

# APPENDICES

## **Appendix A**

### **The 2015 Volunteer Party Platform**

#### **Preamble**

We, as people of Missouri, have come together in common cause against a government that has betrayed us. It has sold us out to the national parties and allowed them to steal seats in our legislature without the need for a single vote. It has impoverished us with taxes, only to hand our earnings over to corrupt officials who swindle public funds for the sake of private interests. It has demoralized the citizenry, squandered our industry and silenced our voices.

Thus we have witnessed policemen turn into our oppressors rather than our protectors; we have seen our education fall short even as its administrators multiply; and we have watched our prisons overflow to the point that they are no longer safe. It is in this atmosphere of crisis, and in the spirit of liberty, that we question the current system of involuntary, general-purpose taxation.

How can a government expect its people to pay taxes for the ‘public good’, when it commits to a broad range of activities that could be morally objectionable? Should a person who is religiously opposed to the death penalty be forced to pay taxes which fund state executions? Should the devoted libertarian pay taxes to a state that uses ‘eminent domain’ to strip families of their homes? All men and women of principle – whether they are environmentalists, educators, social crusaders, business owners, labor advocates, humanists, spiritual believers or parents – will find it very difficult to pay taxes for the state’s general use without bearing the title of hypocrite.

Nor does any good that a tax may accomplish erase any of its evils. The security and comfort of thousands cannot atone for the suffering of even one innocent. We cannot – no, we **MUST** not – be part of a system that would punish a person who refuses to pay for acts that violate one’s principles.

We know that the current establishment has no answer to the culture of despair it has helped to create. The broken heart of this generation will not be mended with a policy adjustment. No slogan, no catchphrase, save the cry of **FREEDOM**, will bring ease to the troubled souls who labor to a master’s tune.

## Declaration of Principles and Resolutions

Therefore we, as citizens, set forth the following platform for the creation of the Volunteer Party of Missouri:

### Voluntary Taxation

The central concern of the Volunteer Party is, and shall always be, allowing citizens to contribute to the public welfare as they see fit. As long as government may feed itself with impunity upon the people's labor, property and commerce, it will seek to be the master, not the servant.

- 1) The people should not be required to pay blindly, in good faith, to any agency that routinely engages in waste and deception.

We are RESOLVED, to protect both by statute and constitutional amendment, any citizen from taxation without his or her consent and pledge; and that no tax may receive pledges that exceed five years in length, which may be renewed upon expiration.

- 2) A tax for general revenue, without a predetermined purpose, is a shackle upon the conscience of the people and a temptation to unscrupulous men.

We are RESOLVED, that all taxes collected from the people by the state shall be required by law to be spent by a specific agency, in a prescribed manner, for a certain use, as stipulated publicly before the tax is levied.

- 3) Workers who surrender the fruits of their livelihoods under the threat of imprisonment and bankruptcy are toiling in bondage to the state.

We are RESOLVED, to abolish the compulsory state income tax and to resist the federal income tax, both by statute and constitutional amendment.

## Election Reform

It is incredible that the entrenched political parties, the Democrats and Republicans, allowed nearly half (46%) of the state's House candidates and over half (59%) of the state's Senate candidates to run unopposed in the last November election. Nearly three-quarters (71%) of these unopposed candidates have also had no opponent in their party primaries, which means that the winners for 64 of the 180 seats (35%) were already decided *before a single vote was even cast!* This is not a functioning republic. It is taxation without representation.

- 1) Legitimate law-making and taxation will only occur when the General Assembly becomes a true representative council of the people, and not a hand-picked group of political party favorites.

We are RESOLVED, to support laws that will curb political party influence, and to repeal laws that have institutionalized parties and favored them over independents.

- 2) The current method of plurality voting asks for the minimum amount of information from voters when more could easily be obtained, and this results in negative voting strategies which undermine the democratic nature of elections.

We are RESOLVED, to support alternative voting systems that ask for more feedback, such as a voter's ranking or preference for each candidate.

- 3) Missourians deserve better than a 3-hour span, not of their choice, to exercise their prerogative to vote, free of hardship.

We are RESOLVED, to create a holiday for each election, in which only necessary enterprises may remain open, and all needed employees shall not be required to work more than four hours, and any hours so worked shall receive extra compensation.

## Transparency

We live in a dark time when most government information is some form of propaganda. Records are rarely clear, and they are never complete. Sometimes they are difficult to find at all. The public cannot responsibly pledge its taxes or elect its sponsors under such a cloud of confusion. It is not acceptable for an official to be able to hide hundred-dollar dinners under the bland name of “travel expenses”. Nor is it tolerable that the affairs of our legislature are hidden beneath a heap of words, and the average bill is roughly the length of a novel. A government that wishes to lead with the confidence of its people must be honest, articulate and precise.

- 1) Records of how taxes are spent – budgets and accounts – should be one of the most important records kept by a government agency, yet even public schools utilize budgets that are often hidden, vague and lacking in details.

We are RESOLVED, to demand that all public funds be accounted for in a standard format; that this format records the specific service or good purchased and how it was, or will be, used; and that these records shall be readily available both in physical and electronic format, and issued to a pledge-holder upon request.

- 2) Laws should be passed in the spirit of simplicity, as a form of good governance, and not for the purpose of trading political favors or deceiving the public.

We are RESOLVED, to restrict legislative action to passing statutes for a single purpose, without multiple laws, e.g., “riders”, passed in a single vote.

- 3) A citizen should be able to know all of the laws under which they are governed, which is currently impossible, even for citizens who are lawyers.

We are RESOLVED, to reduce Missouri’s statutes in both their length and their number, and to remove as much as possible all vague, redundant or contradictory language.

## Personal Freedom

Our country is founded upon the principles of liberty. The most important of these is trusting in individuals to make their own choices, and to face the consequences for good or for ill. If we are not allowed by our government to make the “wrong” choice, we are not free; nor are we trusted. We are *managed*, like children. A people kept prisoner – no matter how pleasant the cage – are a frustrated, self-destructive people. We must, therefore, learn to trust in each other’s ability to choose, and demand that our government do the same.

- 1) Privacy is not a privilege granted by government; it is an individual right. State and local governments should not lay claim to personal information without consent of the individual; nor should they be able to demand it as a condition for receiving general services, especially in public education.

We are RESOLVED, that government tracking and monitoring of citizens is forbidden as a felony, and that schools do not ask children for private information without the consent of their parents.

- 2) Eminent domain, in many instances, has become legalized theft for the benefit of corporate franchises and government revenues. A state which uses its power to enrich itself or others upon the misfortune of its citizens, while claiming it is for the greater good, is both a thief and a hypocrite.

We are RESOLVED, to outlaw the government seizure of private property for the benefit of commerce, public enterprise, or any purpose other than the direct and immediate needs of public health and safety.

- 3) The purpose of law is to protect others, not to manage their choices. Whenever non-harmful actions are penalized or become crimes, freedom is imperiled.

We are RESOLVED, that no law shall punish or financially impugn a citizen for actions which cause no direct harm to the safety of another’s person or property, particularly with regard to the choice of parents in the education of their children.

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Witness Accounts of the 2012 St. Charles County Caucus**

During the 2012 campaign season, three major candidates – Ron Paul, Rick Santorum and Mitt Romney – were vying to become Missouri’s choice as a Presidential candidate for the national Republican Party. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday, the St. Charles branch of the Republican Party convened. The meeting, called a “caucus”, was scheduled to elect delegates who would vote at the state’s party convention.

The local party committee in St. Charles had made no secret of their support for Rick Santorum. The committee, however, did not have the authority to directly pick delegates who would support Santorum at the state convention. By the rules of a Republican caucus, the delegates must be selected by a vote of the members present.

And lots of Republican voters were prepared to show up with a different candidate in mind.

The St. Charles committee knew this, and prepared a surprise for Romney and Paul supporters. The caucus began with a “straw poll” before members could enter, which delayed the start of the meeting by over an hour. The poll was not part of the caucus rules (in fact there are very few rules in place until after the meeting starts). Its purpose was unclear, since the results were kept secret by the committee.

The committee began the meeting by demanding that all recording devices be turned off. Two policemen were present to enforce the rule – which they did by confronting, and later arresting a man who openly refused to turn off his camera. The “no-camera” rule was against caucus procedure, and the crowd was agitated, but eventually they calmed down and the caucus got underway...

What actually occurred can best be verified by those present, because the committee did everything in its power to prevent the caucus from being recorded. Several hidden camera phones were used during and after the caucus, and the recordings were later posted on YouTube. The videos’ quality was far from ideal; they do corroborate, however, with witness accounts of the day.

*From the eyewitness testimony of Bryce Steinhoff, an organizer for the local supporters of Ron Paul who attended the St. Charles county caucus. The following testimony was presented under the title, “St. Charles Caucus HIJACKED – Bryce’s Report” on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 on Facebook:*

The St. Charles County Republican Central Committee **hijacked** the St. Charles County Caucus today!

Due to long lines, the caucus didn’t convene until nearly 11 AM (it should have begun at 10 AM, but that wait was by far the most bearable of the day).

Bryan Spencer, chairman of the caucus subcommittee of the St. Charles Central Committee, told me personally, very strongly, at the committee meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> that he would work to challenge the St. Charles delegation on a technicality if any one group came in and “hijacked” the caucus by taking all the delegates or otherwise not allowing for a proportionate distribution. This narrow definition of “fair” as described by Spencer simply isn’t his definition to decide. It is the very purpose of the caucus for the body to decide what is fair – how delegates would be apportioned. It is clear that Spencer and the committee were fearful of a Paul or a Paul and Romney majority at the caucus – and so *they* hijacked it instead by ignoring all rules, the orders of the day, and general fairness in chairmanship.

Bryan Spencer tried to enforce an arbitrary “house rule” ban on recording devices and eject a caucus body member who refused to stop recording. The caucus body of many hundreds erupted into howls of disapproval for what seemed like an eternity. Spencer dispatched on-site police officers to remove him or arrest him for trespassing...

Spencer and temporary caucus chairman and Central Committee Chairman Eugene Dokes refused to continue the caucus until the recording devices were stopped and the crowd settled down. During this time I, along with many others, attempted to motion for the rule against recording devices to be lifted. No motions or points of order were recognized by either Dokes or Spencer. A large number of additional police officers and highway patrolmen entered the gymnasium during this time to help keep the peace.

...Once we quieted, Dokes carried on with facilitating the prayer and pledge which went off without incident. After this point, Dokes proceeded to entirely ignore the published MO GOP Caucus Agenda and appointed a parliamentarian, the credentials committee, and the rules committee. All three of these are very clearly supposed to be appointed by a newly elected Caucus Chairman. The crowd booed loudly at the gross misconduct by the chair and I, along with others, called for points of order and for the orders of the day. No motions were recognized from the floor.

At this point, Dokes opened the floor for nominations for Caucus Chairman. The Central Committee shills nominated Matt Ehlen while the crowd nearly-unanimously chanted “Brent Stafford”. After not waiting for further nominations, Dokes called for a voice vote. There were no audible ayes and an uproar of no’s, but Dokes declared that the ayes had it and awarded the position of Caucus Chairman to Ehlen. Dokes refused to recognize many, many calls for a division of the vote, which would have required him to count the votes for the purpose of transparency and clarity.

Matt Ehlen, illegally “elected” and de-facto appointed chair, then proceeded to demand order, which was rightly met with rejection from the body.



Bryan Spencer and Matt Ehlen warned that the caucus would be disqualified and no delegates would be awarded if the ruckus continued, but united supporters from all campaigns continued to show extreme disgust with the actions of the Central Committee. A motion to adjourn (at least I think there was a motion; I didn't hear it) was put forward by Spencer and his cronies. It should have required a 2/3 vote since there was still business to be conducted, but regardless Spencer put it up for a voice vote and declared the caucus adjourned.

At this point Brent Stafford attempted to declare the chair vacant, as is proper parliamentary procedure when a chairman continually disrupts order and steps down. Stafford attempted to facilitate the election of a new chairman to preside over the caucus, but attempts were futile and Spencer and clan demanded that the body evacuate the gym or face arrest.

We rallied as many of the caucus body as possible to hold a rump convention in the parking lot, where we planned to re-credential the body and hold the caucus fairly according to the agenda released by the MO GOP. We were greeted outside by a large police presence, including at least one helicopter. When word had gotten around and the body that remained congregated in the designated location for the rump convention, Brent Stafford stood on a chair and began instructing the new rump convention body how to turn in credential information.

While this was happening, two police officers approached Brent and placed him under arrest for trespassing, a charge which was entirely unfounded.

Police continued efforts to eject the body from the public school grounds and much of the body gathered at nearby Wapelhorst Park to talk, rehash, and rally behind our common goals – transparency and fairness in the process. The entire process uncovered great unity among many camps, particularly the Romney and Paul camps, much to my delight.

During this process at least one other person, Kenny Switter, was detained or arrested for refusing to turn off his recording device.

Let me be clear: The St. Charles Republican Central Committee, led by Eugene Dokes and Bryan Spencer (and I suspect Cheryl Bates), broke a wide variety of rules, refused to follow the established parliamentary procedure, Robert's Rules of Order, and **hijacked** the caucus...

I beg and plead that the Missouri Republican Party reschedule the caucus and assign a specially-appointed committee not consisting of any Central Committee members... Please call the Missouri GOP (573-636-3146) and demand that our caucus be rescheduled. Additionally, call the St. Peters City Police (636-276-2222) and let them know your disgust with the unwarranted arrests performed during peaceful assembly on public property.

*From the eyewitness testimony of Dr. Daniel A. Domer, licensed veterinarian, who attended the St. Charles Caucus. The testimony was given via Email shortly after policemen dispersed the gathering:*

As you may have heard, the Saint Charles county, Missouri GOP caucus was a disgrace. I was personally present and can vouch for the accuracy of what's reported in the links I'm sharing below. Instead of repeating these descriptions of the events, legality, and rules of order, I'll simply add my \$0.02:

As a friend (and fellow caucus attendee) counted, the police number grew from merely two at the beginning of the proceedings, to 20 after the police radioed for backup. These were very physically intimidating men, including one very tall man wearing a brown uniform and helmet (motorcycle?). It's funny what psychological impact this gives. It goes from a feeling of police being present as a form of protection and formality, to the sense that they are there to keep you in line as a bystander while the political process continues without your consent. The only description I can give is that it is the political equivalent of being overpowered, made helpless, and violated... It's one thing to read a description or watch a video, and something completely different to be present, to witness and feel events unfolding. I'm glad I was there. And I saw that, yes, of course "it can happen here".

It was disappointing to hear the Santorum supporters behind me speak of Paul people hijacking caucuses and wondering aloud whether or not Paul voters would support Obama if Paul weren't the Republican nominee. It was tragic to see the acting caucus Chair completely ignore the crowd's objections, nominations, and cries for basic parliamentary procedures. It was a bit of a shock to see the police presence grow in the auditorium. It was bewildering to hear the newly-appointed Chair say, "I will now entertain a motion to adjourn," then adjourn, declare the caucus over, with zero delegates being awarded. It was disheartening to be ordered outside or risk being arrested for trespassing, even though the high school auditorium was rented for another hour or two. It was sad to move outside and pass a boy holding a sign reading "This is was a free country." It was further bewildering to step outside and see the police helicopter flying above. It was again shocking to hear the loudspeaker behind the crowd outside, ordering everyone off the public school property. It was unfortunately not surprising that the police arrested Brent Stafford (easily considered the caucus body's choice for chairman, as reported in the links) as he was trying to gather some order over the situation outside. I was beside him and saw it take place. Now was he really trespassing, or was he just an obvious target chosen to demoralize the remaining people?

A group of us met at a nearby park and developed a plan to address the events of the day, including getting the two arrested people out of jail and finding a way to send delegates from Saint Charles county, possibly by rescheduling the caucus. I don't have much else to share...

In the end, as you might have gathered from the preceding testimony, the party committee declared the caucus over without any votes awarded for state delegates, and then demanded that the members vacate the premises or face arrest. Brent Stafford, the man nominated to be caucus chairman by the Romney and Paul camps, was arrested for trying to follow parliamentary procedure (he had hired a professional parliamentarian to advise him) and re-establish the caucus. Twenty police officers and a helicopter were used to “walk” the crowd off the school grounds, and the caucus was officially over.

The two men who were arrested, Mr. Stafford and Mr. Switter, were later released, but the local party pursued the charges of trespassing against both men (Stafford’s case was eventually dismissed two years later). The St. Charles police department never gave a satisfactory account of its presence or its behavior at the caucus, where the officers unquestioningly obeyed the dictates of the local party committee.

Media coverage largely quoted only the interviews with the party committee members, who, naturally, blamed the unusual outcome of the caucus on the crowd – particularly Ron Paul supporters. YouTube videos, however, and eyewitnesses told a different story, and eventually the bad internet publicity induced the national Republican Party leadership to personally oversee a re-scheduled caucus. The new St. Charles County Caucus followed parliamentary procedure and the party by-laws to the letter, and Brent Stafford was elected chairman. The meeting and the votes went on without incident, and St. Charles was able to send its delegates to the state convention.

By then, Rick Santorum had already withdrawn from contention for the Republican Presidential nomination.