

**Douglas County Democrats  
PLATFORM  
Adopted March 24, 2018**

**PREAMBLE**

The Democrats of Douglas County believe that democratic principles are the foundation of a safe, stable, and prosperous future and that these principles must be woven into the fabric of our lives and community. We embrace the rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

The diversity of the threads that weave our nation together strengthen and enrich the fabric of our community and country. We believe that the interweaving of strong family and community produces a stronger nation. For our Constitution to serve us as our forefathers envisioned, we recognize that democracy requires participation in the community by involved and informed citizens. We encourage participation in government because we believe it is the duty of citizens to protect and promote their democracy through self-government.

Our democracy was born out of the ideal of compassion - "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men [sic] are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." We are committed to programs that ensure all persons have the right to food, shelter, education, a living wage, and health care. We believe that programs that recognize the basic needs and rights of all humans, at home and abroad, promote security at home and abroad.

It is our duty to leave future generations with a healthier and more democratic nation. We are committed to making the investment that ensures future generations the adequate resources, clean and healthy environment, economic stability and ethical foundation they will need to prosper and advance.

In order to maintain a progressive democracy, Democrats are accountable to implement the principles of this platform, using all available legal and parliamentary procedures.

**Platform sections:**

**I      Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry:**

The productivity of our natural resources is the basis for our national security. We are stewards of the land, air, and water that sustains us. Therefore we must preserve and protect the health of our forests and waterways and the organisms that inhabit them. We must preserve family farms and strengthen rural communities to ensure the ongoing availability of high-quality food, and maintain the viability of land, air, and water for the benefit of generations of living things present and future.

## **II Arts and Culture:**

Ease of access, frequent exposure to and education in the arts, and to the elements that comprise all the world's diverse cultures, are essential for the enrichment, health and well-being of our great society.

## **III Civil and Human Rights:**

Our Declaration of Independence recognizes "that all [persons] are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, and that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." We believe that in order to respect these rights, adequate food, shelter, medical care, education, and employment opportunities are essential. Our democracy reflects the rights and responsibilities set forth in the United States Constitution, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and the Washington State Constitution. The inherent dignity and equal and unalienable rights of all human beings are foundations of freedom, justice, and peace.

## **IV Corporate Power:**

Corporations are artificial entities and not entitled to Constitutional protections as persons. We oppose the undue influence of corporations on our society, government, and political process. Corporate contributions should not distort the democratic process. Capitalism and government should promote the common good.

## **V Economic Justice, Jobs and Tax Fairness:**

We are committed to a sustainable economy with strong communities based on living-wage jobs, tax fairness, and shared prosperity. We are committed to making every vote matter in how our government legislates, which is the key to economic justice, economic security, and tax fairness.

## **VI Education:**

An educated citizenry is vital to a free and democratic society. This need is met by an accessible public school system, including pre-K through post-secondary and technical training, designed to educate informed, reasoning, and thoughtful persons who are prepared to participate in our civic society.

## **VII Energy, Environment, and the Climate Crisis:**

Science has determined that climate change poses a real and urgent threat to the Earth, our economy, our national security, and the health and futures of all children. The Pentagon and other governmental agencies, major corporations, and insurers are already preparing for the consequences of climate change. We must move quickly toward clean and sustainable energy sources and an economy that is sustainable, creating a healthier Earth and stronger future for all.

## **VIII Foreign Policy:**

The United States should lead by example and work within the world community in a spirit of peace, cooperation and generosity to support human welfare, freedom, and

democracy. We must not conduct preemptive war. Diplomacy and nonviolent conflict resolution should be the primary organizing principle of our foreign policy.

#### **IX Government and Political Reform:**

Government derives its legitimacy from the people, to whom it must be answerable; it serves as their instrument to achieve ends that the people could not achieve individually. Our representative democracy requires and encourages maximum participation by an informed citizenry, a voting process that is fair, transparent, and open to all citizens, and one that provides abundant opportunity to observe that our elections are free of foreign interference or undue influence by special interests.

#### **X Health Care:**

The United States Constitution states that a primary purpose for its existence is to “. . . promote the general welfare.” Government should work to improve our overall health and protect a healthy environment for our communities, while assuring access to high-quality, affordable care for everyone. Noting the substantial economic efficiencies of Medicare, we support using the most efficient administrative procedures available to provide universal, single payer, comprehensive health care, including mental and physical health and access to prescription drugs and rehabilitative therapies. Patients must have the right to access all lawful medical treatment options.

#### **XI Human Services:**

As a caring community, we must provide and maintain social services that assist in meeting the basic needs of people, especially those on the margins of society.

#### **XII Immigration:**

We are a nation of diverse cultures. Immigrants strengthen our country. All immigrants should be afforded full human rights and a fair, safe, clear, and timely path towards legal status and/or citizenship for themselves and their families.

#### **XIII Labor:**

A strong economy and nation depend on jobs that provide safe working conditions, fair and living wages, and benefits for all workers. To this end, all workers must have the right to organize and bargain collectively to determine and ensure their mutual security, safety, working conditions, salary and benefits.

#### **XIV Law and the Justice System:**

The rule of law is a prerequisite for a democratic civil society. A good government provides for safety, security and justice for all, with care, fairness, and respect for each individual and for public safety as an essential expectation for all of its citizens.

#### **XV Media Reform:**

An informed citizenry and persistently inquisitive media are essential for democracy to flourish. The free flow of information is fundamental to democracy. Media reform must provide for net neutrality, a high level of transparency from all (including special interest groups), and free access to services. Monopoly ownership of news media outlets must

be treated as a threat to complete and accurate news coverage. We support a strong FCC and a rigorous Communications Act to prevent monopoly news coverage, so far as is possible, in any region or medium.

**XVI Military and Veterans Affairs:**

The core task of the U.S. military is to provide for the common defense. Our military must be adequate to provide for our nation's defense and should never be open to abuses of power by any branch of government. We support our military, both on active duty and following their time of service. We recognize the sacrifice of our military members and their families. We believe they should be supported with the entitlements and benefits they have earned.

**XVII Transportation:**

We believe that an efficient, well-planned and maintained multimodal transportation system is vital for a healthy environment, economy, and community, which must also include rural areas.

**XVIII Tribal Relations and Sovereignty:**

Washington State must maintain a lasting and respectful relationship with Tribal Nations and oppose all attempts to diminish tribal sovereignty, tribal culture, tribal land and natural resources, or the general welfare of tribes located within the State of Washington. This is especially true for the renewal of the Columbia River Treaty with Canada as it needs to recognize the importance of Tribal Rights.

*Adopted March 24, 2018 at the biennial Douglas County Democratic County Convention, Clovis Point Intermediate School, East Wenatchee, WA.*