

LIMITED GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Lehigh Valley 9-12 Project/Tea Party Group believes in the fundamental principles of limited constitutional government and unalienable individual rights; and

Whereas, the excessive growth of government power and spending is morally and fiscally irresponsible which endangers liberty and creates an unsustainable political and financial future for the United States of America and its citizens; and

Whereas, both major political parties and their elected officials must act promptly to implement legislation that embraces the philosophy of limited, constitutional government and promotes liberty and fiscal responsibility; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That government authority is limited to few and well defined powers as proscribed by the United States Constitution and the Pennsylvania Constitution; and

Resolved, that the primary function of government shall be the protection of our borders and our sovereignty as a nation and a people and to provide for the security of our persons and property consistent with our unalienable individual rights; and

Resolved, That much of the present governmental regulatory agencies, powers and regulations are excessive interferences in the free markets and should be greatly reduced and not expanded; and

Resolved, That an operating deficit shall never be approved for any government entity except in cases of legislatively declared emergencies in situations of war, insurrection or natural disaster, and such deficit spending shall only be for the declared emergency; and

Resolved, That taxes shall not be increased nor shall new taxes be implemented and that the total tax burden must be reduced by enacting responsible spending cuts and improving operational efficiencies of government; and

Resolved, That spending shall only increase at the rate of the consumer price index and/or real wage growth and for population changes; and

Resolved, That borrowed monies, or proceeds from any refinancing, shall never be counted as “revenues” or counted as an offset to operating budget deficits except as it is simultaneously allocated as a direct expenditure; and

Resolved, That if it is viewed as necessary to create or expand a government program, then such shall be financed by spending reductions in or elimination of existing failing programs or programs of lesser priority; and

Resolved, That refinancing of existing debt shall only be approved when it reduces total debt obligation in current dollars; and

Resolved, That public debt must be reduced and not increased; and

Resolved, That this resolution shall be communicated to the Lehigh County Republican and Democrat Party Committees and Northampton County Republican and Democrat Party Committees, and every local, state and federal elected official whose district is wholly or partially within Lehigh and Northampton Counties and they shall be urged to apply these principles to all public policy decisions.

Limited Government Governing Pledge

The Limited Government Resolution defines four basic principles:

- 1) Taxes must be lowered; holding the line on taxes is not good enough and increasing or enacting new taxes are unacceptable.
 - 2) Government must not engage in deficit spending because we can no longer live beyond our means.
 - 3) Public debt must be decreased and not increased.
 - 4) Governmental power, authority and regulatory functions must be reduced; not increased.
- WE, as citizens and taxpayers, ask that all elected officials govern by these common sense principles.
 - These principles should apply to **all** public policy decisions and **all** legislative and executive acts.
 - This is not a campaign pledge, but instead, a ***governing*** pledge.
 - WE will review all legislative and executive acts and rate all elected officials based on these simple principles.
 - All signers shall be acknowledged as supporters of the Limited Government Resolution.
 - No response will be rated as a “No” for support of the Limited Government Resolution.

I, _____ (print), as an elected official in the position of _____, will adhere and apply the principles of the Limited Government Resolution to all decisions and acts I make as an elected official.

SIGNATURE: _____

OFFICE: _____

DATE: _____

Mailing Address: The Lehigh Valley 9-12/Tea Party Group, PO BOX 734, Fogelsville PA 18051