

[Va., ...]

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Basis Principles of the American Party of Virginia.

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Determined to preserve our political institutions in their original purity and vigor, and to keep them unadulterated and unimpaired by foreign influence, either civil or religious, as well as by home faction and home demagoguism; and believing that an American policy, religious, political, and commercial, necessary for the attainment of these ends, we shall observe and carry out in practice, the following principles:

1. That the suffrages of the American people for political offices, should not be given to any other than those born on our soil, and reared and matured under the influence of our institutions.
2. That no foreigner ought to be allowed to exercise the elective franchise until he shall have resided within the United States a sufficient length of time to enable him to become acquainted with the principles and imbued with the spirit of our institutions, and until he shall have become thoroughly identified with the great interests of our country.
3. That whilst no obstacle should be interposed to the immigration of all foreigners of honest and industrious habits, and all privileges and immunities enjoyed by any native-born citizens of our country should be extended to all such immigrants, except that of participating in any of our political administrations; yet all legal means should be adopted to obstruct and prevent the immigration of the vicious and worthless, the criminal and pauper.
4. That the *American* doctrine of religious toleration, and entire absence of all proscription for opinion's sake, should be cherished as one of the very fundamental principles of our civil freedom, and that any sect or party which believes and maintains that any foreign power, religious or political, has the right to control the conscience or direct the conduct of a freeman, occupies a position which is totally at war with the principles of freedom of opinion, and which is mischievous in its tendency, and which principle, if carried into practice, would prove wholly destructive of our religious and civil liberties.
5. That the Bible in the hands of every free citizen is the only permanent basis of all true liberty and genuine equality.
6. That the intelligence of the people is necessary to the right use and the continuance of our liberties, civil and religious; hence the propriety and importance of the promotion and fostering of all means of moral and intellectual culture by some adequate and permanent provision for general education.
7. That the doctrine of availability, now so prevalent and controlling, in the nomination of candidates for office, in total disregard to all principles of right of truth, and of justice, is essentially wrong, and should be by all good men condemned.
8. That as a general rule, the same restrictions should be prescribed to the exercise of the power of removal from office, as are made necessary to be observed in the power of appointment thereto; and that executive influence and patronage should be scrupulously conferred and jealously guarded.
9. That the sovereignty of the States should be supreme in the exercise of all powers not expressly delegated to the federal government, and which may not be necessary and proper to carry out the powers so delegated, and that this principle should be observed and held sacred in all organizations of the American party.
10. That all sectarian intermeddling with politics or political institutions, coming from whatever source it may, should be promptly resisted by all such means as seem to be necessary and proper for this end.
11. That whilst the perpetuity of the present form of the federal government of the United States is actually necessary for the proper development of all the resources of this country, yet the principle of non-intervention, both on the part of the federal government and of the several States of the Union, in the municipal affairs of each other, is essential to peace and prosperity of our country, and to the well-being and permanence of our institutions, and at the same time, the only reliable bond of brotherhood and union,
12. The red republicanism and licentious indulgence in the enjoyment of civil privileges, are as much to be feared and deprecated by all friends of well-regulated government and true liberty, as any of the forms of monarchy and despotism.
13. That the true interests and welfare of this country, the honor of this nation, the individual and private rights of its citizens, conspire to demand that all other questions arising from party organizations, or from any other source should be held subordinate to and in practice made to yield to the great principles herein promulgated.