

The Conservative Declaration

❧ PREAMBLE ❧

More than two centuries ago, one declaration changed the world

- A group of brave individuals declared that all people are fundamentally equal—equally born with rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- They declared that government exists for one reason -- to secure these God-given rights, deriving its powers from the consent of the people it governs.

The result? The founding of the United States of America.

But now America is under siege by radicals whose mission is to slowly and deliberately dismantle the principles of that original declaration. With over-reaching regulation, out-of-control spending, high deficits, and a weakened national defense, the government is the master. The consent of the people is ignored. America is looking less and less like the America of our Founding Fathers.

This must be stopped.

Conservatives must *come together* to stand for the principles on which our nation was founded and proclaim *in unison* our commitment to the ideals that our Founders proclaimed more than two centuries ago. The time has come for a new declaration to change the world.

❧ THE CONSERVATIVE DECLARATION ❧

We believe in the spirit of our Founding Fathers and *come together* from across the nation to sign the following *Declaration*, reaffirming our belief in the principles on which our nation was founded. We sign as individual citizens, *united* in our belief that our nation was established as a constitutional republic in which the power of government is limited under the rule of law, securing liberty and justice for all.

1. *Certain Unalienable Rights*

We believe this nation is uniquely dedicated to the universal principles of human liberty: that all are fundamentally equal and equally endowed with unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Americans are necessarily equal and self-governing citizens, and the U.S. government is established to secure those fundamental rights. With a limited government, we

have the liberty and opportunity to live our lives, control our fates, and pursue our own happiness.

2. Private Property

We believe in the right to the rewards of our own labor—the promise that we Americans can keep what we earn and that this makes possible a society in which every member can work hard, pursue opportunity, and advance in life based on individual talent and ability. In this America, success comes from hard work and personal merit rather than from entitlement or aristocracy.

3. Free Enterprise

We believe that the primary duties of the federal government in regard to the economy are to guarantee the equal rights of the individual, destroy barriers to opportunity, and uphold the rule of law. Because economic opportunity will be available to everyone, the people will have great incentive to earn more, save more, and invest in more opportunities for the future. This means more enterprise and more economic activity.

Rather than acting to guarantee economic outcomes, government should provide the sturdy framework for opportunity, economic growth, and human flourishing. It should remove unfair obstacles to economic markets, break down the artificial government structures that prevent competition, and otherwise keep tax rates low, reduce government spending, and prevent the over-regulation of private enterprise.

4. Common Defense

We believe it is the constitutional duty of the federal government to secure the country's international borders, preserve and protect its territorial integrity, and strengthen and preserve its constitutional government. This promotes the long-term prosperity and well-being of the American people. This means that the United States must be able, willing, and prepared at all times to defend itself, its people, and its institutions from conventional and unconventional threats to its vital interests, both at home and abroad.

But liberty does not belong only to this country. The United States must also continue to recognize its special responsibility to support the cause of liberty in the world.

5. Religious Freedom

We understand and support the unique and important role of religious freedom as the cornerstone of our constitutional freedoms. The ability to freely worship and to act in accordance with a particular faith without fear of government reprisal is essential to civil society. Religious freedom protects our ability to live according to our deepest beliefs. It means we don't have to hide who we are and what we stand for. It's a freedom recognized as essential by the Founding Fathers and defended by policymakers, citizens, and religious leaders alike.

However, over-reaching government and a growing disregard for the role of faith in public life have led to increasing erosions of religious liberty. Together we stand in defiance of any edict that compels our institutions to participate in any act that impedes our ability to freely worship or to act in accordance with a particular faith without fear of government reprisal.

6. Limited Government

We emphatically reject today's welfare and regulatory state. "We the people" demand less of our federal government rather than more. We commit ourselves as a nation to the principles and policies of a limited federal government and to the recovery of our Founders' vision of a government that secures our rights. We insist that for government to play its proper role, it must be properly limited in its role.

Government must perform its proper responsibilities effectively through the three distinct branches of federal government, through all 50 states and through thousands of counties and local municipalities. We demand that the government recognize the clear constitutional limits to its powers.

OUR PLEDGE

As individuals, we sign our names in full support of the above principles.

Together, we represent a unified front to support America's foundational ideals. We reject the progressive efforts to dismantle our nation's foundations and will work tirelessly for the restoration of our constitutional republic.