

Spokane County Republican Party Resolution Opposing Tax Increases and Supporting Taxpayer Relief

A Resolution of the Spokane County Republican Party Opposing Tax Increases, Promoting Taxpayer Relief, and Establishing Candidate Accountability Standards

WHEREAS, the Spokane County Republican Party believes that government exists to protect the rights and liberties of the people while exercising fiscal restraint and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, excessive taxation reduces individual liberty, burdens families and businesses, limits economic growth, and expands the size and scope of government beyond what is necessary; and

WHEREAS, Republican elected officials and candidates are expected to seek efficiencies, eliminate waste, prioritize core governmental functions, and pursue responsible budgeting before asking taxpayers to contribute additional revenue; and

WHEREAS, over the past several years, citizens have endured sustained inflation, rising housing costs, increased utility costs, and higher prices for nearly every necessity of daily life; and

WHEREAS, during periods of prolonged financial hardship experienced by taxpayers, government should demonstrate the same fiscal discipline expected of the families and businesses that fund it; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens and disabled veterans often live on fixed incomes and are disproportionately affected by inflation and rising local taxes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Spokane County Republican Party reaffirms its opposition to tax increases that increase the overall amount of taxes, fees, assessments, or other mandatory government charges imposed upon the citizens of the jurisdictions represented by Republican elected officials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that candidates seeking the endorsement of the Spokane County Republican Party shall not propose, sponsor, advocate for, or vote in favor of any new tax or any increase to an existing tax, fee, assessment, or mandatory government charge that increases the overall tax burden on citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for a period of **five (5) years following adoption of this resolution**, candidates seeking or holding Spokane County Republican Party endorsement shall oppose the creation of any new local tax, fee, assessment, or other mandatory revenue mechanism. The Party recognizes that taxpayers have endured years of significant inflation and believes government should likewise exercise restraint rather than expanding its revenue through new taxation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this resolution prohibits the replacement of an existing tax with another revenue source when necessary because the existing tax base has materially changed, become obsolete, or is no longer capable of providing reliable revenue, provided that:

1. The replacement maintains substantially equivalent revenue and is revenue neutral.

2. The replacement does not increase the overall tax burden imposed upon taxpayers.
3. The replacement is transparent and clearly demonstrates that its purpose is to maintain existing revenue rather than expand government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Republican candidates shall actively pursue taxpayer relief by supporting reductions in local taxes and fees whenever fiscally feasible and by identifying efficiencies and spending reductions that allow government to return money to taxpayers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Republican candidates shall advocate for meaningful local tax relief for senior citizens and disabled veterans, including expanded exemptions, rebates, deferrals, fee reductions, or other lawful mechanisms that reduce the local tax burden on those living on fixed incomes or who have honorably served our nation.

Candidate Accountability Standards

The following criteria shall be considered during endorsement evaluations and when determining whether an incumbent has remained in good standing with the Spokane County Republican Party:

1. **No Tax Increase Record** – The candidate has not proposed, sponsored, or voted in favor of a tax increase or new tax inconsistent with this resolution.
2. **Budget Reform** – The candidate has demonstrated a good-faith effort to identify spending reductions, efficiencies, or budget reforms before considering additional revenue.
3. **Taxpayer Relief** – The candidate has proposed, sponsored, or supported measures that reduce taxes, fees, or assessments whenever fiscally responsible to do so.
4. **Senior and Veteran Advocacy** – The candidate has actively supported policies that reduce the local tax burden on seniors and disabled veterans.
5. **Transparency** – The candidate has publicly explained votes involving taxes, fees, assessments, or significant spending increases to Republican voters and constituents.
6. **Fiscal Stewardship** – The candidate has demonstrated a commitment to balanced budgets, responsible reserves, debt restraint, and protecting taxpayers from unnecessary government growth.
7. **Consistency** – The candidate's public statements, campaign commitments, and voting record reflect a consistent commitment to the principles of this resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that adherence to these principles and accountability standards shall be a significant factor in determining whether a candidate receives or retains the endorsement of the Spokane County Republican Party. Candidates who repeatedly violate these standards without extraordinary justification may be denied future Party endorsement.

Adopted by the Spokane County Republican Party on _____, 20.