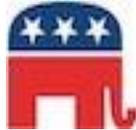


Republican and Democratic Points of View



In the spirit of reducing divisiveness and finding common ground between our country's two major parties, we invited Rossmoor leaders of each party to share their views on five major issues. They are **Ed Manning, President of the Republican Club of Rossmoor**, and **Katha Hartley, First Vice President of the Democrats of Rossmoor**. The text from each has not been edited and appears exactly as written by each.



Environment



Republicans have great respect for the God-given natural beauty and resources of our country. It was under a Republican administration that the Environmental Protection Agency was established. It also will be under Republicans that the EPA's over-zealous regulations are dialed back.

We firmly believe environmental problems are best solved by giving incentives for human ingenuity and the development of new technologies, not through top-down, command-and-control regulations that stifle economic growth and cost thousands of jobs.

Full implementation of the Paris accord has negligible environmental benefits. Using the Model for the Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Induced Climate Change, developed by the National Center for Atmospheric Research, even if all carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S. were eliminated, there would be less than two-tenths of a degree Celsius reduction in global temperatures.



- Nationwide, by 2030, the Clean Power Plan would have cut carbon pollution from the power sector by approximately 30 percent from 2005 levels. It would have reduced pollutants that contribute to the soot and smog that make people sick by over 25 percent.
- These reductions were projected to lead to climate and health benefits worth an estimated \$55 billion to \$93 billion per year in 2030. This includes avoiding 2,700 to 6,600 premature deaths and 140,000 to 150,000 asthma attacks in children.
- Coal is a dying industry. Alternative energy employs hundreds of thousands more and is the answer.

Budget

Our values are reflected in how we spend our money and time. The Trump budget message is "up with defense and nationalism" "down with anything smacking of social enrichment or social protection" like the Community Development Block Grant, \$1B in HUD programs aimed at low-income/affordable housing, programs for low-income college students, Pell Grants, teacher training, the Labor Department's \$2.5B for senior (displaced older workers) and disadvantaged youth job training, Meals on Wheels, After School Programs, WIC nutrition programs, the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program, PBS, NEA.



We will not spend to mitigate against climate change or help refugees. Instead, we will value (spend our money and time) a \$52B increase to our defense budget and a \$2B allocation for a border wall (the one that Mexico won't pay for). Justice and morality are the victims.



President Trump's proposed budget was met with screams of horror since it called for \$54 billion in cuts to domestic spending. Little was reported, however, that 2017 domestic spending would be **20%** higher than it was in the year 2000. Budget Director Mick Mulvaney reminded everyone: "We're trying to focus on both the recipients of the money and the folks who give us the money in the first place."

One fact that was not heard from the opponents of the budget was "\$20 trillion in federal debt." Just servicing this debt, at today's low interest rates, will cost taxpayers \$270 billion per year! Isn't it prudent for Congress to periodically scrutinize federal spending? Isn't it prudent to determine if agencies and programs are achieving their designed purpose at a reasonable cost?

Americans donated \$17 billion to support the arts last year. Why does the NEA need \$148 million more from taxpayers? Is it outrageous to think that public broadcasting can support itself?

President Trump's proposals will force Congress and the taxpayers to reconsider the benefits and costs of continuing certain domestic programs. It must be noted that Social Security and Medicare, the elephants in the room, were not touched.

Immigration



Immigration reform is necessary. Like every other public policy, it should benefit first and foremost the American people. It should not operate, as it currently does, to benefit political and economic elite who have total disregard for the needs, interests, and security of the average U.S. citizen. These elitists tell us that any restriction of immigration is either xenophobic or economic suicide.

Congress should restrict immigration to the minimum to meet our country's needs. America's immigration policy must serve the national interest of the United States, and the interests of American workers must be protected over the claims of foreign nationals seeking the same jobs.

Republicans oppose any form of amnesty for those who, by breaking the law, have disadvantaged those who have obeyed. America's immigration policy must serve the national interest of the United States. The executive amnesties of 2012 and 2014 are a direct violation of federal law and usurp the powers of Congress as outlined in Article I of the Constitution.

Laws against illegal immigration must be enforced if they are going to act as a deterrent. The Jordan Commission said it best in its 1995 call to Congress: "Credibility in immigration policy can be summed up in one sentence: those who should get in, get in; those who should be kept out, are kept out; and those who should not be here will be required to leave."



Now many Americans think "immigration" means "deport or ban." Targets: Mexicans and Muslims. 1 in 3 Americans inaccurately think most Hispanics are undocumented.

Facts: Of the 55M Hispanics living in the U.S., 35.2M are of Mexican descent, 5.8M are undocumented. Of those 5.8M, 66% have lived here for more than 10 years. 26% are farmworkers (think Central Valley), 15% do construction, the rest perform service jobs (e.g., cleaners and gardeners). 29.4M people of Mexican

descent are either citizens or legal residents. The other 5.4M “undocumented” come from Europe, Canada, China, Central and South America, Africa. Facts: Not one of the 9/11 terrorists came from the Muslim countries on the new immigration ban. Terrorists in the U.S. (not counting KKK killers or gun-toting hate mongers) and most in Europe are homegrown. We need to counter radicalization, vet and welcome suffering refugees, a guest worker program, and paths to citizenship.

Education



Fortunate the child born to educated, working parents living in an affluent school district. For the rest and for them we must assure quality education – “the great equalizer” and the most pressing economic issue in a global economy. That education must begin in early childhood – all four-year-olds (and younger if possible) must have access to quality preschool. All schools (traditional public or charter) must be held to high standards and accountability. Educators must be given salary increases, opportunities for professional growth, resources, and fact-based curricula. (California is facing a teacher shortage.) We must provide “debt-free college” and vocational training through Federal and State reinvestment programs and policies. The future of the country is at stake.



Republicans reject a one-size-fits-all approach to education and support a broad range of choices for parents and children at the state and local level. We likewise repeat our longstanding opposition to the imposition of national standards and assessments. We encourage the parents and educators who are implementing alternatives to Common Core, and congratulate the states which have successfully repealed it.

Since 1965, the federal government, through more than 100 programs in the Department of Education, has spent \$2 trillion on elementary and secondary education with little substantial improvement in academic achievement or high school graduation rates. The United States spends an average of more than \$12,000 per pupil per year in public schools, for a total of more than \$620 billion. More money alone does not necessarily equal better performance, as California demonstrates.

Republicans know what actually has made a difference in student advancement. We support choice in education; building on the basics; STEM subjects and phonics; career and technical education; ending social promotions; merit pay for good teachers; classroom discipline; parental involvement; and strong leadership by principals, superintendents, and locally elected school boards. Because technology has become an essential tool of learning, it must be a key element in our efforts to provide every child equal access and opportunity. We strongly encourage instruction in American history and civics by using the original documents of our founding fathers.

Health Care



The Republicans first attempt to “repeal and replace” Obamacare can only be considered a failure. But that does not mean that repeal should not happen in the future.

Medicare’s long term debt is in the trillions and it is funded by a shrinking workforce relative to the size of future beneficiaries. Obamacare worsened the situation – and imperiled seniors – by imposing billions of dollars in cuts to Medicare providers to pay for its new spending. More and more doctors are refusing to take new patients on Medicare.

Going forward, health insurance should be sold across state lines. Premiums should be made deductible from taxes to the individual vs. employer’s taking the write-off. Health savings accounts should be expanded.

Get bureaucrats out of being between citizens and their doctors. Stop telling lies: "If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. If you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan. "

In 2017, before taxpayer-provided subsidies, premiums for a mid-level benchmark plan will increase an average of 25 percent across the 39 states served by the federally run online market, per a report from the Department of Health and Human Services. Obama promised to reduce family premiums by \$2500.

 When the CBO reported that Trump Care would raise premiums, deductibles, and out of pocket costs, would push 24 million off their health care, impose an age tax on Americans aged 50–64, undermine Medicare, and reduce Medicaid coverage, the American people reacted. The proposal was met with a resounding "NO!" Healthcare is a value proposition and a dilemma. One group believes it is a right, the other believes it is a privilege.

The ACA was always improvable, just as Social Security and Medicare were refined and improved. The truth is that Republican opponents worked to put the ACA on life-support, but when faced with the realization that Americans want health care, not access, they had to retreat. Now we need across-the-aisle collaboration to improve the ACA and provide health care for all. No wonder Californians are serious about Health Care for All California.