



TechElect's Six Steps to Jobs, Prosperity, and Innovation Highlighted in the Republican Party Platform

TechElect is centered on six commonsense steps with demonstrated bipartisan support as the foundation for sustainable job creation and economic growth. We've built the case for these priorities and talked directly with policymakers and candidates about ways to move these from ideas to reality.

At the Republican National Convention in Tampa, delegates [adopted a party platform](#) that addresses each of the Six Steps.

TechElect Step 1: Boost math, science, and engineering skills in our students and protect America's technological leadership through strategic investments in scientific research.

U.S. math and science scores are on the decline, and America's economic leadership in the world is threatened. Focusing on STEM will build the highly skilled workforce the U.S. needs to create jobs and economic growth in every sector of the economy. And we need to ensure that our colleges and universities have support for the basic research needed to drive innovation and breakthrough discoveries to create new industries and fuel economic growth. The next generation of innovation should be stamped, "Made in the U.S.A."

Republican Party Platform: We advocate the policies and methods that have proven effective: building on the basics, especially STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and math) and phonics; 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, proper implementation of technology is a key factor in providing every child equal access and opportunity (pages 35-36).

New models for acquiring advanced skills will be ever more important in the rapidly changing economy of the twenty-first century, especially in science, technology, engineering, and math. Public policy should advance the affordability, innovation, and transparency needed to address all these challenges and to make accessible to everyone the emerging alternatives, with their lower cost degrees, to traditional college attendance (page 37).

We also support federal investment in basic and applied biomedical research, especially the neuroscience research that may hold great potential for dealing with diseases and disorders such as Autism, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's (page 34).

TechElect Step 2: Strengthen incentives to help the United States boost job creation, and protect America's place as the global leader in innovation for decades to come.

America's global leadership in innovation is jeopardized because our policymakers are letting international competitors pass us. They recognize that tax laws are an economic development tool, and modernized their codes to fuel investment, attract companies, and create jobs for their people. It's time for our policymakers to do the same. We need to lower the corporate tax rate and reduce costly complexity. We should move to a competitive territorial system as our major trading partners have done, and implement competitive innovation incentives to encourage robust job creation and promote investment here at home.

Republican Party Platform: To level the international playing field, and to spur job creation here at home, we call for a reduction of the corporate rate to keep U.S. corporations competitive internationally, with a permanent research and development tax credit, and a repeal of the corporate alternative minimum tax. We also support the recommendation of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, as well as the current President's Export Council, to switch to a territorial system of corporate taxation, so that profits earned and taxed abroad may be repatriated for job-creating investment here at home without additional penalty (page 2).

TechElect Step 3: Expand the use of innovative technologies to increase U.S. energy security and create new jobs. Innovative technologies can help to free the U.S. from its reliance on foreign energy. These technologies, developed through private/public partnerships, can increase productivity, cut down on overall energy usage, and improve the efficiency of domestic energy sources. The federal government should help to drive the marketplace through procurement policies that reward "Smart" solutions, sustainable products and technological advances.

Republican Party Platform: The most powerful environmental policy is liberty, the central organizing principle of the American Republic and its people. Liberty alone fosters scientific inquiry, technological innovation, entrepreneurship, and information exchange. Liberty must remain the core energy behind America's environmental improvement (page 19).

We encourage the cost-effective development of renewable energy, but the taxpayers should not serve as venture capitalists for risky endeavors. It is important to create a pathway toward a market-based approach for renewable energy sources and to aggressively develop alternative sources for electricity generation such as wind, hydro, solar, biomass, geothermal, and tidal energy. Partnerships between traditional energy industries and emerging renewable industries can be a central component in meeting the nation's long-term needs. Alternative forms of energy are part of our action agenda to power the homes and workplaces of the nation (page 16).

TechElect Step 4: Promote greater access to foreign markets. With roughly 95 percent of consumers living outside the United States, we need greater access to the emerging markets. Building on the bipartisan Colombia, Panama, and South Korea trade agreements, we can forge even more ambitious trade pacts with other countries to create tens of thousands of new jobs and open new markets to U.S. companies.

Republican Party Platform: This worldwide explosion of trade has had a downside, however, as some governments have used a variety of unfair means to limit American access to their markets while stealing our designs, patents, brands, know-how, and technology — the “intellectual property” that drives innovation . . . Punitive measures will be imposed on foreign firms that misappropriate American technology and intellectual property (page 6).

A Republican President will complete negotiations for a Trans-Pacific Partnership to open rapidly developing Asian markets to U.S. products. Beyond that, we envision a worldwide multilateral agreement among nations committed to the principles of open markets, what has been called a “Reagan Economic Zone,” in which free trade will truly be fair trade for all concerned (page 7).

Russia should be granted Permanent Normal Trade Relations, but not without sanctions on Russian officials who have used the government to violate human rights. We support enactment of the Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act as a condition of expanded trade relations with Russia (page 49).

TechElect Step 5: Protect America's digital networks through effective cybersecurity partnerships. Our digital networks are moving U.S. products to markets around the world, with global online sales expected to total \$24 trillion by 2020. Predominately owned and operated by the private sector, these networks also manage our electrical grid, guide our trains and planes, and maintain our financial markets. Cybersecurity policies based on partnerships between the public and private sectors will help the Internet remain secure and support robust job growth in the U.S.

Republican Party Platform: The government and private sector must work together to address the cyberthreats posed to the United States, help the free flow of information between network managers, and encourage innovation and investment in cybersecurity. The government must do a better job of protecting its own systems, which contain some of the most sensitive data and control some of our most important facilities. As such, we encourage an immediate update of the law that was drafted a decade ago to improve the security of government information systems. Additionally, we must invest in continuing research to develop cutting-edge cybersecurity technologies to protect the U.S. However, we acknowledge that the most effective way of combating potential cybersecurity threats is sharing cyberthreat information between the government and industry, as well as protecting the free flow of information within the private sector (page 41).

The government collects valuable information about potential threats that can and should be shared with private entities without compromising national security. We believe that companies should be free from legal and regulatory barriers that prevent or deter them from voluntarily sharing cyberthreat information with their government partners (page 42).

TechElect Step 6: As part of overall immigration reform, allow the world's best and brightest minds to call America home. During the next five years, 100,000 immigrants – many with advanced degrees – will leave America and take their innovative ideas and job-creating potential with them. Nearly half of all technology start-ups were founded by immigrants, including companies like Google, Intel, and Qualcomm. We need an immigration system that keeps these bright minds in America to develop products and jobs here, and allows more highly skilled workers to come to our shores to drive innovation and technology growth.

Republican Party Platform: We can accelerate the process of restoring our domestic economy — and reclaiming this country's traditional position of dominance in international trade — by a policy of strategic immigration, granting more work visas to holders of advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math from other nations. Highly educated immigrants can assist in creating new services and products. In the same way, foreign students who graduate from an American university with an advanced degree in science, technology, engineering or math should be encouraged to remain here and contribute to economic prosperity and job creation. Highly skilled, English-speaking, and integrated into their communities, they are too valuable a resource to lose. As in past generations, we should encourage the world's innovators and inventors to create our common future and their permanent homes here in the United States (page 7).

About TechElect

TechElect is a nonpartisan campaign to work with both presidential candidates on ways to create new jobs and new opportunities here in America, anchored in technology and innovation. It brings together the tech sector, business organizations, and grassroots groups under a common charge: to get Americans working again. The campaign is hosted by the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI). Learn more at www.TechElect.org.

###