

Oconee County SC
Conservatives (OCC)
Platform

Rev 03

Updated: December 23 2022

Oconee County Conservatives (OCC) endorses the following platform positions/philosophies:

- 1. The Ten Commandments**
- 2. The United States Constitution**
- 3. Heritage Foundation 10 Conservative Principles by Russell Kirk (see Attachment 1)**
- 4. Heritage Foundation 14 True North Conservative Principles (see Attachment 2)**
- 5. SC Republican Party Platform**
- 6. We endorse the following positions and believe them to be relevant to municipal, county, and state issues (local issues):**
 - A. On Proposed SC Republican Party Leadership:** We support the election of officers/leadership who are:
 - a. Aligned with the full content of the SC Republican Party Platform
 - b. Consistently aligned with the Conservative Principles stated above.
 - B. On Proposed Oconee County Republican Party Leadership:** We support the election of the officers and leadership who are:
 - a. Aligned with the full content of the SC Republican Party Platform
 - b. Consistently aligned with the Conservative Principles stated above.
 - C. On COVID,** (vaccine, masks, social distancing, and lockdowns) – We believe that taking the vaccine, wearing a mask, and social distancing should first and foremost be the choice of the individual, and that the individual should manage their own risk.
 - a. We do not support vaccine passports as we believe this activity to be a violation of your constitutional rights.
 - b. We oppose lockdowns as data shows that they do more damage than good for a free society.
 - D. On Election integrity:** We support the following principles regarding election integrity:
 - a. Valid ID is required to vote under all circumstances
 - b. Ballots shall be traceable, verifiable, and auditable before, during, and after the voting process.
 - c. Absentee voting shall be the exception, rather than the rule, and shall meet the requirements of (b) above.
 - d. We oppose HR-1, and are opposed to the Federal Government dictating to the states how they should run their election process, and believe that HR-1 is a violation of state's rights as delineated in the Constitution.
 - e. We support a process to annually purge the SC voter rolls of the deceased, persons who have moved out of state, or disqualified for any valid reason.

- E. On Black Lives Matter (BLM):** We support the lives of all people, including people of color, but we do not support BLM based on the following:
- a. BLM is a Marxist Organization
 - b. BLM is anti-nuclear family
 - c. BLM is counter-productive to good race relations
 - d. BLM leadership has been confirmed to have been involved in the corrupt financial betterment of only its founders
 - e. BLM is not based on a factual narrative relative to police killings of unarmed citizens by race if violent crime by race is accounted for in statistics.
 - f. We believe the BLM movement will reduce the effectiveness and funding of law enforcement.
- F. On ANTIFA:** We do not support ANTIFA based on the following:
- a. ANTIFA is a Marxist Organization
 - b. ANTIFA is anti-nuclear family
 - c. ANTIFA has caused millions of dollars of damage in cities across America and has destroyed or closed numerous small businesses in those cities.
 - d. ANTIFA does not have a cohesive political narrative and are anti-America and anti-capitalist.
 - e. We believe the ANTIFA movement will reduce the effectiveness and funding of law enforcement.
- G. On the 1619 Project:** We do not support the 1619 Project and will oppose its promulgation in the Public School System, based on the following:
- a. The 1619 Project is based on a false narrative of American History
 - b. The 1619 Project is counter-productive to good race relations
- H. On Critical Race Theory (CRT):** We do not support the promulgation of critical race theory in any corporate, public, or educational mediums. We support President Donald Trump's former Executive Order in concept and philosophy on the banning of Critical Race Theory in Government Organizations. We do not support Critical Race Theory based, in part, on the following:
- a. CRT is a form of racial discrimination, which is counter to Martin Luther King's statement that "an individual shall not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character".
 - b. CRT is counter to the philosophy of a "color-blind meritocracy", where each person is rewarded, promoted, selected, or otherwise judged by their specific and individual skills, talents, experience, effort, motivation, and character.
- I. On Monuments and Statue preservation:** We support our historical monuments and statues and believe them to be essential to the preservation of civil society.

- a. We believe there should be strict penalties for the damage and/or defacement of any monument and support ordinances to enforce this.
- b. We believe that change-out of monuments or statues should be performed through the legislative process if there is disagreement in this regard.

J. On Taxes, Budget, and Spending: We generally support an environment of frugality pertaining to this issue.

- a. We believe, in general, the lower the taxes, the better for the citizens, as we believe citizens want to keep as much of their hard-earned money as possible to spend on their own interests.
- b. We support balanced budgets at the municipal, county, state, and national levels and thereby support legislation which will ensure budgets remain balanced.
- c. We support the idea of the “Laffer Curve” and that we are generally to the “right” of the Laffer Curve peak, which means that taxes are too high and that if taxes are lowered, the revenues for the entity collecting the taxes will generally increase rather than decrease.
- d. We believe that the Oconee County Budget is disproportionately high in taxing and spending compared to other similar counties with similar demographics, and that there is an over-reliance on tax revenues from the Oconee Nuclear Station.
- e. We do not generally support the use of “federal or state matching funds with strings attached” since they often require additional spending down the road to ensure the subject project remains viable.
- f. We support top down reviews of expenditures at every level of government in an effort to identify and remove wasteful spending.
- g. We support transparency in the budget process and ready availability of budget information to the citizens.

K. On Abortion and the Right to Life: We support the right to life and oppose abortion.

- a. We support the position that all life is precious, and that from time of conception, the fetus affords the same right to life under the Constitution as any other citizen.
- b. Science supports the position that from time of conception, the entity is a living entity.
- c. We support personal accountability, abstinence, self-control, good decision-making, and use of counter measures, etc, to avoid pregnancies as a good practice to avert the need to consider abortions.
- d. We believe abortion is a form of infanticide.
- e. We support the overturning of Roe vs Wade case and position.
- f. We support Oconee County being labelled as a safe haven for the unborn and support the legislation to this effect.
- g. We believe that no taxpayer money should be used to support the Planned Parenthood Organization or any other organization which facilitates abortions. Specifically, we do not support the current proposed amendment to H4100 1B Section 33.25 (DHHS:

Family Planning Funds) of the state code, which contains exceptions that would allow the funding of these types of organizations.

L. On Sewer, Water, Internet, and other county infrastructure: We support the development and modernization of infrastructure as needed throughout the county.

- a. We support Blue Ridge Electric's development of an internet infrastructure throughout Oconee County.
- b. We support development of sewer infrastructure in southern Oconee County I-85 corridor and believe that it will enhance development of industry and high paying jobs in that area which will supplement the county's tax base and offset our dependence on the Oconee Nuclear Station.
- c. Under the right conditions, we support development of sewer infrastructure in southern Oconee County I-85 corridor under a joint partnership with Anderson County.
- d. We support the development and use of the Golden Corner Commerce Park, which was an investment that has currently been abandoned by the county leadership.
- e. We support the development and funding of water services to Salem community.
- f. We believe that spending on "hard infrastructure" such as sewer, water, trash, power, and internet should take priority over sustainability and UN Agenda 21 "soft infrastructure" such as parks, recreation, bike trails, walking trails, and other similar non-essential projects.

M. On gun control and constitutional carry: We are opposed to any forms of gun control legislation at any level. We fully support Constitutional Carry which includes open carry.

- a. We are disappointed that our two state legislators voted down Constitutional Carry (on the first reading) in the state of SC, and that it took pressure from the gun lobby to change their votes on the second reading of the amendment.
- b. We believe the Second Amendment Constitutional right to possess firearms shall not be infringed at the local or state level.
- c. We fully support the NRA and their platform.

N. On Property Rights and Zoning: We are proponents of property rights and are opposed to zoning unless absolutely necessary for public health and safety.

- a. Unless Zoning ordinances have been demonstrated through detailed analyses which show that significant public health and safety benefits will be realized as compared to removal of property rights, then OCC will oppose efforts to establish zoning ordinances in Oconee County.
- b. Aesthetics alone do not justify zoning ordinances.
- c. Property rights shall be considered in all cases of zoning and other matters as they are the most basic of Constitutional rights.
- d. If possible, zoning should be instituted from "bottom up" instead of "top down" – in other words, adjacent property owners should be the only parties involved in a zoning matter, if possible.
- e. We support the right of an individual to seek "spot zoning" of their property if they so choose.

O. On the First Amendment and Free Speech: We support the right to free speech and the First Amendment.

- a. We oppose any efforts by local schools and universities to manipulate, limit, or silence free speech by any factions.
- b. We oppose efforts by local media to manipulate, limit, give preferential treatment to, or silence the stated positions of Oconee County political candidates, regardless of their political affiliation.

P. On Term Limits of Elected Officials: We support the legislation of term limits for elected officials at all levels of government.

- a. We believe it was not the intent of the founders to allow persons to make a “career” of being an elected official.
- b. We believe that unlimited time in an elected position allows for too much accumulation of power by the elected official, thus diluting the effectiveness of other elected officials that otherwise choose not to spend a career in their elected position.
- c. We believe that unlimited time in an elected position allows for complacency and stagnation in the arena of ideals and open-mindedness.
- d. We believe that unlimited time in an elected position allows for the potential for corruption through multiple exposures of the elected official to opportunities for bribery, opportunities for funding by powerful agents outside the officials local sphere of influence, and opportunities for the official to be caught in unlawful activities for which they could be unduly influenced by persons “in the know”.
- e. We believe that unlimited time in an elected position tends to insulate, isolate, and potentially disconnect the elected official from the “common citizen”, and, as a result, their voices are not heard on an equal basis as compared to the “privileged and well-connected citizen”.
- f. We believe that term limits of four to eight years should be legislated, depending on the elected position.

Q. On LGBTQ+: We generally take a “live and let live” position on LGBTQ+, however, recognizing that these factions are NOT the majority of the population, when such actions as legislated infringe on our (the majority) rights and well-being, we are compelled to take actions to oppose this legislation.

- a. Marriage is a traditional concept and institution which should be a union between a man and a woman for the purposes of reproduction.
- b. There are two genders: 1) Male, 2) Female. The exceptions to this are considered scientifically to be “outliers” and medically are treated and classified as such.
- c. We support legislation in SC similar to that recently enacted in the state of Arkansas, which bans the access to gender-affirming care for transgender minors. The basis for this position is that we believe that irreversible harm and otherwise preventable mental health issues can result from these attempted “transformations” for individuals under the age of 18.

- d. We oppose the allowance of access by biological males to female bathrooms.
- e. We oppose the allowance of biological males to participate in female sports.

R. On Law Enforcement: We support law enforcement at all levels.

- a. We support adequate manning and funding of the Oconee County Sherriff's Office based on the Oconee County population.
- b. We oppose any efforts by BLM or ANTIFA to defund, reduce, or otherwise degrade our county and municipal law enforcement agencies.
- c. Due to a shortage of officers patrolling in the community at large, we support a re-evaluation of the use of resource officers in schools as follows:
 - i. Consider training voluntary teacher resources to carry a weapon and to be a part of a school security team, as this will potentially allow trained police officers to be released back to policing the general community.
 - ii. Consider "dividing time" between two nearby schools to one resource officer instead of one resource officer per school, as this will potentially allow trained police officers to be released back to policing the general community.

S. On Fire Service and First Responders:

- a. As Fire Service volunteerism is a fine and honored tradition in this county, we support the continued tradition of Fire Service volunteerism and believe that Fire Service volunteers should be allowed to work in harmony alongside the paid Fire Service members.
- b. We believe that the concept of Fire Service volunteerism can result in significant monetary savings and efficiencies with regard to this portion of the Oconee County Budget.
- c. We support adequate funding of the Fire Service.
- d. We support retention of existing volunteers as well as recruitment of new volunteers.

T. On Primary Election Process:

- a. We support the State of SC adoption of Closed Primaries, as we believe Open Primaries result in potential issues with cross-party influence pertaining to selection of Republican Candidates.

U. On Greenway, Bike Paths, and other Recreational initiatives:

- a. We generally support these items, with the following exceptions:
 - i. If they will result in a tax increase that the citizens are not in favor of
 - ii. If they will result in lower prioritization of needed essential infrastructure upgrades
 - iii. If they are determined, by study, to not be cost effective modifications
 - iv. If no studies have been completed which validate the cost effectiveness of such projects

V. On Republican Party Matters such as platform compliance, reorganization, and rules compliance:

- a. We are opposed to selective rule enforcement such as specific targeting of Conservatives with SCGOP rules and Oconee County Republican Party (OCRP) County bylaws.
- b. We do not support the current party leadership of Drew McKissick (state) and Jim Mann (OCRP).
- c. We believe the leadership of the SCGOP is overly dictatorial and overly involved in county level party matters that they have no authority to usurp or circumvent.
- d. We believe that the state SCGOP use of “splinter organizations” such as the Oconee County Republican Men (OCRM) and Oconee County Republican Women (OCRW) to bypass OCRP business and activities is a violation of SCGOP Rule 3b. This practice bypasses the effectiveness of the legitimate OCRP, whose officers the people elected in the last OC Republican Convention by a voting process.
- e. We do not support SCGOP Rule 16a and believe that anyone in the party should have the right to litigate issues within the party without undue exclusion from the party.
- f. We do not support the proposed rulemaking to exclude individuals for two cycles if they are identified as willingly not following SCGOP Rules, as this is a form of weaponization of rules to exclude (mostly) Conservatives and Libertarians.
- g. We do not support removal of party officers without due process of a trial and proper presentation of and evaluation of evidence against them.
- h. We believe that the leadership of the OCRP should be individuals who adhere to all ten of the SC Republican Platform principles rather than individuals who are willing to adhere to only a percentage of them, as this does not set a good precedent or example for the party. This statement is not meant to imply that the party “tent” should exclude such partially compliant individuals, but, rather, to encourage and facilitate continuity of party ideology and principles through fully compliant leadership.

W. On accountability of local elected officials and candidates:

- a. We will ask difficult questions
- b. We will vet candidates
- c. We expect transparency in the public square and on social media
- d. We will defend our policy positions
- e. We will defend our OCC members against false statements and slander from local elected officials and candidates

Attachment 1:
Summarized version of the Ten Conservative Principles, by Russell Kirk, 1-7-1987,
The Heritage Foundation

- I. First, the conservative believes that there exists an enduring moral order. That order is made for man, and man is made for it: human nature is a constant, and moral truths are permanent.
- II. Second, the conservative adheres to custom, convention, and continuity. It is old custom that enables people to live together peaceably; the destroyers of custom demolish more than they know or desire.
- III. Third, conservatives believe in what may be called the principle of prescription. Conservatives sense that modern people are dwarfs on the shoulders of giants, able to see farther than their ancestors only because of the great stature of those who have preceded us in time.
- IV. Fourth, conservatives are aided by their principle of prudence. Burke agrees with Plato that in the statesman, prudence is chief among virtues. Any public measure ought to be judged by its probable long run consequences, not merely by temporary advantage or popularity.
- V. Fifth, conservatives pay attention to the principle of variety. They feel affection for the proliferating intricacy of long-established social institutions and modes of life, as distinguished from the narrowing uniformity and deadening egalitarianism of radical systems.
- VI. Sixth, conservatives are chastened by their principle of imperfectibility. Human nature suffers irremediably from certain grave faults, the conservatives know. Man being imperfect, no perfect social order ever can be created.
- VII. Seventh, conservatives are persuaded that freedom and property are closely linked. Separate property from private possession, and Leviathan becomes master of all. Upon the foundation of private property, great civilizations are built.
- VIII. Eighth, conservatives uphold voluntary community, quite as they oppose involuntary collectivism. Although Americans have been attached strongly to privacy and private rights, they also have been a people conspicuous for a successful spirit of community.
- IX. Ninth, the conservative perceives the need for prudent restraints upon power and upon human Passions. Politically speaking, power is the ability to do as one likes, regardless of the wills of one's fellows. A state in which an individual or a small group are able to dominate the wills of their fellows without check is a despotism, whether it is called monarchical or aristocratic or democratic.
- X. Tenth, the thinking conservative understands that permanence and change must be recognized and reconciled in a vigorous society. The conservative is not opposed to social improvement, although he doubts whether there is any such force as a mystical Progress, with a Roman P, at work in the world.

Attachment 2
Fourteen True North Conservative Principles
The Heritage Foundation

1. The federal government exists to preserve life, liberty and property, and it is instituted to protect the rights of individuals according to natural law. Among these rights are the sanctity of life; the freedom of speech, religion, the press, and assembly; the right to bear arms; the right of individuals to be treated equally and justly under the law; and to enjoy the fruits of one's labor.
2. The federal government's powers are limited to those named in the Constitution and should be exercised solely to protect the rights of its citizens. As Thomas Jefferson said, "The government closest to the people serves the people best." Powers not delegated to the federal government, nor prohibited by the Constitution, are reserved to the states or to the people.
3. Judges should interpret and apply our laws and the Constitution based on their original meaning, not upon judges' personal and political predispositions.
4. Individuals and families—not government—make the best decisions regarding their and their children's health, education, jobs, and welfare.
5. The family is the essential foundation of civil society, and traditional marriage serves as the cornerstone of the family.
6. The federal deficit and debt must not place unreasonable financial burdens on future generations.
7. Tax policies should raise only the minimum revenue necessary to fund constitutionally appropriate functions of government.
8. America's economy and the prosperity of individual citizens are best served by a system of free enterprise, with special emphasis on economic freedom, private property rights, and the rule of law. This system is best sustained by policies promoting free trade and deregulation, and opposing government interventions in the economy that distort markets and impair innovation.
9. Regulations must not breach constitutional principles of limited government and the separation of powers.
10. America must be a welcoming nation—one that promotes patriotic assimilation and is governed by laws that are fair, humane, and enforced to protect its citizens.
11. Justice requires an efficient, fair, and effective criminal justice system—one that gives defendants adequate due process and requires an appropriate degree of criminal intent to merit punishment.
12. International agreements and international organizations should not infringe on American's constitutional rights, nor should they diminish American sovereignty.
13. America is strongest when our policies protect our national interests, preserve our alliances of free peoples, vigorously counter threats to our security, and advance prosperity through economic freedom at home and abroad.
14. The best way to ensure peace is through a strong national defense.