

PUTNAM COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NATIONAL ISSUES SURVEY

CHECKLIST			ISSUES STATEMENTS
Highest	Disagree	Number	Statement
			Restoring the American Dream
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Rebuilding the Economy and Creating Jobs. Government cannot create prosperity, though government can limit or destroy it.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Fair and Simple Taxes for Growth. More than any other public policy, the way government raises revenue...has the greatest impact on our economy's performance...We oppose retroactive taxation...We oppose tax policies that deliberately divide Americans or promote class warfare...To guard against hyper taxation of the American people in any restructuring of the federal tax system, any value added tax or national sales tax must be tied to the simultaneous repeal of the 16th Amendment, which established the federal income tax...We believe American companies should be headquartered in America. We should reduce barriers to accomplishing that goal.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	A Winning Trade Policy. We need better negotiated trade agreements that put America first.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Freeing Financial Markets. Repeal the Dodd-Frank Act. Republicans believe that no financial institution is too big to fail. We endorse prudent regulation of the banking system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Responsible Homeownership and Rental Opportunities. We believe that sound public policies can restore growth to our economy, vigor to the housing market, and hope to those who are now on the margins of prosperity...We will end government mandates that required Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and federally insured banks to satisfy lending quotas to specific groups. Zoning decisions have always been, and must remain, under local control.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Transportation. We propose to remove from the Highway Trust Fund programs that should not be the business of the federal government [mass transit, bike-share, recreational trails, landscaping, and historical renovations]...Repeal the Davis-Bacon law, which limits employment and drives up construction and maintenance costs...we will remove legal roadblocks to public-private partnership agreements...[and] end federal support for boondoggles.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Technology. We envision government at all levels as a partner with individuals and industries in technological progress, not a meddlesome monitor...Government must keep pace with the technology deployed in the private sector.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Small Business. Their enterprise is the lifeblood of our economy, but it is weakening...We should reduce the occupational licensing laws that shut untold millions of potential workers out of entrepreneurial careers. We must overturn the regulatory nightmare created by Dodd-Frank. We must challenge established interests and traditional business patterns to facilitate market entry of new business models.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	The Federal Reserve. The first step is through an annual audit of the Federal Reserve's activities...We propose [setting up a] commission to investigate ways to set a fixed value for the dollar.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Workplace Freedom. [Labor law] should encourage cooperation between management and workers, not conflict...Republicans believe that the employer-employee relationship of the future will be built upon employee empowerment and workplace flexibility...Minimum wage is an issue that should be handled at the state and local level...A Republican administration should streamline personnel procedures to expedite the firing of bad workers, tax cheats, and scammers. The unionization of the federal workforce...should be reviewed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Reducing the Federal Debt. A strong economy is one key to debt reduction, but spending restraint is a necessary component that must be vigorously pursued.
			A Rebirth of Constitutional Government
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	We the People. We reaffirm the Constitution's fundamental principles: limited government, separation of powers, individual liberty, and the rule of law...More than 90% of federal requirements are now imposed by regulatory agencies, without any vote of [Congress] or signature of the President...In a free society, the primary role of government is to protect the God-given, inalienable rights of its citizens...Our most urgent task as a Party is to restore the American people's faith in their government...

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Judiciary. We...support the appointment of justices and judges who respect the constitutional limits on their power and respect the authority of the states to decide...fundamental social questions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Bill of Rights. Our First Amendment rights are not given to us by the government but are rights we inherently possess. The government cannot use subsequent amendments to limit First Amendment Rights...
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15	We uphold the right of individuals to keep and bear arms, a natural inalienable right that predates the Constitution and is secured by the Second Amendment...
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16	We call for strict limitations on the use of aerial surveillance on U.S. Soil...We oppose any attempts by government to require surveillance devices in our daily lives...[or] warrantless seizure of personal financial information...
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	17	We assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed...
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	18	We [support] the Private Property Rights Protection Act...[and] reforms to protect law-abiding citizens against abusive asset forfeiture tactics...
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	19	We welcome to our ranks all citizens who are determined to reclaim the rights of the people that have been ignored or usurped by the federal and intrusive state governments...Every violation of state sovereignty by federal officials is...an assault on the liberties of individual Americans...We call [to] eliminate this system of conditioned grants so that state and local taxpayers can decide for themselves what is best for their own communities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	Honest Elections. We oppose the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and any other scheme to abolish or distort the procedures of the Electoral College...We support legislation to require proof of citizenship when registering to vote and secure photo ID when voting...We urge that electronic voting systems have a voter-verified paper audit trail...We [want] to ensure that citizenship, rather than mere residency, be made the basis for the apportionment of representatives among the states.
			America's Natural Resources: Agriculture, Energy, and the Environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	21	Abundant Harvests. We remain committed to expanding trade opportunities and opening new markets for agriculture...We will not tolerate the use of bogus science and scare tactics to bar our products from foreign markets, nor will we allow insufficient health and safety standards for products imported for our consumption...We must ensure that domestic policies do not compromise our global competitiveness through overregulation and undue interference in the marketplace...We remain committed to conservation policies based on the preservation, not the restriction, of working lands...We believe in promoting active, sustainable management of our forests and that states can best manage our forests to improve forest health and keep communities safe.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	22	A New Era in Energy. The more we know what we will have in the future, the better we can decide how to use it. That is why we support the opening of public lands and the outer continental shelf to exploration and responsible production...Because we believe states can best promote economic growth while protecting the environment, Congress should give authority to state regulators to manage energy resources on federally controlled public lands within their respective borders...Government should not play favorites among energy producers...We oppose any carbon tax...Energy is both an economic and national security issue. We support [an] increase in domestic energy production...to counter market manipulation by OPEC and other nationally owned oil companies.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	23	Environmental Progress. Conservation is inherent in conservatism...We assert that private ownership has been the best guarantee of conscientious stewardship, while some of the worst instances of degradation have occurred under government control. Poverty, not wealth, is the gravest threat to the environment, while steady economic growth brings the technological advances which make environmental progress possible...We propose to shift responsibility for environmental regulation from the federal bureaucracy to the states...We will enforce the original intent of the Clean Water Act [and] Clean Air Act...[We] shall immediately pass universal legislation providing for a timely and orderly mechanism requiring the federal government to convey certain federally controlled public lands to the states...Information concerning a changing climate...must be based on dispassionate analysis of hard data.
			Government Reform
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	24	Making Government Work for the People. Much of what the federal government does can be improved, much should be replaced, and much needs to be done away with or returned to the states.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	25	Balancing the Budget. The Republican path to fiscal sanity and economic expansion begins with a constitutional requirement for a federal balanced budget...Republican budgets will prioritize thrift over extravagance and put taxpayers first.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	26	Preserving Medicare and Medicaid. We propose these reforms: impose no changes for persons 55 or older. Give others the option of traditional Medicare or transition to a premium-support model. Guarantee to every enrollee an income-adjusted contribution toward a plan of their choice, with catastrophic protection...set a more realistic age for eligibility in light of today's longer life span...We will give [governors] a free hand to [modernize Medicaid] by block-granting the program without strings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	27	Saving Social Security. Of the many reforms being proposed, all options should be considered to preserve Social Security. As Republicans, we oppose tax increases and believe in the power of markets to create wealth and to help secure the future of our Social Security system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	28	Protecting Internet Freedom. The survival of the internet as we know it is at risk...We will consistently support internet policies that allow people and private enterprise to thrive, without providing new and expanded government powers to tax and regulate...The internet's free market needs to be free and open to all ideas and competition without the government or service providers picking winners and losers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	29	Immigration and the Rule of Law. Our immigration system must protect American working families and their wages, for citizens and legal immigrants alike, in a way that will improve the economy...We have watched, in anger and disgust, the mocking of our immigration laws by a president who made himself superior to the will of the nation. We stand with the victims of his policies, especially the families of murdered innocents. Illegal immigration endangers everyone, exploits the taxpayers, and insults all who aspire to enter America legally. We oppose any form of amnesty for those who, by breaking the law, have disadvantaged those who have obeyed the law...That is why we support building a wall along our southern border and protecting all ports of entry...Asylum should be limited to cases of political, ethnic or religious persecution... Refugees who cannot be carefully vetted cannot be admitted to the country.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30	Reforming the Treaty System. We intend to restore the treaty system specified by the Constitution: the president negotiates agreements, submits them to the Senate, with ratification requiring two-thirds of the senators present and voting.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	31	Internal Revenue Service. Many good civil servants work at the IRS, but the agency itself is toxic. We support repeal of the Johnson Amendment, which restricts First Amendment freedoms of all nonprofit organizations by prohibiting political speech. We also support making the federal tax code so simple and easy to understand that the IRS becomes obsolete and can be abolished.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	32	Audit the Pentagon. Every taxpayer must be prepared to pass an audit, and we urge Congress to demand the same level of accountability from the Pentagon and the Dept of Defense.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	33	Improve the Federal Workforce. None...should ever be compelled to join a union or pay dues to it...The inability of federal managers to discipline and, if necessary dismiss problem staff members is an affront to every conscientious worker, as is the misuse of funds for lavish conferences and routine bonuses...We call for renewed efforts to reduce, rather than expand, government responsibilities, and we urge particular attention to the bloated public relations budgets of the departments and agencies.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	34	Advancing Term Limits. Our national platform has repeatedly endorsed term limits for members of Congress...To advance a constitutional amendment for consideration by the states, we must expand the current Republican majorities in both chambers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	35	Regulation: The Quiet Tyranny. Over-regulation is the quiet tyranny of the "Nanny State"...We are determined to make regulations minimally intrusive, confined to their legal mandate, and respectful toward the creation of new and small businesses. We will revisit existing laws that delegate too much authority to regulatory agencies and review all current regulations for possible reform or repeal.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	36	Crony Capitalism and Corporate Welfare. When government uses taxpayer funding and resources to give special advantages to private companies, it distorts the free market and erodes public trust in our political system...We applaud the Republican[s] who have taken the lead in fighting crony capitalism.
Great American Families, Education, Healthcare, and Criminal Justice			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	37	Marriage, Family, and Society. We have learned over the last five decades, the loss of faith and family life leads to greater dependence upon government. That is why Republicans formulate public policy...with attention to the needs and strengths of the family.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	38	A Culture of Hope. We have been fighting the War on Poverty for 50 years and poverty is winning. Republicans propose to evaluate a poverty program by whether it actually reduces poverty and increases the personal independence of its participants.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	39	Education: A Chance for Every Child. Education is much more than schooling...It is the handing over of a cultural identity...The federal government should not be a partner in that effort, as the Constitution gives it no role in education...
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	40	Title IX. We emphatically support the original, authentic meaning of Title IX...To impose a social and cultural revolution upon the American people by wrongly redefining sex discrimination to include sexual orientation...has nothing to do with individual rights; it has everything to do with power.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	41	Improving Higher Education. A student's First Amendment rights do not end at the schoolhouse gates. Colleges, universities, and trade schools must not infringe on their freedom of speech and association in the name of political correctness...The federal government should not be in the business of originating student loans...private sector participation in student financing should be restored. Any regulation that increases college costs must be challenged.. Accreditation should be decoupled from federal financing, and states should be empowered to allow a wide array of accrediting and credentialing bodies to operate.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	42	Restoring Patient Control and Preserving Quality in Healthcare. Any honest agenda for improving healthcare must start with repeal of...Obamacare...In its place we must combine what worked best in the past with changes needed for the future...To simplify the system for both patients and providers, we will reduce mandates...We will return to the states their historic role of regulating local insurance markets...and call on state officials to reconsider their costly medical mandates...We propose to block grant Medicaid and other payments...We will promote price transparency...We will empower individuals and small businesses to form purchasing pools in order to expand coverage to the uninsured...We look to the growth of Health Savings Accounts...We will make homecare a priority in public policy.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	43	Protecting Individual Conscience in Healthcare. We respect the rights of conscience of healthcare professionals...We support the ability of all organizations to provide healthcare coverage consistent with their religious, moral, or ethical convictions...We support the right of parents to determine the proper medical treatment and therapy for their minor children...American taxpayers should not be forced to fund abortion.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44	Tort Reform. We support state and federal legislation to cap non-economic damages in medical malpractice lawsuits.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	45	Advancing Research and Development in Healthcare. We call for expanded support for the stem cell research that now offers the greatest hope for many afflictions...without the destruction of embryonic human life. We urge a ban on human cloning...or experimentation on human embryos for research.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	46	Reforming the FDA. We pledge to restore the FDA to its position as the premier scientific health agency, focused on both promoting and protecting the public health in equal measure.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	47	Ensuring Safe Neighborhoods: Criminal Justice and Prison Reform. We recommit ourselves, as individuals and as a party, to the rule of law and the pursuit of justice...Two grave problems undermine the rule of law on the federal level: over-criminalization and over-federalization...The power of career civil servants and political appointees to criminalize behavior is one of the worst violations of constitutional order perpetrated by the administrative state. To deal with this morass, we urge caution in the creation of new “crimes” and a bipartisan presidential commission to purge the Code and the body of regulations of old “crimes”...Public officials must regain control of their correctional institutions...We encourage states to offer opportunities for literacy and vocational education...Breaking the cycle of crime begins with the children of those who are prisoners...The internet must not become a safe haven for predators...We urge energetic prosecution of child pornography, which is closely linked to human trafficking.
			America Resurgent
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	48	Confronting the Dangers. George Washington wisely reminded us that “To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace.” Republicans continue to support American military superiority...We must rebuild troop numbers and readiness and confirm their mission: protecting the nation, not nation building...To keep our people safe, we must secure our borders, enforce our immigration laws, and properly screen refugees and other immigrants entering from any country.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	49	Supporting Our Troops. America’s incredible talent and ingenuity must be unleashed by modernizing the military procurement system and embracing competition among traditional and non-traditional suppliers...Military families must be assured of the pay, healthcare, housing, education, and overall support they have earned...We oppose the reinstatement of the draft, except in dire circumstances like world war... We reject the use of the military as a platform for social experimentation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50	America: The Indispensable Nation. We affirm our party’s tradition of world leadership established by President Eisenhower...It stands for enormous power—and the prudence to use it sparingly, precisely, and only in grave necessity. It stands for involvement, not intervention. It requires consultation, not permission to act. It leads from the front—and ensures all others do their parts as well...A Republican administration will restore our nation’s credibility. We must stand up for our friends, challenge our foes...
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	51	We continue to support the Kurdish people...
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	52	It is the responsibility of our government to advance policies that reflect Americans’ strong desire for a relationship with no daylight between America and Israel...
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	53	We salute the people of Taiwan...and we affirm the Six Assurances given to Taiwan in 1982 by President Reagan...
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	54	The liberalizing policies of [China in] recent decades have been abruptly reversed...For any American company to abet those offenses, especially government censorship and tracking of dissenters, is a disgrace...We caution against academic or cultural operations under the control of the Chinese government and call upon American colleges to dissociate themselves from this increasing threat to academic freedom and honest research...
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	55	We demand, as we have in the past, that our fellow members of NATO fulfill their commitments and meet their need for greater investment in their armed forces.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	56	For the people of Russia, we affirm our respect and our determination to maintain a friendship beyond the reach of those who wish to divide us...We will meet the return of Russian belligerence with the same resolve that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. We will not accept any territorial change in Eastern Europe imposed by force, in Ukraine, Georgia, or elsewhere,,,
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	57	[Republicans] will never embrace a Marxist dictator, in Venezuela or anywhere else...We affirm our friendship and admiration for the people of Columbia...with their decades-long fight against the terrorist FARC. We support the work of the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba,
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	58	We stand in solidarity with those African countries now under assault by the forces of radical Islam.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	59	Our continued participation in the United Nations should be contingent upon the enactment of long-overdue changes in the way that institution functions...We oppose ratification of international agreements whose long-range implications are ominous or unclear...The Republican Party does not accept the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court...Our service members must be subject only to American law.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	60	The integrity of our country's foreign assistance program has been compromised...We pledge to reverse this course, encouraging more involvement by the most effective aid organizations and trusting developing peoples to build their futures through their own values.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	61	The United States needs a radical rethinking of our human rights diplomacy. A Republican administration will adopt a "whole of government" approach to protect fundamental freedoms globally...integrated at every appropriate level of our bilateral relationships and strategic decision-making.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	62	Combatting Human Trafficking. As an estimated 21 million people worldwide are trapped in modern day slavery, we are reminded to be vigilant against human trafficking in whatever form it appears...We will use the full force of the law against those who engage in commercial sexual exploitation and forced or bonded labor...The goal of our domestic anti-trafficking programs should be the rescue and safe return of victims to their homes, not creating a long-term dependency upon public support...We call for greater scrutiny of overseas labor contractors to prevent abuses against temporary foreign workers brought to the U.S...The horrific deaths of smuggled workers...at the hands of drug cartels and other gangs highlight the need for total [border] security...
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	63	Protection Against an Electromagnetic Pulse. Since homeland security is a government responsibility...enact Republican legislation, pending in both chambers, to protect the national grid.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	64	Confronting Internet Tyranny. Internet firewall circumvention and anti-censorship technology must become a national priority in light of the way authoritarian governments...restrict free press and isolate their people limiting political, cultural, and religious freedom...A Republican administration will champion an open and free internet based on principles of free expression and universal values.