet its obligations to store spent nuclear waste.

Q. Adoption of an energy policy that encourages research and development of alternative forms of energy by private initiative.

R. Promoting the building of clean coal-fired and nuclear power plants.

S. Opposing the mandated use of mercury-containing compact fluorescent bulbs and the ban on incandescent bulbs.

Section 8 – Making Government Smaller and Better

Republicans want government to be honest, efficient and responsive to individual concerns. Therefore, we advocate:

A. Returning governmental functions from the federal level to the state and local governments wherever possible, consistent with the intent of the Constitution. We believe that most government functions are carried out more efficiently and with greater accountability at the state and local level.

B. Reinstating the constitutional separation of powers and opposing legislation by executive order, judicial rulings, or unelected regulatory agencies. We support the election and appointment of strict constructionist judges, who adhere to the principles expressed in the U.S. and Minnesota Constitutions.

C. Ending Congress' practice of coercing state and local governments by withholding funds if states do not enact specific legislation, in all areas where the Constitution does not give the federal government jurisdiction.

D. A constitutional amendment giving the President of the United States a line-item veto.

E. Adopting an amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting the desecration of the United States flag.

F. Reinstating a citizen legislature in Minnesota by holding legislative sessions in alternative years unless the governor calls a special session.

G. Maintaining Minnesota's two-house legislature, rather than adopting a unicameral system.

H. Adopting codes of conduct for all Minnesota elected officials that require resignation and loss of pension and benefits upon conviction of a felony or any crime involving dishonesty or moral turpitude.

I. Reforming campaign finance laws so as to uphold all Americans' rights to free speech by allowing American citizens to donate their time or money to political campaigns without limitation; requiring immediate and full disclosure of all sources of campaign

funding and repealing the Bi-Partisan Campaign Reform Act (McCain-Feingold); and opposing public financing of campaigns and political parties.

J. Fair redistricting without gerrymandering and with Senate districts that do not cross Congressional district boundaries.

K. Submitting to the people federal and state Constitutional amendments for an effective recall procedure for all elected officials.

L. Adopting an initiative and referendum law that would allow the citizens of Minnesota to vote on important issues.

M. Eliminating the practice of vouching for individuals at polling places, requiring that voters be registered at least 30 days prior to an election and requiring that voters present a valid proof of U.S. citizenship and state residency and a photo ID, at the time of registration and when voting.

N. Opposing the implementation of any voting schemes that violate the principle of one man, one vote, such as “Instant Runoff Voting.”

O. Returning the Metropolitan Council to its original purposes of regional planning and support, while eliminating, privatizing, or returning to state and local governments all other Metropolitan Council functions.

P. Making English the official language in Minnesota and the United States of America.

Q. Opposing participation in “The Real ID Act.”

R. Requiring all school district elections, including, but not limited to board elections and referenda, to be held in November on regular election days.

Section 9 — Defending America at Home and Abroad

Republicans believe that peace is best maintained by having a strong national defense, securing our own borders, and by encouraging all peoples to seek freedom, democracy and free enterprise. Therefore, we support:

A. Continuing to rebuild America’s military forces to ensure that they are well prepared, well armed, and adequate to protect our national security.

B. Developing and deploying defense systems, including Strategic Missile Defense, to protect Americans from the dangers of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

C. Deploying American forces overseas only to further American interests or defend a faithful ally, and only under the command of American officers. The United States does not surrender its sovereignty to the United Nations or to any other international organization.

D. Reaffirming our support of and commitment to our active duty military members, Reserves, National Guard and veterans, including exempting active duty military

personnel from paying state income tax. Minnesota law should recognize retired military persons as veterans.

E. An amendment to the Minnesota Constitution authorizing the payment of bonuses to veterans of the global war on terrorism.

F. Efforts to keep Americans safe and fight the Global War on Terror. We support our troops and their mission. We oppose calls to "cut and run" until the job has been completed.

G. Denying foreign aid to any country that protects and supports terrorists.

H. Continuing to support our Nation's effort to assist the Iraqi people and the people of Afghanistan to develop democratic institutions in their countries.

I. Strengthening our borders against the threat of terrorism and stopping the flow of illegal immigrants and continuing deportation. We support increased border patrol funding and completion of the border fence. We are against amnesty for illegal aliens. We oppose any program that will allow illegal aliens to remain in the United States.

J. Effective prohibitions on the employment of illegal immigrants. Illegal aliens shall not be eligible for public benefits, scholarships or subsidies of any kind. Illegal immigrants shall not be issued state driver's licenses, permits, identification cards or taxpayer identification numbers.

K. The reduction of legal immigrants to facilitate assimilation and requiring extensive background checks before issuing visas.

L. Children born to illegal aliens inside the U.S. do not obtain automatic citizenship.

M. Reaffirming our commitment to free market economics, including free and fair international trade. We support maintaining commercial, cultural, and diplomatic ties with a multitude of nations while promoting American industry and commerce. We support trade policies that will encourage nations to seek democracy, capitalism, and individual freedoms for their citizens.

N. Efforts to become less dependent on foreign oil including the development, promotion, and conservation of all available fuel sources such as nuclear power and opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other domestic sources to oil drilling.

O. Foreign aid to be in the form of American goods, commodities, and services whenever possible.

P. Rescinding the permanent most favored nation status for China and urging its expulsion from the WTO until it ceases its abuse of human, civil, and religious rights, including its persecution of religious believers.

Q. Opposing the Law of the Seas Treaty (L.O.S.T.)

R. The right of the State of Israel to exist and defend itself.

S. Opposing any movement toward a North American Union including any NAFTA superhighway.

T. Ending United States participation in the United Nations.

U. Opposing ratification of the UN Rights of the Child Treaty.

Commendatory

Since its inception, our party has embraced core American principles and chosen extraordinary leaders. Those leaders – like Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, and Ronald Reagan – not only embodied the very best in Republican values, but also led America to new triumphs of peace, prosperity, achievement and spirituality. Today we are blessed with a new generation of American and Minnesota leaders who proudly carry on those Republican traditions. Therefore, we commend:

A. President Bush for his eight years of strong leadership of our country, through times of peril he has remained steadfast, his moral and just leadership has risen to the occasion, and America is a greater nation because of him.

B. ELECTED OFFICIALS - We commend the following elected Republican officials for their hard work and service to our nation and to the people of Minnesota:

U.S. President George W. Bush

U.S. Vice President Richard M. Cheney

U.S. Senator Norm Coleman

U.S. Congressman Jim Ramstad

U.S. Congressman John Kline

U.S. Congresswoman Michele Bachmann

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty

Minnesota Lt. Governor Carol Molnau

House Minority Leader Marty Seifert

Senate Minority Leader Dave Senjem

...And all the other endorsed, elected Republicans.

C. Senator Norm Coleman for his vigorous work done in the U.S. Senate and for his upcoming campaign for re-election as our senior Senator from Minnesota.

D. Governor Tim Pawlenty for his hard work during the past year, his visits to this area and for his efforts at holding down taxes at this crucial time in our history.

E. PARTY WORKERS - We further commend all state and local Republican officials and volunteers for their hard efforts, dedication, and sacrifice in order to strengthen the party and further its principles.

F. PARTY UNITY - We support efforts to make the Republican Party an inclusive, majority party without compromising our values, principles, and ideals.

G. For their many acts of heroism and multiple tours of duty, for their unwavering dedication to the preservation of our freedom, for their unselfish sacrifice of life and their undying love of their fellow countrymen, we hereby grant our full support and gratitude to the heroes of the United States Military.