

01 - Preamble

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We are Democrats, the party of the people. We believe in the values of community, dignity, equality, opportunity, fairness, tolerance, respect, and the common good of the world we share. These values provide the basis for our ideals, supported by our Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Our actions define our society. To fulfill the potential of our values and ideals, we encourage every citizen to participate in civic activities. We invite all to join with us and work to have our elected leaders implement legislation that ensures liberty and justice for all.

It is the sovereign right of the people and necessary to their well-being to enact laws that protect their health, safety, and welfare.

02 - Agriculture

Domestic production of food is critical to national security and essential to our future. We are proud that agriculture - including aquaculture, fisheries, forestry, and other food and fiber production - is a leading industry in Washington State. We recognize the role of farmers as stewards of the land, and we support programs and policies that ensure the availability of high-quality food, strengthen rural communities, preserve family farms and maintain the productivity of the land. This requires legislation that sustains farming when calamities occur and that ensures that farmers and farm workers earn a fair return on their efforts, are safe in doing that work, and produce food that is safe to eat.

We call for:

- Incentives to encourage the agricultural skills, careers, and lifestyles that are essential to our country's survival;
- Policies consistent with the Washington State Growth Management Act that preserve agricultural land and natural resources critical to the viability of food, fuel, and forest production into the future;
- Adoption of sustainable agriculture and aquaculture methods;
- Decisions about water resources based on sound, credible scientific and economic information, including local concerns;
- Improvement of agriculture through research and extension efforts, focusing on sustainable agriculture and small farms;
- Reduction of the use of herbicides, pesticides, and other hazardous materials;
- Improving the inspections of domestic and imported foods and livestock to ensure safe food;
- Clear food labeling, including date packaged, and full and complete disclosure of nation of origin, genetically modified organism status, irradiation, and organic certification;
- Encouraging the use of locally grown food;
- Policies that support and encourage small farms and family farms;
- The protection of productive farm land and wetlands from other forms of residential, industrial, and other development;
- Enforcement of antitrust laws that apply to agribusiness;
- Review of and updates to farm subsidy programs to ensure they benefit family-size farms as intended.

We oppose:

- Use of edible products other than waste for the manufacture of bio-fuels.

03 - Civil Rights and Human Rights

The inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are the foundations of freedom, justice and peace in the world. The strength of our democracy rests on the rights and responsibilities set forth in the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Democrats must continue their traditional leadership in championing the civil rights of all.

We believe:

- Privacy is fundamental; our private lives and personal information must be protected from intrusion by government or others;
- Discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, military service, insurance, licensing or education based on race, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, economic status, disability, size, political affiliation or national origin is wrong; those who face discrimination must be afforded the legal means and economic opportunities to overcome such injustice;
- We have the right to sovereignty over our own bodies, including a woman's right to choose to terminate a pregnancy regardless of age or ability to pay;
- Marriage, as a legal union of consenting adults, should not be restricted by sexual orientation or gender identity.

We call for:

- Honoring the rich diversity of society and efforts to reflect that diversity in our party.
- Respecting the rights of all adults, including seniors and individuals with disabilities, to direct their own lives in housing, education and all other life choices;
- Adding enforcement provisions to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended;
- Ending legalized discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgendered (LGBT) people and seeking repeal of "Don't Ask Don't Tell" and the federal and state "Defense of Marriage" acts.
- The end of human trafficking for the sex trade or other forms of involuntary servitude;
- Strong legislation, treatment programs and education designed to reduce harassment, intimidation, and domestic or sexual violence.

04 - Corporate Power

We believe that corporations are important to our economy and standard of living. Corporations, as artificial entities, are not entitled to the Constitutional rights of people.

We call for:

- Full enforcement of antitrust laws;
- International trade based on fair trade including living wages and environmental protection;
- Increased exports of manufactured goods and decreased exports of raw resource material;
- Transparency in corporate accounting;
- Strengthening and enforcement of laws against corporate crime, with penalties to include incarceration of executives and revocation of corporate charters;
- A constitutional amendment to establish that corporations shall not be considered as “persons” for purposes of political activity, and to reverse the pernicious ruling that money equals speech;
- Investment banking to be separated from commercial banking and subjected to tighter regulation, transparency, and accountability;
- A federal financial consumer protection agency to regulate financial products, consumer banking, and credit cards;
- Limiting the duration of corporate intellectual copyrights to no more than 40 years.

We oppose:

- The Supreme Court precedent that corporations are people;
- Corporations exerting undue influence on our government.

05 – Economic Justice and Development

The federal government has a responsibility to stabilize the business cycle through fiscal and monetary policy. Economic justice for all is essential to the existence of a democratic society. We believe that economic development, including infrastructure, is vital to continued growth and quality of life.

We call for:

- A progressive tax system at both the federal and state level;
- The removal of the cap on income subject to Social Security tax
- A major increase in funding for assistance and construction of affordable and low income housing in Washington State;
- A fair system of paying for growth with impact fees charged to developers;
- Support for small businesses, including tax credits, low interest loans, and non-profit micro-lending;
- Targeted economic development incentives to businesses that provide verifiable, immediate, and lasting benefits to our communities;
- Only those multilateral trade agreements that are conditioned on environmental, health and safety standards, human rights and workers rights, and which support transparent democratic processes;
- Strict health, safety, housing and environmental standards worldwide, as well as worker rights and welfare internationally;
- Re-establishment of usury laws capping all interest at the level allowed to credit unions;
- Economic justice on women’s issues such as social security reform, pension reform, livable wages, pay equity, job discrimination, and reproductive rights;
- Greater transparency on the part of federal financial institutions;
- A windfall profit tax imposed on businesses that operate or sell their products within the United States and take unreasonable or excessive profit;
- Capping payday loan interest and fees at a 24% annual percentage rate.

We oppose:

- Excessive corporate profits and executive compensation;
- United States corporations going offshore in order to evade U.S. laws and taxes;
- Privatization of Social Security or reduction of benefits;
- Excessive fees and interest charged to consumers by short term lending corporations;
- Favoritism toward the wealthiest that has permitted them undue influence on public policy to the detriment of everyone else;
- The use of credit scores for insurance rating and hiring.

06 - Education

We believe that an excellent, quality public education, preschool through post-secondary, with equal access for all, is fundamental to maintaining a healthy democracy. "It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provisions for the education of all children." *The Washington State Constitution*

We call for:

- Affordable access and full funding of all basic, gifted, vocational, technical, alternative, special education, ELL (English Language Learners), and other state/federal programs and mandates;
- Certificated and classified employees' salaries, cost of living increases and retirement and health care benefits equal to those of other professionals of similar experience and backgrounds to attract/retain quality public school employees;
- Funding for smaller class sizes (P-12) based on effective student teacher ratios;
- Schools that are free from weapons, violence, bullying, harassment, retribution (from staff and students), drugs and alcohol, and through counseling, education and enforcement on these issues in a safe and healthy environment;
- Full inclusion of all students into the school environment regardless of race, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status or disability;
- School counselors, librarians, and nurses sufficient to serve the needs of every student throughout the school day;
- Full funding of Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assisted Programs (ECEAP);
- Affordable access to quality Post-Secondary education;
- The inclusion of music, fine arts, civics and physical education in the Basic Education Act;
- A curriculum that is rigorous, comprehensive, and historically and scientifically accurate at all levels.
- Math instruction that includes arithmetic fluency and critical thinking skills;
- Instructional freedom that is student-centered within the curriculum;
- Public education employees' rights to organize, engage in collective bargaining, and strike without fear of reprisal or replacement;
- A new, stable funding formula for public schools and capital projects;
- Parental participation that supports student learning;
- Full funding for school transportation and on-site, after-school programs;

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- Appropriate funding and curriculum for comprehensive, medically accurate sex education that shall cover, but not be limited to, matters of sexually transmitted diseases, family planning, the cost of raising a child, and the responsibilities and obligations of being a parent;
 - Providing nutritious meals in public schools.

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48 **We oppose:**

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- Charter Schools and vouchers;
 - The commercial exploitation of students;
 - Linking military recruitment to educational funding;
 - Organized prayer in public schools;
 - “No Child Left Behind”;
 - Basing teacher pay solely on student test scores.

07 – Energy and the Environment

We must strive to be responsible stewards of the environment, our communities, and our planet. All people, including future generations, have the right to clean air, water, and a healthy natural environment.

We believe:

- Both our economic stability and the health of our environment depend on sound policy decisions incorporating the best scientific evidence;
- Sustainable energy production and strong environmental protections strengthen our economy and our country.
- Public discussion and education should occur at all levels of community and government about how and why to reduce resource and energy consumption;
- Policies must promote biodiversity, ecosystem and watershed protection, and restoration of wild salmon and endangered species;
- Managing public lands as a public trust benefits us all;
- Washington State should lead international efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and mitigate climate change.

We call for:

- Research and program funding to develop and implement safe, clean alternative energy solutions and to encourage resource conservation.
- Creative mechanisms and incentives to consumers and businesses to encourage energy conservation and use of renewable and environmentally responsible energy, including widespread research, development, and use of energy efficient and renewable sources of power including solar, wind, geothermal, hydro and other distributed technologies;
- Permitting expansion of nuclear power only when our environment is protected and when safe, long-term waste management can be guaranteed;
- The Tri-Party Agreement and other efforts of Washington State to ensure that Hanford Site clean-up is finished and the Columbia River's water quality is protected from the Hanford Site's contamination;
- Conserving resources and promoting sustainability through recycling and waste reduction efforts;
- Limiting urban sprawl and preserving farmland, wildlife habitat, and natural resources as essential to our economic and environmental well-being;
- Protecting our critical environmental areas, including wilderness areas, old growth forests, wildlife habitat areas and corridors, wetlands, streams, riparian areas, the Columbia River, Puget Sound, coastlines, and oceans, through vigilant monitoring and planned growth management;

- 42 • Protecting environmentally sensitive areas by prohibiting oil and mineral
43 exploration and extraction in such areas;
- 44 • Protecting environmentally sensitive areas by prohibiting waste disposal,
45 storage or treatment in such areas;
- 46 • Restriction of offshore well drilling for petroleum;
- 47 • The immediate revision of the 1872 Mining Act to end exploration and
48 extraction in environmentally sensitive public lands and provide
49 compensation to the public for resources that they own;
- 50 • Promoting development of a solar roof program to supply electricity to the
51 power grid;
- 52 • Utilizing biomass conversion, including the implementation of new
53 renewable energy technologies to convert bio-based materials, farm products
54 and byproducts into biofuel.

08 – Foreign Policy

The United States should lead by example as a beacon of freedom and democracy, working within the world community in a spirit of peace, cooperation, and generosity, using democratic ideals with diplomacy and mutual respect, not force.

We believe:

- In order to realize a sustainable, nonviolent world, the United States must promote human welfare and a healthy environment for all peoples;
- We must refuse to conduct preemptive war and must make nonviolence the primary organizing principle of our foreign policy;
- We must protect our nation from terrorist attacks without suppressing basic human rights;
- The United States should work closely and persistently with other countries to prevent or stop genocide, in Darfur and elsewhere;
- The United States should provide proportionate assistance and work with other nations to build a more peaceful and stable world by addressing root causes of conflict, including poverty, inequitable access to natural resources, economic injustice, and environmental degradation;
- Our government should not engage in covert efforts to destabilize other nations' governments.

We call for:

- Providing military and foreign aid only to those nations that support human and civil rights;
- Honoring and upholding the rights, welfare, and healthy environment of all indigenous people;
- Freezing the assets of leaders of repressive regimes and banning military exports to such countries, instead of imposing sanctions that harm the civilian population;
- The pursuit of peace through nonviolent conflict resolution;
- A genuine, open multilateral approach to foreign policy, including participation in multilateral peacekeeping missions;
- Revision of the War Powers Act to assure that Congress can declare an end to a war;
- Cooperative participation in the United Nations and the full payment of our U.N. dues, the signing and ratification of the U.N. agreement forming an International Criminal Court and the recognition of its jurisdiction, , ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and honoring the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

- 42 • An effective, comprehensive plan to ensure our security while protecting our
43 constitutional rights and the human rights of all;
- 44 • Working with other nations to pursue police action against terrorist
45 networks;
- 46 • The signing of the Land Mine Ban Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban
47 Treaty, and the 2010 START treaty, and complying with the Geneva
48 Conventions, the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions, and other
49 treaties protecting civilian populations and addressing climate change;
- 50 • Effective foreign aid to reduce poverty, improve health and education,
51 provide sustainable access to safe water and food free of contaminants, and
52 prevent and treat pandemic and endemic diseases;
- 53 • Restoring programs that support family planning worldwide;
- 54 • Prohibiting United States companies from engaging in practices abroad that
55 would be prohibited at home, such as dumping of products and importing
56 products made by exploiting the environment, local communities and people;
- 57 • Prohibiting multinational corporations, their affiliates, subsidiaries and/or
58 franchises from operating in violation of international law;
- 59 • Outlawing the sale and importation of all products of slave labor and child
60 labor in the United States;
- 61 • Fair trade among nations based on sound environmental principles,
62 sustainable agriculture and manufacturing, and democratic and economic
63 rights of the workforce;
- 64 • Renegotiating international trade agreements to deal adequately and
65 transparently with human rights, labor rights, and environmental rights and
66 laws;
- 67 • The expeditious and orderly withdrawal of all United States military forces,
68 bases, and private security forces from Iraq, redirecting U.S. efforts toward
69 repatriation of Iraqi refugees, helping the Iraqis repair their infrastructure,
70 and encouraging multilateral diplomatic efforts to create and preserve peace
71 in the region;
- 72 • Developing and implementing an orderly, complete and timely exit strategy
73 for all United States combat forces from Afghanistan, and fostering long-term
74 stability and open government in Pakistan and Afghanistan with a
75 substantial contribution to education;
- 76 • Supporting Muslim nations in their efforts to prevent the radicalization of
77 Islam;
- 78 • Serious, full, constructive, and persistent United States engagement to
79 promote negotiations and other actions that will lead to a peaceful,
80 sustainable resolution of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, based on mutual
81 recognition and ensuring security, economic growth, and quality of life for
82 the peoples of a sovereign state of Palestine and the sovereign state of Israel;

- 83 • Prompt negotiations, consistent with the United States recommitment to a
84 nuclear-free world, between Iran and the IAEA, to put in place revised and
85 enhanced nuclear safeguard and inspection agreements;
- 86 • Political and economic self-determination for the Cuban people and
87 normalization of relations with Cuba, including an end to the United States-
88 imposed embargo and travel ban;
- 89 • Closing the School of the Americas, also known as the Western Hemispheric
90 Institute for Security Cooperation, and ending the use United States tax
91 money to fund, train or sponsor military or police forces that suppress human
92 and civil rights in foreign countries;
- 93 • Reduction of nuclear arsenals, strengthening international control of fissile
94 material, and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons by limiting use of fissile
95 material to peaceful purposes;
- 96 • Forgiving onerous debt of countries forced to choose between debt
97 repayment and essential services;
- 98 • The United States government's working with transnational corporations
99 and lending institutions, the International Monetary Fund, and the World
100 Bank to improve regulation of financial systems to prevent economic
101 disruptions and to develop better ways to refinance countries' debts without
102 compelling privatization of government services.

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104 **We oppose:**

- 105 • The production, testing, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, as well as
106 the development of new or enhanced nuclear weapons;
- 107 • The use of depleted uranium as a weapon;
- 108 • Exportation of offensive weapons systems that contribute to destabilization in
109 international relations and contribute to the international arms race;
- 110 • Extraordinary rendition, the abduction of persons of any nationality, their
111 detention in secret prisons, and torture, as illegal and immoral;
- 112 • Using fear as a rallying cry for extended wars and conflict;
- 113 • Rape as a tool of war and the lack of action to stop such rape, which destroys
114 societies, from occurring;
- 115 • Governmental destabilizing operations against Iranian Republic, recognizing
116 that only Iranians can ensure the development of democracy in their country.

09 – Government and Political Reform

Our government derives its legitimacy solely from, and is answerable to, the people. We are committed to a representative democracy that encourages maximum active participation, a voting process that is legitimate, fair, transparent, and open to all citizens, and a principle that requires responsibility from voters and accountability from those they elect.

We believe:

- We must restore the balance of power among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of our Federal government and completely restore Constitutional rights;
- We must restore and preserve the integrity of our electoral processes throughout the nation;
- The commonwealth should be used to support the common good, taxes should be levied fairly and spent frugally, and a balanced budget should be a high priority;
- Government is unique and not a business, with very different functions and purposes, and the need for its services increases during economic downturns; to provide essential services and safety for its citizens, government must levy taxes and enforce laws and regulations for the good of all;
- Government should be conducted honestly, transparently, fairly, and compassionately for the benefit of all, and protected from undue influence by corporate and special interests;
- Government officials must be held to the highest standards of ethical conduct;
- No American citizen should be removed from the voting rolls or otherwise constrained from participating in an election for which they are eligible;
- Political activities must be non-violent.

We call for:

- Curtailing the influence of special interests on our political processes, including contribution and spending limits, as an integral part of campaign finance reforms, and legislation remedying the deleterious effects of *Citizens United v. FEC*;
- Public financing of campaigns and full disclosure of sources of all campaign funds;
- Legislation to reverse the protected status of monetary contributions as “free speech”;
- Conducting all elections either with carefully supervised paper ballots or open-source software, with a verifiable record of all votes;

- 42 • Significantly shortening the process of selecting Presidential nominees, to
43 avoid protracted distractions from the business of governing and to allow for
44 accessible and meaningful citizen participation;
- 45 • Campaign and debate processes that include third-party and so-called
46 second-tier candidates;
- 47 • Guaranteed access to voting in all elections for military service members and
48 American government workers overseas;
- 49 • Immediate restoration of voting rights of felons upon completion of their
50 prison sentences;
- 51 • Full Congressional representation for residents of the District of Columbia
52 and statehood for any United States Territory that votes for it;
- 53 • A Constitutional amendment providing for direct election of the United
54 States President or de facto abolition of the Electoral College so that the role
55 of small states and narrow pluralities in larger states is not unduly magnified;
- 56 • Restrictions on former state and federal elected officials from lobbying for
57 four years after leaving office;
- 58 • Rescinding those sections of the Patriot Act that abrogate rights guaranteed in
59 the Constitution and the Bill of Rights;
- 60 • Reinstatement of laws requiring broadcast license holders to provide equal
61 airtime to political candidates as a condition of their FCC license, and
62 reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine;
- 63 • The use of taxpayer-funded scientific research to produce the best available
64 science to inform policy decisions affecting our health, safety, and
65 environment;
- 66 • Strengthening the wall of separation between church and state by eliminating
67 taxpayer funding for religious institutions or "faith-based" initiatives, and
68 protecting full freedom for all religions and personal belief systems, including
69 freedom from government interference;
- 70 • A federal legislative process that curtails filibusters, and ends anonymous
71 holds on appointments and other dilatory tactics;
- 72 • Establishing a cabinet-level Department of Peace and Nonviolence whose
73 Secretary will advise the President on issues both domestic and international
74 in scope, giving peace a place, voice, and budget at the highest levels of the
75 United States government;
- 76 • All United States Territories and protectorates, including the Mariana Islands,
77 as well as Guantanamo Bay, to be subject to U. S. law including labor laws,
78 due process, habeas corpus, and laws against illegal detention;
- 79 • Adequate and equitable funding of public service options for all young adults
80 when they complete their secondary education or reach maturity, including
81 military, AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Vista, and other avenues of service;
- 82 • The complete and uncompromised restoration of habeas corpus for all
83 citizens and non-citizens alike;

- 84 • Increased funding for human and social services and reduced defense
85 spending;
- 86 • The restoration and strict enforcement of the pre-Bush Administration
87 version of the Freedom of Information Act;
- 88 • Adherence to all open meeting laws;
- 89 • All regulatory agencies to be fully funded and fully accountable;
- 90 • A review of all Washington laws on “eminent domain” to ensure that no
91 private property is taken for private purposes and that all seizures are
92 compensated in a fair and equitable manner, and enforcement of these laws;
- 93 • Extending elective-office contribution limits to include contributions made to
94 support or oppose ballot measures;
- 95 • Accounting for tax exemptions as expenditures in the state budget;
- 96 • The automatic sunseting of non-performing state tax exemptions after 5
97 years.

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99 **We oppose:**

- 100 • Outsourcing, privatizing, or handling by any non-public entity of any part of
101 the voting process;
- 102 • Privatizing, outsourcing or off-shoring of governmental public services,
103 including prisons;
- 104 • The privatization of public infrastructure, including water;
- 105 • Suppression, manipulation and distortion of scientific research and findings
106 for partisan political ends;
- 107 • The use of secrecy, psychological operations and disinformation/
108 manipulation campaigns that leave the United States citizenry uninformed or
109 misinformed;
- 110 • Adding projects to bills by “earmarking funds” without the knowledge of
111 other legislators and the public;
- 112 • Executive branch secrecy beyond legitimate national security needs or
113 personnel matters;
- 114 • Presidential “signing statements” being used to countermand the will of
115 Congress;
- 116 • Unfunded mandates.

10 - Health Care

Health care is a basic human right. Our government should assure, and guarantee by law, accessible and affordable health care for all.

We believe in establishing an ethically-based, not-for-profit health care system, serving patients and public health needs focusing on optimal patient outcomes at a cost we can afford.

We call for:

- A comprehensive, single-payer national health care plan emphasizing prevention, primary care, and chronic disease management, using available evidence-based guidelines;
- Quality outpatient and inpatient services; acute and long-term care; home, residential, and hospice care, including Death with Dignity; mental health care and substance abuse programs; dental, visual, and hearing services; family planning with contraceptive care; alternative care; and rehabilitation, according to health care needs;
- Affordable coverage of prescription drugs, medical supplies and durable medical equipment;
- Development and implementation of an interim universal state plan.
- A unified electronic health record system that safeguards patient privacy;
- A strong patient bill of rights, including the right to refuse care;
- Public health policy based on sound scientific guidelines following recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- Increasing the supply of health care providers with incentives for working in primary care as well as underserved communities and populations;
- Increasing funding for medical research based solely on scientific merit;
- Support of global family planning;
- Government to use its purchasing power to negotiate prices for pharmaceuticals and medical devices for health plans.

We oppose:

- Spend-down requirements for persons eligible for Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance before they can receive Medicaid;
- Direct- to-consumer-advertising of prescription drugs.

11 - Human Services

As a caring community, we must provide a safety net of social services that meets the basic needs of people, especially those on the margins of society, so they can attain their full potential.

We believe:

- Our government must accept its responsibility to provide a safety net of social services to meet people's needs regardless of their national or racial origin;
- Compassionate human services should be among the highest priorities of government, especially for those on the margins of society, such as the children, elderly, impoverished, homeless, mentally ill, disabled or those with chemical dependency,
- In supporting and strengthening family and community services for people with developmental disabilities, and increasing program flexibility to facilitate integration into the community;
- Public assistance is necessary to safeguard the vulnerable poor and people with disabilities who cannot reasonably provide for themselves;
- The only genuine welfare reform is one that reduces poverty, not just the welfare rolls.

We call for:

- Adequate funding for social services, including mental health and substance abuse treatment;
- An end to homelessness, and ensuring that all people have access to safe, affordable housing, including shelters and low-income housing for those unable to work. We support weighting affordable housing programs toward those who need them most;
- Affordable workforce housing programs, especially those targeting workers earning between minimum wage and a living wage in order to avoid competing with marketplace housing;
- Separating social services from faith-based requirements;
- A transitional plan for persons being released from state institutions;
- Improved oversight of elder-care;
- Restructuring and adequately funding the foster care system as a means to prevent child abuse and neglect.

We oppose:

- Increased privatization of public social services.

12 - Immigration

Immigrants strengthen America. All immigrants should be afforded full human rights and a fair, safe, and timely path to legal status.

We believe:

- All people, regardless of their country of origin or their legal status, deserve to be treated fairly, respectfully, and with dignity, and that all people have a right to equal treatment under the law;
- All children regardless of immigration status are entitled to education to provide them the knowledge and skills to be productive members of society;
- In allowing access to health care and human services without regard to immigration status; withholding those services is discriminatory and inhumane;
- Migrant workers deserve safe and adequate housing and sanitary facilities;
- Immigration arises from global displacement and disproportionate distribution of wealth, and is not a matter of Homeland Security.

We call for:

- United States immigration policy to undergo comprehensive reform, protecting the integrity of our borders while recognizing the basic human rights of immigrants and protecting them with transparent due process in all proceedings and a clear pathway to legal status and citizenship if desired;
- Passage of the Uniting American Families Act to increase family unification, including families of same-sex and bi-national couples;
- Allowing undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children who have attained the age of majority to apply for U.S. citizenship without first being required to return to their country of origin;
- Reintroduction and passage of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act), which allows children of undocumented immigrants temporary residency to allow them to pursue higher education and to be given an opportunity to earn permanent residency;
- Enforcement of the laws which penalize employers who knowingly employ undocumented immigrants.
- Policies that more fully integrate and support immigrants as equal members of our communities, including programs offering immigrants instruction in English and preparation for citizenship;
- Clearing the immigration backlog;
- An end to deportation or detention, without due process of law, of any person who is a primary or sole caregiver for a minor child or disabled dependent;

- 42 • Streamlining and expediting procedures for granting asylum to persons
43 fleeing from areas of war, genocide, and political oppression, subject to
44 appropriate security concerns;
- 45 • Provisions to prevent discrimination in wages and working conditions for
46 immigrant workers, including access to safe and adequate housing, medical
47 care and educational opportunities, so that they will be protected from
48 exploitation and American workers will be protected from being undercut by
49 employers taking advantage of an illegal and exploited workforce;
- 50 • Using diplomacy and sustainable development to improve the social,
51 economic and environmental conditions that contribute to illegal immigration
52 into the United States
53

54 **We oppose:**

- 55 • State or local police involvement in the enforcement of federal immigration
56 laws;
- 57 • Efforts to deputize, commission, finance, or otherwise encourage vigilante
58 border militia groups in the United States;
- 59 • Automatic detention and/or deportation of asylum-seekers;
- 60 • Legislative attempts to establish English as the sole official language of the
61 United States.

13 - Labor

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3 A strong economy is based upon jobs that provide safe working conditions, a fair
4 and living wage, and health and retirement benefits. The benefits are obtained and
5 ensured by workers' rights to organize unions for collective bargaining.
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We believe:

- 8 • Workers are dedicated, industrious and competitive;
- 9 • Workers deserve respect and a living wage; we define a living wage as the
10 wage necessary for a person working forty hours a week, with no additional
11 income, to afford decent housing, food, utilities, transport, and health care;
- 12 • Workers must have a safe and harassment-free work environment; a safe and
13 healthy workplace should meet state and federal standards (e.g.,
14 WISHA/OSHA/MSHA/MMS);
- 15 • Workers must have the enforced right to organize and collectively bargain in
16 order to have living wages;
- 17 • Workers must have retirement and health benefits that are portable between
18 employers;
- 19 • Workers need to have better access to education and training in order to be
20 competitive in a world market of jobs;
- 21 • Workers who "blow the whistle" must be given access to courts and
22 protected from retaliation;
- 23 • Wages should be commensurate with changes in productivity (NBLS).
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We call for:

- 26 • Prevailing wage laws for work under government contracts;
- 27 • "Best Value Contractor" policies and "Fair Contracting" for public works jobs;
- 28 • Area standards for wages and benefits;
- 29 • Apprenticeship set-asides;
- 30 • Unemployment insurance and workers compensation;
- 31 • Unemployment and retraining benefits for workers laid off or locked out by
32 their employers, including those whose jobs are outsourced, downgraded, or
33 eliminated;
- 34 • Protection of overtime pay;
- 35 • The automatic recognition of a union based on signatures of a majority of
36 those represented;
- 37 • A Workers' Bill of Rights that includes rights of assembly, association and
38 free speech; due process; freedom from discrimination; and democracy within
39 unions;
- 40 • Equal participation between labor and employers in the management of
41 workers' pensions;

- 42 • Competitive and commensurate wages for all workers, whether they are
- 43 private sector, non-profit, or state and local government employees;
- 44 • Veterans, women, people of color, people with disabilities and sexual
- 45 minorities earning equal compensation for equivalent work;
- 46 • Safe and adequate housing, medical care and sanitary facilities for all
- 47 workers, including migrant, temporary, and contract workers;
- 48 • Withholding federal contracts from U.S. corporations that choose to locate
- 49 “offshore” for tax shelter purposes;
- 50 • Support for working families with special programs such as day care and
- 51 flextime to care for family members;
- 52 • Child labor standards that limit the hours youths are allowed to be employed
- 53 during the school year.

54
55 **We oppose:**

- 56 • “Right-to-work” and other anti-union legislation;
- 57 • Exploitation of migrant, temporary and contract workers;
- 58 • Corporations using mergers and bankruptcy courts to steal workers pensions;
- 59 • Under-funding of pension liabilities by either the private or public sector;
- 60 • Foreign trade agreements that put the might of a corporation above the rights
- 61 of workers;
- 62 • Foreign trade agreements that overrule the rights of local governments;
- 63 • Using tips as part of a minimum wage calculation;
- 64 • Use of permanent replacement workers during strikes;
- 65 • Supplanting public employees with low-wage, low benefit contract employees or
- 66 prison labor;
- 67 • The unilateral redefining of workers as independent contractors to reduce
- 68 labor costs, rendering workers ineligible for benefits and other protection;
- 69 • The decline of real wages over the last three decades;
- 70 • The privatization of workers compensation.

14 - Law and the Justice System

The rule of law is a prerequisite for a democratic civil society. A responsible government provides safety, security and justice for all, with fairness and respect for the individual.

We believe:

- All persons are equal before the law, and criminal justice must be linked to human rights;
- Liberty and justice for all includes everyone within the borders of the United States;
- In alleviating the conditions closely linked to crime and violence, by investing in nonviolent conflict resolution, education, youth programs, health care, social services, and living wage jobs;
- Asset seizures should be based on court conviction rather than mere arrest or presumption of guilt;
- In drug courts and a new approach to drug abuse focused on treatment and education rather than incarceration;
- In the stringent enforcement and supplementation of state and federal laws regulating the purchase and ownership of firearms that adequately address public safety concerns and the responsibility of gun owners, while respecting their ownership rights;
- In adequate state funding for indigent defendants in criminal cases;
- In DNA testing to free the innocent and convict the guilty;
- In eliminating mandatory minimum sentences and Three Strikes sentencing;
- The criminal justice system should emphasize prevention and rehabilitation over incarceration alone. Prisons should provide inmates with education, training, therapy, and meaningful work;
- The criminal justice system is the appropriate venue for prosecution of all violent crimes;
- In enforcement of laws that provide for humane treatment of animals.

We call for:

- Ending the “war on drugs”, and subjecting use of marijuana and hemp to reasonable regulation and taxation;
- Eliminating all forms of racial profiling by law enforcement and in sentencing;
- Restoring habeas corpus for citizens and non-citizens, completely and without compromise;

- 40 • Research, legislation and enforcement measures to address the current racial
41 disparity between persons of color in prison and their proportion in the state
42 population;
- 43 • Independent investigation and prosecution of any government officer
44 responsible for ordering or participating in violations of law;
- 45 • Abolition of capital punishment;
- 46 • Accountability in law enforcement through an effective review process that is
47 independent, open, responsive and thorough, and that includes meaningful
48 civilian participation;
- 49 • Restoring FBI funding to investigate white collar crime;
- 50 • Adequate punishments for white collar crime, including appropriate fines
51 and jail time;
- 52 • Ending the privatization of prisons;
- 53 • Full funding of the Violence Against Women Act, services to crime victims,
54 and programs to prevent sexual violence;
- 55 • The creation and funding of mental health courts to address the unique needs
56 of offenders who have a mental illness or are developmentally delayed.

15 -Media Reform

An informed citizenry and persistently inquisitive media are essential for democracy to flourish. The free flow of information is fundamental to democracy. The public owns the broadcast frequencies and the Internet, which should be managed to serve the public interest. Internet neutrality is fundamental to preserving the value of the Internet for the public.

We call for:

- Diversity of ownership and programming as the primary principle of broadcast licensing;
- Strengthening media ownership regulations to avoid corporate domination of our airwaves;
- Encouraging women, minority and community media ownership;
- Adequate, stable funding, free of political pressure, for public radio and public television;
- Strengthening community-level, non-profit and non-commercial radio and TV;
- Ensuring that rural Americans have access to a modern communications infrastructure;
- Reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine for broadcast media during election campaigns and making it applicable to cable networks, to promote greater balance in coverage;
- Increasing affordable access to high-speed internet statewide.

We oppose:

- False claims of “national security” to suppress investigative journalism.

16 - Military

We support our troops and honor our veterans, and we will continue to press for the resources necessary to ensure that they receive all this nation has promised – and owes – them.

We believe:

- It is the task of the military to execute the legal directives issued by the civilian Commander in Chief in accordance with the constitutional responsibility of the United States Congress to declare war;
- Under the Constitution it is the duty of Congress to provide oversight, to act to prevent the misuse of the military, and to ensure that our military is used only for the common defense;
- Our military men and women – active duty, reserve and National Guard – are entitled to serve with a clear mission and adequate resources;
- Female military personnel have the right to make their own reproductive decisions, with the same rights accorded to civilian female citizens.

We call for:

- America's armed services to be provided by those who, whether through employment or draft, are accountable to the public, the law, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, not by contractors who are exempt from these constraints;
- Military members who declare themselves conscientious objectors to be given due process and allowed alternative duties;
- Equal treatment for all service members, including abolishing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy and passing legislation to ensure that sexual orientation does not affect equal treatment of service men and women;
- Full prosecution for all sexual assault or gender-based, religious, or racial harassment by military personnel;
- Troops to be accorded 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;
- Routine inspections of facilities by the office of Inspector General, and procedures to insure facility integrity;
- Providing financial assistance, daycare assistance, and no-cost life insurance supplements for families of all military personnel deployed to hostile or combat areas;
- Military personnel retaining full enlistment bonuses despite being wounded;
- Providing all veterans with full, no-cost treatment at local military medical facilities, and providing retraining for those who are disabled;

- 42 • Fully funding VA mental health treatment, including treatment for Post
43 Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injuries;
- 44 • A full review by an independent medical and vocational rehabilitation panel
45 of all military partial-disability ratings assigned since the start of the Iraq war
46 and occupation;
- 47 • Access to housing and services for homeless vets;
- 48 • Equal GI Bill privileges for ALL service men and women, including National
49 Guard members who have been activated for combat duty;
- 50 • Elimination of the Survivor's Benefit Plan (SBP) Social Security offset when a
51 widowed military spouse reaches age 62;
- 52 • Enforcement of the Geneva Convention, through all levels of command, in
53 the treatment of all prisoners of war, enemy combatants, and detainees
54 regardless of the location of their incarceration; torture is never acceptable;
- 55 • Increased instruction by the military of all American personnel in their rights
56 and responsibilities under the Geneva Conventions;
- 57 • Elimination of unnecessary, outdated, and redundant military programs and
58 weapons, and investment of the savings in other pressing domestic or
59 military needs;
- 60 • Additional reform of the contracting practices of the military, with contracts
61 to be awarded based on fair and competitive bidding, with preference given
62 to United States companies when possible;
- 63 • United States government control of development and production of military
64 weapons and equipment.

65
66 **We oppose:**

- 67 • Use of our military resources in unauthorized, unjustified, and/or pre-
68 emptive wars;
- 69 • The federal use of the National Guard for any purposes other than defense,
70 enforcement of a court order or response to a declared disaster area;
- 71 • The militarization of space;
- 72 • The continued disproportionate military expenditures in comparison to the
73 rest of the world;
- 74 • Special-interest contracting of paramilitary, intelligence, security and support
75 services.

17 - Transportation

We believe that an efficient, well-planned, multimodal transportation system promotes a healthy economy, environment and community.

We call for:

- Significant public input and oversight into major transportation public works;
- Policies and public funding that make travel as safe and efficient as possible for all modes of transportation, motorized and non-motorized;
- Accessible transportation for all, including safe, affordable, and efficient bus and rail services for persons with disabilities;
- Investments in public infrastructure that broaden individuals' multimodal transportation choices;
- Encouraging the development of alternative energy for transportation;
- Instituting measures to reduce pollution and dependence on fossil fuels, including increased fuel efficiency standards for all vehicles;
- Land use planning that works toward the goal of decreasing the need to drive;
- An increased use of rail for shipment of agricultural products and other goods;
- A high speed rail system to link major cities.

18 – Tribal Relations and Sovereignty

Local, state, and federal governments must respect Native American nations on a sovereign government-to-government basis and must respect the decisions of Native American Nations, affirm their rights derived from treaties and state compacts, and oppose attempts to diminish their sovereignty and cultures.

We call for:

- Government recognition of the inherent sovereignty and treaty rights of Native American nations as self-determining and self-governing;
- Restoration of federal recognition for formerly recognized Tribes;
- Continued efforts to maintain and restore salmon runs and protect shellfish resources that are critical to Native American cultures and economies;
- The preservation, protection and restoration of sites of historic, cultural and religious significance;
- Local, state, and federal governments to help improve the social, economic, and health status of all Native American people to a level equivalent to that of other Americans;
- Educating the American public about the inherent and treaty-based rights of Native American nations, a step that is vital to civil and respectful relations between those nations and local communities and the United States;
- The promotion, restoration and protection of the rights of Native American people, with full respect for their cultural values, languages, traditions, and forms of social organization, whether or not they are recognized by the United States Government.