



COLLEEN HOLCOMB
PRESIDENT

Leading the Conservative Movement since 1972

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June 8, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel
Republican National Committee
310 First Street SE
Washington, D.C. 20003

CC: White House Chief of Staff., The Honorable Mark Meadows

Dear President Trump & Chairwoman McDaniel:

As the Republican National Committee considers plans for a National Convention amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, we, The Eagle Forum, commend you for taking the bold step of moving the convention to ensure full participation. We appreciate your leadership on this matter during these uncertain times.

Yet, there have been concerns about grassroots participation being limited as once again the quadrennial alarm bells warning of efforts to re-structure the GOP Platform are ringing. In a recent news article, there were details of a secret, ongoing effort to completely overhaul the current Republican Party Platform. Ideas that include simplifying the platform to a one-page document..

We are thrilled to see that, thanks to President Trump, the Republican party is growing, and we agree with the notion that the Party might benefit from a short, succinct description of what it means to be a Republican. We suggest that something like the Republican Party of Virginia's Creed might be helpful (a copy is enclosed for your reference). It consists of 93 words, and succinctly addresses the Party's overarching principals such as equal rights, fiscal responsibility, Constitutional limitation, national defense, and faith in God.

But, even with a simplified statement, the full Platform is still essential for guiding policy, holding legislators accountable, and for distinguishing policy differences between Republicans and Democrats.

Demolishing the Platform will result in devastating division within the party. We respectfully request that all efforts to streamline the overall Platform, which has been forged over more than a century of committed grassroots activism, be resisted.

The Republican Party Platform has long been revered as a reflection of the views held by grassroots Republicans from throughout the country. As noted by Eagle Forum Founder Phyllis Schlafly, who is widely-regarded as the godmother of the conservative movement, the process of electing delegates to the RNC Platform committee "is a very democratic (small d) process."

In addition to being democratic, the process of getting elected to the Platform Committee is often very tedious. The delegates to the Platform Committee tend to be true believers who are willing to put in the hard work necessary to get elected to a thankless position because they are more interested in protecting the heart and soul of the Party, than in positions that get more attention and glory.

For decades, Phyllis Schlafly and her associates took on the battle to protect the Party Platform, and worked to organize like-minded unsung heroes from throughout the country to ensure that the Platform reflected grassroots ideals. This often put Schlafly and her allies at odds with some of the most powerful political forces and special interests in the country. Yet, those motivated by principle, and not politics or power, could not be moved or intimidated. Time and time again, the grassroots prevailed.

Mr. President, during your 2016 eulogy for Mrs. Schlafly, you spoke of her unique commitment to taking on vital, but seemingly impossible, battles like protecting the Republican Party Platform. You honored Phyllis' belief in "the idea that so-called little people or the little person that she loved so much could beat the, often times rigged, system." You went on to note that Schlafly believed, "That the American grassroots is more powerful than all of the world's special interests put together." Thus, we respectfully request that you maintain the historic Platform as the grassroots' expression of policy preferences.

Schlafly endorsed then-Presidential candidate Trump on the basis of your pledge to uphold the 2012 Platform. We are deeply grateful that you have kept your promise to uphold the Platform through your policies, and we urge you to protect the Platform itself, so it can continue to empower the grassroots with a standard by which they can evaluate candidates and hold legislators accountable.

On behalf of Eagle Forum and the thousands of families we represent throughout the country, we thank you, President Trump and Chairwoman McDaniel, for making sure that wherever the RNC Convention takes place, the grassroots are able to fully participate. And, we respectfully submit that this can only happen if the integrity of the historic Platform and Platform writing process are both upheld.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me at my office:
757-277-4848.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colleen Holcomb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Colleen Holcomb,
President
Eagle Forum

Virginia Republican Creed

We Believe

- That the free enterprise system is the most productive supplier of human needs and economic justice
- That all individuals are entitled to equal rights, justice, and opportunities and should assume their responsibilities as citizens in a free society
- That fiscal responsibility and budgetary restraints must be exercised at all levels of government
- That the Federal Government must preserve individual liberty by observing Constitutional limitations
- That peace is best preserved through a strong national defense
- That faith in God, as recognized by our Founding Fathers is essential to the moral fiber of the Nation