

46th District Democrats Platform 2016

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OUR VALUES

We are Democrats, the party of the people. We believe in the Four Freedoms of Franklin Delano Roosevelt: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, freedom from fear. We pledge ourselves to addressing the critical issues of our time: income and racial inequality and climate change. We will restore the American dream with good schools, good jobs, homes and good medical care for all. We are committed to a government that serves and protects its people, with justice for all.

We are dedicated to:

- o Fighting poverty and income inequality
- o Protecting and restoring the environment
- o Quality health care as a human right
- o Equal rights for women
- o Economic justice, with living-wage jobs and fair tax policies
- o Protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid
- o Funding quality public education from preschool to career
- o Fiscal responsibility, integrity, transparency and accountability in government
- o A fair and just judicial system with equal protection under the law
- o A criminal justice system that heals our communities and prepares offenders for reintegration into society
- o Protecting freedom of conscience by upholding the separation of church and state
- o Protecting the right of all Americans to actively participate in our democracy
- o Seeking peace through cooperation

AGRICULTURE

We are the stewards of the land and water that sustains us. We are proud that agriculture – including aquaculture, fisheries, forestry, and other food and fiber production – is a leading industry in Washington State. We support programs and policies that strengthen rural communities, preserve family farms, ensure the availability of high-quality food, and maintain the viability of our land and water resources.

We support:

- 1) Farm supports only in times of crop failure and disasters
- 2) Sustainable agriculture, including aquaculture, fishery and forestry methods
- 3) Organic farming, and we call for non-organic farms to reduce their use of herbicides, pesticides and other toxic materials
- 4) Local farmers' markets
- 5) Encouraging school districts to use local and organic foods in their lunch programs, and teaching students about locally available foods

- 6) Renewable energy production on farms, including solar and wind energy
- 7) Clear food labeling, including genetic modification, irradiation, organic certification, and food origin
- 8) Increasing the reliability and effectiveness of food and livestock inspections by hiring more inspectors
- 9) Prohibiting the privatization of water and promoting equitable, sustainable and fair distribution of water
- 10) Increased efforts to rehabilitate and preserve soil and to conserve habitat
- 11) Protecting wild salmon from the impacts of factory fish farms and watershed pollution
- 12) Removal of the four Snake River Dams as the only way to restore these Native fisheries
- 13) Policies consistent with the Washington State Growth Management Act that preserve agricultural land and natural resource
- 14) Reduction of antibiotic use in livestock production
- 15) Education and encouragement of backyard beekeeping; community support of pollinator habitat

CORPORATE POWER & MEDIA REFORM

Corporations are not people and are not entitled to the constitutional rights of people. The power of money in politics nullifies the people's will and must be drastically reduced. An informed citizenry and persistently inquisitive media are essential for democracy to flourish.

We support:

- 1) Amending the Constitution to firmly establish that corporations are not people and that money is not speech
- 2) Separating investment banking from retail banking and subjecting both to tighter regulation, transparency, and accountability
- 3) Revoking the charters of corporations that repeatedly violate laws or regulations
- 4) Criminal penalties for corporate executives whose companies egregiously violate state or federal laws or regulations
- 5) Strengthening and enforcing laws to provide active protection and restitution for any whistleblowers who lose their livelihoods
- 6) Reforming patent and copyright laws that give corporations undue control through unnecessarily long terms and other tactics

- 7) Increased oversight of companies vital to our economy and environment, such as those in banking and fossil fuel extraction
- 8) Media ownership rules and frequency reservations from the FCC that cultivate localism, encourage a diversity of viewpoints and preserve a competitive marketplace of ideas for American communities
- 9) Encouraging women, minority and community media ownership
- 10) Internet neutrality, in which bandwidth is not limited based on content or ability to pay
- 11) Viable economic models to promote independent investigative reporting and coverage of state and local government and issues
- 12) Free radio and TV time for statewide and national candidates and ballot measures before each election
- 13) Increased payments to local governments by cable companies for their profitable use of the public right-of-way
- 14) Protecting journalists from unwarranted pressure to reveal their sources
- 15) Access to modern communications infrastructure, including high-speed Internet, for all Americans, by means of a fast, affordable, publicly owned telecommunications system in every community, and extending it to rural areas and Native American reservations
- 16) Streamlining the process for allocating affordable low-power broadcast frequencies for educational and nonprofit institutions
- 17) Restoring adequate funding of public radio and public television, free from public pressure
- 18) Statewide availability of TV Washington legislative channel

We oppose:

- 1) Corporations' exerting undue influence on our government through access to regulatory commissions and secretly drafting congressional and state legislation
- 2) Policies that allow U.S. businesses to incorporate or move offshore to evade taxes and laws
- 3) The sale of hedging contracts on securities, i.e., credit default swap contracts
- 4) Corporations and governments substituting uncertain 401(k) plans for defined benefit pensions
- 5) Concentration of media ownership
- 6) Government-funded or corporate-funded propaganda disguised as news
- 7) Government intimidation of the news media

- 8) False claims of “national security” to suppress investigative journalism
- 9) Privatization of public services, especially water

ECONOMIC JUSTICE, JOBS & TAX FAIRNESS

Income inequality is the driving issue of our time. We are committed to a sustainable economy with strong communities based on living-wage jobs, tax fairness, and shared prosperity. “Taxes, after all, are the dues we pay for the privilege of membership in an organized society.” (Franklin Delano Roosevelt).

We support:

- 1) Fair and equitable taxation to provide state revenue sufficient to meet constitutional requirements, care for the most vulnerable and promote the common good
- 2) Policies that address racial and ethnic inequality, particularly in education, employment, housing and lending
- 3) Economic justice for women, including pay equality enforcement, social security reform, livable wages, paid sick leave and family leave, early childhood education, and reproductive rights
- 4) Addressing the scourge of student debt by:
 - a) Offering the first two years of college or technical school tuition-free
 - b) Lowering 4-year tuition so student share is less than 30% of costs
 - c) Reversing the 2006 federal bankruptcy law to include discharge of mortgages and student debt in bankruptcy court
 - d) Modifying interest on all student loans to 1% over prime rate
 - e) Creating a grad student bond-based loan fund
 - f) Offering a tax credit to employers who pay student debt as a benefit
 - g) Settling student debt with a program that bases repayment on a percentage of earnings and forgives the balance after 20 years
 - h) Reducing or eliminating graduate student debt in exchange for critically needed public service in certain professions
- 5) A progressive state tax system, including a capital gains tax, a reduced sales tax on goods and services, a transaction tax on the exchange of securities, a very high-earner’s personal income tax, and replacing the Business and Occupation tax on gross revenue with a 1% corporate income tax on profits
- 6) Adopting a state tax exemptions budget as a part of the biennial budget appropriations process

- 7) Corporations reporting the value of each state tax exemption, as well as family-wage jobs created or other quantifiable benefit to the public
- 8) Repealing tax breaks and incentives for companies that do not provide verifiable benefits to the state, and subjecting them to renewal every 10 years
- 9) Ending the tax break given to hedge fund managers on carried-interest performance fees
- 10) A publicly owned Washington State investment trust as the repository for state funds, to foster economic development by participating with local banks in infrastructure and community development loans
- 11) An incremental increase in the state minimum wage to \$13.50, with a living wage as the goal
- 12) Funding and rebuilding our infrastructure as a proven method of job creation
- 13) Restoring the middle class by closing the education opportunity gap, creating affordable rental housing and lowering the entry cost of homeownership
- 14) Increasing the income lid on a property tax breaks on the primary residences of low-income homeowners to \$50,000
- 15) Raising the Federal minimum wage to above \$10 and automatically adjusting it annually for inflation
- 16) Raising the Federal tax bracket on the very wealthy
- 17) Raising the federal capital gains tax on investments to the same rate as earned income
- 18) Restoring the Federal estate tax for estates of \$5 million or more, keyed to inflation
- 19) "Scrapping the cap" on income subject to Social Security tax
- 20) Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit to help the working poor, and applying an inflation index to the Alternative Minimum Tax to protect the middle class
- 21) Protecting Social Security and employment pensions as supplements to personal savings
- 22) Protection of homeowners from faulty construction (new-home warranties)
- 23) Capping the annual percentage rate of interest on payday loans at no more than 36%, as Federal law does for military families, and banning Wall Street banks from being payday lenders
- 24) Requiring banks to lower principal or interest on underwater mortgages to keep distressed homeowners in their homes
- 25) Using post offices to provide bank services for low-income people

- 26) Greater participation by the business community to retrain workers for jobs in the evolving economy, both directly and in partnership with post-secondary institutions
- 27) Sharing state marijuana revenue only with cities and counties that allow such sales
- 28) A major increase in funding for low-income and workforce housing, for those earning up to 60% of area median income

We oppose:

- 1) Privatizing Social Security or reducing benefits
- 2) Tax breaks for U.S. businesses incorporating out of state or offshore to evade taxes
- 3) Privatizing, outsourcing, or moving public jobs offshore or out of state
- 4) A constitutional amendment to require a 2/3 vote in the legislature to raise revenue

EDUCATION

Education is essential to a democracy and to a strong economy. The Washington Constitution says: "It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex." The backbone of our democracy is a free, universal public school system designed to produce reasoning, thoughtful, well-informed citizens who are prepared to participate in civic society.

We support:

- 1) A stable source of K-12 Basic Education funding, per the State Supreme Court's *McCleary* decision, to provide:
 - a) Competitive pay and benefits for all public educators, including compensatory adjustments for high-cost areas
 - b) Upgrading of school facilities, libraries, computer systems, and other resources
 - c) Smaller class sizes, consistent with the citizen's initiative
- 2) School construction funds to accommodate growth, lower class sizes, full-day kindergarten, and maintenance (replacement of portables)
- 3) Support for accelerated, remedial and special-needs programs to adequately meet the needs of every student
- 4) Inclusion of music, fine arts, civics, foreign language, and physical education in the Basic Education Act

- 5) Expanding preschool and after-school programs with priority for higher-need schools
- 6) Counselors and nurses in every school; and school completion specialists in every high school
- 7) Strong hands-on environmental science education
- 8) Expanding vocational education and apprenticeship programs in both middle school and high school
- 9) Strong post-high school programs for vocational education, job training and apprenticeships
- 10) The Federal government honoring its promise to adequately fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- 11) Sufficient public funding for the state's university system to keep it competitive with other higher learning institutions nationwide
- 12) Authorizing the nonprofit HiSET GED as an alternative to the for-profit Pearson GED
- 13) Tuition-free two-year colleges and technical schools for state residents, and affordable tuition at other state colleges and universities
- 14) Increasing the size of Pell grants, with annual adjustments for inflation
- 15) A school environment free of bullying and intimidation for all students, staff, and faculty including use of the restroom that matches one's gender identity
- 16) School food programs that ensure that all students have access to nutritious meals, organic and local foods that support healthy habits and classroom learning, including "breakfast after the bell"
- 17) Promoting respect for teachers including appropriate professional pay, evaluations not based on standardized tests and promoting site-based decision-making

We oppose:

- 1) Voucher programs
- 2) Charter schools, their having been ruled unconstitutional by the Washington State Supreme Court, especially:
 - a) Any attempt to "fix" the charter school initiative
 - b) Lack of public oversight and transparency of tax money expenditures in charter schools, in particular their private for-profit contractors
 - c) Lack of labor protection for teachers and staff
 - d) Teach for America's displacement of certified teachers with uncertified college graduates

- e) Any “trigger” school mechanism in a charter law that allows the takeover of any school building upon the presentation of a petition by the majority of teachers or parents
- f) Excessive pay for charter school administrators in relation to public school administrators
- 3) Commercial marketing to students in public schools
- 4) Aggressive military recruiting in public schools
- 5) Police officers posted in public schools
- 6) Transferring the burden of the cost of higher education primarily to students and families
- 7) Imposition of Common Core Standards and the high-stakes testing stemming from it

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & ENERGY

Our well-being and very survival depend on worldwide clean air, clean water, safe food and sustainable ecosystems. Steps to protect and restore them will create significant opportunities for American enterprise.

We support:

- 1) Aggressive action led by elected leaders, mobilizing millions of Americans, including a carbon tax, to minimize global climate change, reverse ocean acidification, and loss of the ozone layer
- 2) Enacting the Pacific Coast Action Plan on Climate and Energy, including accounting for the cost of carbon, embracing clean energy, and implementing low-carbon fuel standards
- 3) Reduce climate change by the following means:
 - a) Cutting carbon emissions drastically, including a carbon tax, beginning immediately
 - b) Replacing non-renewable, polluting energy generation with renewable non-nuclear sources such as wind, solar, hydrogen, ocean, micro-hydro, geothermal and biomass
 - c) Implementing an efficient, 21st century energy grid
 - d) Assisting and cooperating with other nations in implementing appropriate technology, energy efficiency and alternative renewable energy systems
 - e) Investing in research to develop renewable energy systems

- f) Tax incentives for energy-saving systems, such as upgrades to insulation and other heat-retention strategies and for renewable energy collection, storage and distribution (i.e., solar and wind)
- g) Tax incentives for installation of solar and wind energy collection, storage, and distribution systems on residential and business properties
- 4) Requiring that Environmental Impact Statements include changes to emissions of CO₂ and other chemicals affecting the atmosphere
- 5) Expanding programs and incentives to reduce residential and business waste and to promote the reuse and recycling of materials
- 6) Reducing toxic waste and funding the science to clean up and dispose of existing waste by all available means, including:
 - a) Making Hanford cleanup a top priority
 - b) Treatment and disposal of radioactive and other hazardous wastes near their origin
 - c) Reinstating the Superfund Tax to make polluters pay for cleanup
 - d) Reducing use of herbicides, pesticides and other toxic materials, to decrease environmental contamination and protect our food supply and health
 - e) Assessing the toxicity of chemicals prior to their manufacture and release into the environment
 - f) Incentives for businesses to conserve energy and require them to clean up their toxic waste
 - g) Continuing development of recycled-material markets that meet strict environmental and worker-health standards
 - h) A national program requiring electronic equipment manufacturers to recycle and safely dispose of computers, televisions and other e-waste
 - i) A national and/or state program requiring pharmaceutical manufacturers to offer safe disposal of unused or unsafe prescription drugs
- 7) Preserving our precious natural environment by all available means, including:
 - a) Adequate funding for maintenance of our state and national parks and wilderness areas as pristine national treasures
 - b) Protection of environmentally sensitive areas with adequate development buffers, restoration of wetlands, and a permanent ban on road building, logging, motorized recreation and any other type of development in threatened roadless areas
 - c) Maintaining the viability and diversity of plants and animals within watersheds and other ecosystems, including protection of the Northwest forests and adequate river flows that provide habitat for wild salmon and steelhead
 - d) Better regional mechanisms for dealing with watershed pollution and sedimentation

- 8) Enforcing and strengthening our state's Growth Management Act to protect against further urban sprawl that consumes farmland, forests, wildlife habitat and natural resources
- 9) Strengthening the Marine Mammal Protection Act to safeguard the marine ecosystem from the dangers of human depredation
- 10) Requiring low-impact development techniques, such as rain gardens and pervious pavement, for new construction and major redevelopment projects
- 11) Promoting regional watershed management
- 12) Restoring our shoreline's ability to regrow oysters, clams, and other marine products
- 13) Full implementation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) at the state and local level
- 14) The immediate revision of the 1872 Mining Act to end exploitation and extraction in environmentally sensitive public lands and to compensate the public for the resources we own
- 15) New statewide rules for cement/asphalt plants based on current best-available science

We oppose:

- 1) Shipping more waste to Hanford until the site is brought into compliance with existing regulations and the impact of past waste disposal has been fully remediated
- 2) Permitting expansion of nuclear power unless our environment is protected and long-term waste sequestration is guaranteed
- 3) Government funding of research into coal technology
- 4) Exporting banned chemicals or toxic waste to other countries
- 5) Drilling for oil or natural gas in U.S. waters, and mining, drilling, fracking, mountaintop removal or any other activity likely to violate the Clean Air or Clean Water Act on public or private lands
- 6) Shipping coal, oil, or other fossil fuels through our communities in an unsafe manner, including oil trains or coal trains that block critical railroad crossings for more than five minutes
- 7) The Keystone XL Pipeline and any government policy that facilitates drilling or moving the Alberta tar sands – the only safe policy is to keep it in the ground
- 8) Fracking

FOREIGN POLICY

To strengthen our security and promote peace throughout the world, America must work with the international community, using the tools of development, diplomacy and defense, in a spirit of mutual respect, friendship, and cooperation.

We support:

- 1) Outlawing the sale and importation to the United States of all products of slave labor and child labor
- 2) Increased emphasis on resolving international conflicts through diplomacy and other nonviolent conflict resolution strategies
- 3) Reforming and expanding sustainable development aid to improve the social, economic and environmental conditions in other nations
- 4) Rebuilding war-torn countries using international agencies and local labor and products when available
- 5) Promoting negotiations and other actions leading to a sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on mutual recognition, that facilitates peace, justice, security, economic growth, and quality of life for the peoples of the sovereign state of Israel and a sovereign state of Palestine
- 6) Cooperative and full participation in international organizations including the United Nations and international courts of justice
- 7) Reducing the world's nuclear stockpiles and strengthening and complying with international disarmament treaties, strengthening international control of fissile material, and limiting use of fissile material to peaceful purposes
- 8) Ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- 9) Complying with the original UN Declaration on Human Rights, International Land Mines treaties, International Criminal Court, Genocide Conventions, the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions and the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- 10) Signing and complying with the Paris Accords on Climate Change
- 11) Continuing efforts to reduce or eliminate nuclear arsenals worldwide, including strict enforcement of the "Iran deal" (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action), renouncing U.S. development of new nuclear weapons and working for nuclear nonproliferation, arms reduction and international control of fissile material
- 12) Restoring and reaffirming our historic adherence to the Geneva Conventions, and affording those rights to any person detained in a combat zone by the U.S. military

- 13) Replacing free-trade treaties, such as the WTO, TPP, NAFTA, and CAFTA, with fair-trade agreements that incorporate human rights, labor rights, public health, public services, and environmental protection, as well as preexisting multilateral international treaties on environmental, labor rights, and human rights
- 14) Effective foreign aid to reduce poverty, improve health and education, provide sustainable access to safe water and food free of contaminants, and prevent and treat pandemic and endemic diseases
- 15) Promoting programs that support family planning worldwide
- 16) Forgiving onerous debt owed by poor countries forced to choose between debt repayment and essential services
- 17) Revision of the War Powers Act to assure that Congress can declare an end to a war
- 18) Peaceful resolution to the Syrian civil war through diplomatic and political measures in coalition with regional powers and interests
- 19) The use of political and economic measures to end the occupation of Iraq, Syria and Libya by the terrorist organization, ISIS

We oppose:

- 1) Foreign trade agreements that put the interests of corporations above the rights, laws, and interests of governments or workers
- 2) Using the “global war on terror” to justify military action without a Congressional vote
- 3) Preemptive war
- 4) Overt or covert efforts to destabilize other nations’ governments
- 5) Permanent U.S. military bases and prisons in Iraq or Afghanistan
- 6) Exporting weapons systems that contribute to the international arms race
- 7) International Monetary Fund and World Bank policies that compel privatization of vital government services, such as water, as a condition of refinancing national debt
- 8) Marginalization of women in any way, in any sphere of human activity, in any part of the world, whether by law, culture or custom
- 9) The production, testing, stockpiling, and use of nuclear weapons, as well as the development of new or enhanced nuclear weapons
- 10) The use of depleted uranium as a weapon
- 11) The secret WTO courts’ invalidation of existing treaties on labor, the environment and human rights
- 12) Targeting civilian populations and medical facilities by military strikes

GOVERNMENT & POLITICAL REFORM

The role of government is to accomplish those goals that we as citizens cannot achieve individually. Our government derives its legitimacy solely from, and must be answerable to, the people. A democracy requires full participation by an informed electorate; a voting process that is fair, transparent and open to all citizens; and elected officials who are responsive to the needs of society.

We support:

- 1) Vigorous enforcement of the right to vote for all citizens—every voice, every vote
- 2) Permanent voter registration and same-day voter registration; preliminary registration for 16- and 17-year-olds with a driver's license
- 3) Counting felons, for census and voting purposes, as residents of their last home address, rather than their place of imprisonment
- 4) Use of paper ballots or electronic voting machines with open-source software accompanied by a verifiable paper record of each vote cast, and increased security for ballots and vote-counting machines
- 5) Public campaign financing for elections
- 6) Direct election of the U.S. President by popular vote and abolition of the Electoral College
- 7) Restoring the functionality of the U.S. Senate by abolishing the abuse of the filibuster and "holds"
- 8) State funding of public debates for statewide offices and ballot measures
- 9) Reversing the *Citizens United v. FEC* decision in order to re-impose limits on campaign contributions and the use of corporate and special-interest funds to influence legislative votes and executive decisions
- 10) Requiring that government decisions involving scientific issues affecting our health, safety, and environment be based on sound science and that all materials affecting those decisions be disclosed to the public
- 11) Adherence to all open public meeting laws and robust opportunities for public comment on policy proposals
- 12) Requiring local governments to post meeting notices, agendas, minutes, documents, and databases on the Internet in a timely and user-friendly manner
- 13) Increased funding and accountability for regulatory agencies to fulfill their missions
- 14) Timely disclosure of public records--which belong to the public--unless falling into narrow exemptions

- 15) Adequate and equitable funding of public service options for all young adults upon completion of their secondary or higher education, including military, AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Vista, and other avenues of service
- 16) Rescinding the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006, that requires funding pensions for 75 years into the future, so that the postal service may return to fiscal soundness;
- 17) Requiring paid voter signature gatherers for ballot initiatives be required to have a placard stating who they work for and who is paying them
- 18) Redistricting Washington State by a less politicized and more citizen-driven process to create more politically balanced districts

We oppose:

- 1) Outsourcing, privatizing, or handling by any non-public entity of any part of the voting process
- 2) Any voter suppression, including removing or challenging registered voters from the voting rolls
- 3) Depriving ex-offenders of their right to vote
- 4) Arbitrary state spending limits imposed by initiative
- 5) Executive branch secrecy beyond legitimate national security needs
- 6) Privatizing, outsourcing, or offshoring of government services, including prisons
- 7) Privatization of public infrastructure, utilities, and services, including water
- 8) Efforts by government to deny citizens their right to peacefully assemble in order to petition for a redress of grievances
- 9) Wasting over \$10 million in state resources by holding a Presidential primary "beauty contest" in late May, since Democrats allocate their convention delegates by caucus in March
- 10) Lack of disclosure of anonymous donors who fund the right-wing propaganda network of interlocking 501(c)(3) and (c)(4) organizations which masquerade as "social service charities" and "educational institutions", e.g., the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)
- 11) Gerrymandering Congressional districts to "pack" marginalized groups into fewer districts to limit their electoral power

HEALTH CARE

Health care is a basic human right. We must end disparities in health and in high-quality health care. Everyone deserves effective, affordable health care.

We support:

- 1) A single-payer system, enacted statewide and ultimately nationally, to provide comprehensive, cost-effective, coordinated health care which will be funded by savings from the for-profit system
- 2) A health-care system that serves both individual and public health needs at a cost both individuals and society can afford
- 3) Patient-centered care, regardless of economic or employment status, or social background
- 4) A strengthened public health system which fully integrates mental health and substance use treatment into primary care
- 5) The expansion and improvement of the Affordable Care Act, including lower co-pays and deductibles
- 6) Reimbursement at a higher level for care provided to high-needs individuals with complex issues
- 7) Freedom of choice in our own health care, including selecting a personal provider and a “medical home”
- 8) Grants, forbearance, and debt forgiveness programs to encourage medical students, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants to specialize in primary care, particularly for underserved populations
- 9) Reducing health-care costs in innovative ways that improve quality of care without cutting benefits or limiting enrollment
- 10) Expanded funding of basic science and clinical medical research under the National Institutes of Health based on scientific merit, not on political agenda
- 11) A strong federal Patients’ Bill of Rights
- 12) Unlimited access to women's reproductive health care, with free birth control, as part of preventative care
- 13) The patient’s right to decision making and other provisions of the Death with Dignity Act
- 14) Dental and vision health care as part of basic health care
- 15) Alternative medicine that has demonstrated results
- 16) The right of doctors to prescribe medical cannabis and the right for medical patients to access it

We oppose:

- 1) Any effort to interpose the government between a patient and his or her health care provider
- 2) The excessive profits of the hospital durable medical equipment and pharmaceutical industries and their outrageous influence over the political process
- 3) For-profit hospitals

HUMAN RIGHTS & CIVIL RIGHTS

The rights guaranteed by our Constitution are the foundations of freedom and justice and should not be compromised for any reason. Democrats remain at the forefront of the struggle to extend social, economic, and legal rights to all persons.

We believe:

- 1) Privacy is fundamental: our private lives and personal information must be protected from intrusion by government or others
- 2) Human rights include the right to food, water, housing, safety, health care, education, and the dignity of meaningful work
- 3) The right to unionize is a civil and human right
- 4) We have the right to sovereignty over our own bodies
- 5) We have the right to identify our gender – or with no gender at all – and to present ourselves to the world as we wish
- 6) That Constitutional religious freedom does not grant to persons or groups, on account of their belief, an exemption from obeying laws
- 7) The right of an individual or group to practice their religion does not extend to the denial of the constitutional rights of others

We support:

- 1) Repealing provisions of the USAPATRIOT Act and other policies that violate the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, as well as international human rights treaties to which the U.S. is a signatory, and ending warrantless governmental eavesdropping
- 2) Strong antidiscrimination and affirmative action laws and policies applicable to employment, promotion, education, healthcare and housing
- 3) Every woman's right of reproductive choice
- 4) Enforcing and monitoring the Americans with Disabilities Act

- 5) Reinstating federal recognition of the Duwamish tribe

We oppose:

- 1) The pervasive and unconstitutional surveillance of U.S. citizens by the NSA and other U.S. intelligence agencies
- 2) Abuse of our civil rights by the FBI and other law enforcement agencies
- 3) The use of military tribunals and indeterminate detention of "enemy combatants" and rendition to other countries
- 4) Forced privatization of public services, especially water
- 5) Segregating public accommodations based on real or perceived LGBTQ differences
- 6) All modes and methods of denying in practice a woman's right of reproductive choice, including:
 - a) Defunding Planned Parenthood
 - b) Requiring complete hospital surgical facilities for abortion
 - c) The legal doctrine of "fetal personhood"
 - d) Hyde Amendment restrictions on federal funding
 - e) Construing religious freedom to allow a church-owned hospital to deny abortion
 - f) Interfering with a court's power to hear and rule on a minor's request for an abortion
- 7) So-called "Conversion Therapy," which seeks to change sexual orientation

HUMAN SERVICES

A compassionate community provides a safety net of social services to meet the basic needs of its most vulnerable members, so that each may attain his or her full potential.

We support:

- 1) Treating homelessness as the crisis it is, and using immediately available funds to mitigate it
- 2) Ensuring that compassionate human services are among the highest priorities of federal, state, and local government, especially in this time of greatly increased poverty and income inequality
- 3) Restoring the disability stipend to safeguard the dignity of the vulnerable poor and people with disabilities who cannot reasonably provide for themselves

- 4) Assuring homelessness is rare, brief and one-time and that all people and have access to safe and affordable housing, including the Housing First policy for chronic alcoholics/mentally ill, and the Rapid Rehousing policy for families
- 5) A transition plan that includes housing for those being released from state institutions
- 6) Substantially increasing affordable housing and weighting subsidies toward those who need them most
- 7) Workforce housing programs aimed primarily at those who fall between minimum wage and a living wage (30% to 60% of area median income), but in no case more than 80% of the area median income
- 8) Welfare programs that will reduce poverty, not just the welfare rolls
- 9) Quality, affordable child care, education, training, medical care and substance abuse treatment to help working parents to leave welfare and poor people to escape poverty
- 10) Access to programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to reach their full potential (end the waitlist for services) and to live with dignity with the supports they need
- 11) Adequately supporting programs that rehabilitate and reintegrate people experiencing mental illness and addiction, in addition to programs based on crisis and emergency response; and rescuing and treating victims of sex trafficking
- 12) Restructuring and adequately funding the foster child system to ensure appropriate protection, oversight and self-supporting adulthood
- 13) A long-term care system that provides in-home elder-care alternatives to nursing homes and Medicaid
- 14) Improved oversight of elder care
- 15) Increased support for family caregivers

We oppose:

- 1) Equating accepting food stamps, welfare, housing vouchers or unemployment insurance with any moral failure, especially when the economy has lost millions of jobs
- 2) Allowing people experiencing a mental health crisis to be boarded in hospital emergency rooms awaiting evaluation
- 3) Anything less than full funding for mental health treatment, including substance use disorder and suicide prevention
- 4) Equating mental illness with gun violence since most mentally ill people are not violent
- 5) Drug testing welfare recipients

IMMIGRATION

A strong tradition of immigration is fundamental to the prosperity and the values of the American experience. All immigrants should be afforded full human rights and a fair, safe, and timely path to legal status or citizenship.

We support:

- 1) Comprehensive immigration reform, providing for greater legal immigration and options for undocumented immigrants to have a pathway to citizenship. We recognize the basic human rights of immigrants and guarantee them equal protection under the law in all proceedings
- 2) Encouraging lawful immigration by uniting families, expediting processing of applications for legal entry, asylum, temporary work permits, permanent residence ("green cards"), and citizenship when that status is sought
- 3) Fair and compassionate treatment of all who enter the United States, including non-discriminatory access to education and human services, and family reunification where appropriate
- 4) Provisions to prevent discrimination in wages and working conditions for immigrant workers, including access to safe and adequate housing, medical care and educational opportunities, to shelter them from exploitation and ensure full protection of American labor laws
- 5) The Federal DREAM Act
- 6) The "End Racial Profiling Act," which would ban racial profiling at the federal, state and local level
- 7) Policies that protect access to law enforcement by immigrants without fear of deportation
- 8) Allowing undocumented immigrants brought here as children to apply for citizenship without first returning to their home country
- 9) Granting asylum to persons fleeing areas of war, genocide, and political oppression, subject to security concerns

We oppose:

- 1) State or local police involvement in the enforcement of federal immigration laws
- 2) Vigilante border militia groups
- 3) Demonizing new immigrants whose primary goal is a decent life for themselves and their families
- 4) Use of the racially and ethnically biased term "illegal" to refer to any human being

- 5) Automatic detention of and/or deportation of asylum-seekers
- 6) Quotas and other immigration rules that have the primary purpose of preventing new immigration
- 7) Any policy that results in the separation of minor children from their parents solely as a result of the differing legal status of the parent
- 8) Any form of racial profiling, including demands for immediate presentation of documents regarding status in the United States
- 9) Excluding immigrants because of their country of origin, religion, race or ethnicity

LABOR

A strong, fair, and just economy depends on jobs that provide living wages, retirement benefits and safe working conditions. These are rights best guaranteed by ensuring workers abilities to organize themselves, bargain collectively, and have a real voice in their workplace.

We support:

- 1) A living wage. The federal minimum wage, including tipped workers, must be raised above \$10 per hour and indexed to the cost of living. We define a living wage as the wage necessary for a person working forty hours a week, with no additional income, to afford decent housing, food, utilities, transport, and health care. “No one who works full time should have to live in poverty” – President Obama
- 2) Raising the state minimum wage to \$13.50 incrementally over four years
- 3) A Workers' Bill of Rights that includes:
 - a) A safe and healthy workplace with rights of association, assembly, free speech, due process and freedom from discrimination
 - b) Benefits, including health care, retirement and paid family leave for wage earners and their families
 - c) Equal pay for equivalent work for all workers, regardless of gender
 - d) Prohibition of involuntary overtime
 - e) Due process, including protection for whistleblowers and collective bargaining activities
 - f) A ban on mandatory meetings by the employer about unionizing, politics, or religion
 - g) Democratic and fair elections within unions
 - h) A work environment free from all forms of discrimination and harassment

- i) Prohibiting any firing without just cause and strengthening protections during probationary employment periods
 - j) Progressive discipline and mandatory arbitration for workplace infractions
 - k) Prohibiting reprisals against or permanent replacement of workers locked out or on strike
 - l) Enforcement of labor laws against employers who extort workers exercising their collective bargaining rights by threatening to move work
 - m) Job training, education, and related services for employees who are unemployed or underemployed, or whose jobs are outsourced, downgraded, or eliminated
- 4) Repealing the union-busting Taft-Hartley Act and so-called "Right to Work" state laws as well as any law that seeks to interfere with freely negotiated agreements between employers and unions to collect fees for providing collectively bargained benefits to its membership
 - 5) Prosecuting employers who force workers to work off the clock or fail to pay wages ("wage theft")
 - 6) Respecting picket lines by not crossing them
 - 7) Unemployment benefits and retraining for workers who are locked out or on strike
 - 8) Extended unemployment benefits in a bad economy
 - 9) Safe and adequate housing, sanitary facilities, medical care, and education for farm workers and their families
 - 10) Reforming the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to streamline the appeals process and institute meaningful penalties for employers found to have engaged in unfair labor practices
 - 11) Automatic union recognition when unions demonstrate majority status in a work group desiring collective bargaining rights (card check), without being forced into an arduous NLRB process
 - 12) Equal participation between labor and employers in the management of workers' pensions
 - 13) In cases of corporate bankruptcy, giving employee pensions equal priority to creditors
 - 14) Pension benefits that are portable between employers
 - 15) Wages that reflect increases in productivity

We oppose:

- 1) Free trade agreements that do not observe international treaties on labor standards, including workplace rights and safety laws, prohibitions on child labor, prison labor, slave labor, and human trafficking
- 2) Corporations that use mergers to steal workers' pensions
- 3) Using tips as part of a minimum wage calculation

LAW & THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

A good government provides for the safety and security of the general public with care, fairness and respect for the individual.

We support:

- 1) Reasonable security measures to protect the public without sacrifice of civil liberties
- 2) Vigorous affirmative action to ensure that police departments are as racially diverse as the communities they serve
- 3) Using the existing criminal justice system to prosecute accused terrorists
- 4) Repealing the state prohibition against post-secondary courses in prison
- 5) Greater emphasis on preventive and rehabilitative measures in prison, and alternative sentencing that emphasizes rehabilitation
- 6) Repealing or mitigating the "Three Strikes" law
- 7) Restorative Justice, especially for youth
- 8) Changing the treatment of juveniles under the age of 21 to reflect current science on brain development
- 9) Ending mandatory and indeterminate sentencing
- 10) Accountability in law enforcement, with effective civilian review
- 11) Ending the War on Drugs: Therefore state and federal drug policy should include:
 - a) Emphasis on prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation, and drug education that reflects established scientific knowledge
 - b) More drug courts and a lower priority for minor drug offenses
 - c) Prohibiting asset forfeiture unless a defendant is convicted of a crime
- 12) Improved gun safety laws including:
 - a) A national comprehensive background check before each gun sale, including at gun shows

- b) Requiring safe gun storage in homes and vehicles
- c) Prohibiting automatic weapons and oversized ammunition magazines
- 13) The right of everyone to come to public spaces, (libraries, parks, post offices, city halls, the legislature) without the fear of being threatened by guns
- 14) Restoring FBI funding to investigate white-collar crime
- 15) The right of foreign nationals to have access to consular officials if accused of a crime
- 16) State and local efforts to train law enforcement to see underage sex workers as victims and to prosecute underage sex trafficking
- 17) Full funding and enforcement of the Violence against Women Act and services for victims
- 18) Prison time for criminal bank officers
- 19) DNA testing to free the innocent and convict the guilty, including 100% timely testing of all rape kits
- 20) Restoring *habeas corpus* for citizens and noncitizens, completely and without compromise
- 21) Mandatory training of all law enforcement officers on how to de-escalate potentially violent situations and how to communicate with people with mental illness and other disabilities

We oppose:

- 1) Capital punishment
- 2) Racial profiling
- 3) "Justified homicide" laws that require proving malice or willful intent on the part of the accused police officer
- 4) Prison overcrowding
- 5) Extended solitary confinement
- 6) Privatizing prisons and ICE detention centers
- 7) Building more prisons
- 8) The militarization of police
- 9) So-called "stand your ground" laws that legalize shooting first

MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS

We are proud to honor those who have chosen to serve in our country's armed forces. We insist that military personnel be used only in accord with the Constitution – to provide for the common defense.

We support:

- 1) Our troops and our veterans. Therefore we support:
 - a) Increased benefits and quality medical care for troops, veterans and their families, including treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and traumatic brain injuries
 - b) Full funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs
 - c) Mandatory breaks between overseas tours, strict time limits on each tour of duty in a combat zone, and strict limits on the total number of combat tours
 - d) Instructing military personnel thoroughly in their rights and responsibilities under the Geneva Conventions and protecting them from reprisals when they conscientiously refuse to follow illegal orders
 - e) Protecting them from sexual harassment and assault, and providing safe reporting of assaults outside of the chain of command
 - f) Determining disability ratings based on medical, rather than political and economic criteria and ending the backlog
 - g) Continued efforts to secure housing and services for homeless vets
 - h) Promotion of veteran homeownership through the passage of a new GI bill
 - i) Increased career training and placement
- 2) Using a well-trained and well-equipped military to protect the American people, our vital interests, and treaty partners who are pledged to protect us whenever we are attacked or imminently threatened, and only when all other means of protection are exhausted
- 3) Any military draft should apply to both men and women and provide an alternative service option. Any draft must be preceded by a Declaration of War
- 4) Congress asserting its constitutional powers to regulate and govern the military
- 5) Phasing out cold war weaponry such as ICBM-carrying submarines and the unworkable Strategic Defense Initiative ("Star Wars") system. Accelerating the neutralization of nuclear stockpiles
- 6) Military contracts being awarded based on fair and competitive bidding, with preference given to U.S. companies when possible
- 7) A thorough and comprehensive review of the necessity and organization of foreign military bases equal to the review of domestic military bases during the past decade

We oppose:

- 1) Continued disproportionate military expenditures and their exclusion from budget cuts
- 2) Preemptive use of military force without a formal declaration of war by Congress
- 3) The undue influence of the military-industrial complex over national policy
- 4) The use of the National Guard for overseas wars or for any purposes other than defense pursuant to a declaration of war, enforcement of a court order, or response to a declared disaster area
- 5) Using contractors in military or paramilitary operations
- 6) U.S. training of foreign military or police forces that suppress human rights in their own countries
- 7) Nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and genocidal biological warfare
- 8) The militarization of space or polar regions
- 9) The production, testing, stockpiling, and use of depleted uranium (dU), chemical, nuclear or biological weapons
- 10) The use of active sonar in the Salish Sea and electronic weapons testing over Olympic National Park
- 11) Monetary payments to countries recognized as terrorist states

TRANSPORTATION

Better public transportation will promote equal opportunity, enhance public health, ease global warming and improve the quality of life for all.

We support:

- 1) Establishing King County public transit as a priority over road construction
- 2) Low-income fare services and transfers on Light Rail
- 3) Developing transit in accordance to the expected growth and development of the region
- 4) Accessible transportation for all, including safe, affordable, and efficient bus and rail services for persons with disabilities
- 5) Developing and financing a comprehensive plan that recognizes SR 522/Lake City Way/Bothell Way as a critical transportation route around the north end of Lake Washington and an alternative to the SR 520 toll bridge
- 6) Keeping roads, bridges and ferries in good repair; restoring a dedicated funding stream to ferry construction and maintenance

- 7) Adequate staffing of the state ferry system to ensure reliable and fully functional service
- 8) Focusing on reducing vehicle miles traveled and enabling attractive alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle trips
- 9) A high-speed rail system linking major cities
- 10) Increased fuel efficiencies and encouraging the use of alternative fuels
- 11) Transportation oriented development that includes all income levels and decreases the need to drive
- 12) Repeal of the 18th Amendment to the Washington Constitution, so all state revenues go into the General Fund
- 13) Expanding capacity for park & rides in suburban areas
- 14) A system of grade-separated truck, rail, and transit facilities that enhances freight mobility in King County
- 15) Replacing the Columbia River crossing, including provision for light-rail access
- 16) Street improvements to enable safer walking and bicycling

We Oppose:

- 1) Environmentally unsafe coal and oil terminals
- 2) The systematic defunding of roads, bridges, and the ferry system, especially I-5

TRIBAL RELATIONS & SOVEREIGNTY

Governments must respect Native American nations, their sovereignty and cultures, and educate the general population of the inherent and sovereign treaty-based rights of Native American people

We support:

- 1) Respecting the decisions of Native American nations and tribal governments, and affirming their rights derived from treaties and state compacts
- 2) The federal government acting to improve the social, economic, and health status of Native Americans in accord with its treaty obligations
- 3) The rights of Tribal Nations to regulate and manage their air quality, natural resources, and protection of sacred and cultural sites, as well as maintaining and restoring Salmon runs and shellfish resources that are critical to Native American needs
- 4) Preserving and protecting sites of historic, cultural, and religious significance to Native Americans

- 5) Tribal Nations as having inherent sovereignty with the rights to self-governance, self-determination and economic self-sufficiency
- 6) Elevating the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs to a cabinet-level department to accommodate the unique relationship of all recognized tribes in Washington
- 7) Advancing the socio-economic condition of Tribal Nations, including in urban and off/on reservation environments, including funding for cultural, health, and other social service organizations
- 8) Adequate funding for all state and federal programs and services that impact Tribal Nations
- 9) Creating a federal Tribal Nations Commission to ensure compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- 10) The United Nations allowing the Tribal Nations to participate in the UN forums as nations, rather than as non-governmental organizational representatives

LOCAL ISSUES

The 46th District Democrats have a tradition of leadership on local issues.

Seattle

We support:

- 1) Implementing developer impact fees as a priority to fund Seattle North End neighborhood schools to provide adequate capacity at a time of growing enrollment
- 2) The creation of more affordable housing in Seattle. Therefore, we support:
 - a) Directing affordable housing to assist those who need it the most
 - b) Defining workforce housing as assisting those earning between a minimum wage and a living wage
 - c) Requiring developers to replace any affordable housing lost with new affordable housing (e.g., 1-for-1 replacement)
 - d) Requiring developers to build affordable housing, rather than paying an in-lieu fee, in exchange for granting any upzone
 - e) Redefining low-rise as family housing zones – housing suitable for families, situated between mid-rise and single-family homes
 - f) Accountability of programs offering tax breaks to build affordable housing to ensure affordable units are actually available
- 3) Policies that encourage density near transit hubs

- 4) Locating a light-rail station at I-5 and NE 130th Street with connector service between the Lake City and Bitter Lake
- 5) Any new urban village must include sidewalks to be deemed “walkable”
- 6) Increasing pedestrian safety, including streetlights, permeable sidewalks and visible crosswalks for pedestrians and wheelchair users, with a sidewalk on at least one side of each arterial in Seattle north of 85th St. within 10 years
- 7) Bicycle lanes and storage facilities for cyclists, and convenient bus stops and shelters
- 8) Continuing to fund Seattle and King County housing and human services budgets, especially services to homeless individuals and families, including those impacted by domestic violence, foster care, foreclosure, mental health institutions and those transitioning from prison and military service
- 9) Developing and adequately funding a Lake City Community Center with programming for seniors and youth
- 10) Increasing and adequately funding neighborhood public health clinics
- 11) Passing a robust urban tree ordinance; increasing tree protection by requiring permits and public notice before large trees are removed from public and private property
- 12) Greatly increasing drop boxes for return of ballots as well as regional voting centers for people with disabilities
- 13) Adequately funding and increasing community oversight in the Department of Neighborhoods and ensuring that local communities and neighborhood groups are supported and have access to their government
- 14) The efforts of the Mayor and the Department of Justice to change the culture of racism and intimidation within the Seattle Police Department, and to make SPD accountable to a civilian review board with the power to enforce their decisions
- 15) Connecting every home and business in Seattle to a publicly owned high-speed broadband network, utilizing existing fiber-optic infrastructure
- 16) Increased programs to end human trafficking along Highway 99:
 - a) adequately funding outreach and shelter services for sex workers
 - b) Oversight and increased regulation of media outlets, which are used by sex traffickers
 - c) Increased penalties for those convicted of commercial sex-trafficking of minors
- 17) Increased focus from the city regarding youth-on-youth violence, with increased transparency and accountability
- 18) Increased funding for Youth Arts Programming that focus on work-readiness, education and career tracks for underserved youth

- 19) Clean-up and preservation of Green Lake
 - a) Upgrades and maintenance to the Midvale Sewage Plant
 - b) Increased cleaning and alum treatments to decrease toxic algae-levels in the lake
- 20) Redevelopment of the dismal “Lake City Mini Park” at the corner of 125th and Lake City Way, as well as increased open space and P-patches throughout Northeast Seattle
- 21) Protection of Thornton Creek watershed in face of increased development

Lake Forest Park

We support:

- 1) Fiscally responsible city government that supports resident priorities
- 2) A more innovative and supportive economic environment, especially concerning small and home-based businesses, in order to increase commercial revenue and mitigate residents' tax burden
- 3) Continued regional collaboration to improve the SR 522 (Bothell/Lake City Way) and SR 523 (145th Street) corridors to accommodate Bus Rapid Transit connecting to planned light rail stations and to allow for smoother traffic flow and safer multi-modal uses
- 4) Environmental land use policies that will preserve the lake, streams, forest and other natural features, including low impact development methods in development and redevelopment projects, and adherence to the city's canopy-based Tree Ordinance
- 5) Broad-based citizen participation in updating the city's first Strategic Plan
- 6) Additional sidewalks, street improvements and connected trails throughout the city to enable safer walking and bicycling
- 7) Provision of mass-transit parking for our residents through Park-and-Ride
- 8) Using cloth bags and/or compostable paper or compostable plastic bags
- 9) Continued improvement of culverts to promote a healthy ecosystem that supports fish habitat in MacAleer, McKinnon and Lyon Creeks, with assistance from federal, state, and county funding
- 10) Future development guided by citizen participation that includes appropriate scale, mixed-income rentals including senior housing, proximity to transit and open space
- 11) Preserving and protecting the Lake Forest Park aquifer, with the cities of Shoreline, Montlake Terrace and Brier. The aquifer is a source of naturally pure, chemical-free water for many residents, as well as the wetlands and streams that

run into Lake Washington, with particular attention to migratory stormwater runoff pollution

Kenmore

We support:

- 1) Adequate state funding to maintain and finish improvements to SR 522 (Bothell Way) and replace the West Sammamish Bridge, which have both seen increased traffic and wear and tear since the tolls were put in on SR 520
- 2) Additional sidewalks, street improvements and connected trails throughout the city to enable safer walking and bicycling
- 3) Workforce housing so that low-wage workers can afford to live close to their jobs, and more frequent and reliable public transit along major corridors
- 4) Further dioxin testing by the Washington State Department of Ecology in North Lake Washington to identify the source of the dioxins found in the sediment in previous testing
- 5) Collaboration between the City of Kenmore and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to protect the current uses and natural beauty of Saint Edward State Park, and to explore options to save the historic seminary building at the park
- 6) A new community visioning process for the Lakepointe property at the Kenmore town center, which may include creative funding to stabilize and detoxify the former I-5 construction fill area for town center development, or consideration of a park or other uses for the property
- 7) Laws and enforcement that protect those bodies of water that run through Kenmore
- 8) Adopting a tree ordinance, including a canopy evaluation/database
- 9) Green corridors connecting the green spaces in Kenmore to provide habitat for the city's deer, cougars, coyotes and foxes
- 10) Ensuring that residents have access to multiple choices of broadband providers
- 11) Improved citizen access to city meetings and documents