



ALBANY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY 2022 PLATFORM

Preamble

The Albany County Democratic Party continues to pursue “a more perfect Union”. Our founding document inspires us to work continuously toward a world in which all people are treated with respect; a world in which all people have dignity and the opportunity to lead healthy, fulfilling lives. We commit to addressing the issues of today with future generations in mind and recognize the urgency with which we must take on the climate crisis and other threats to peace and prosperity. In order to make our County, our State, and our Country stronger, safer, and more equitable, we pledge our labors to the realization of the following platform.

I. Combatting Inequity: Equality, Economic Prosperity & Workers’ Rights

We believe that our government is fundamental to fighting inequity. Equality for all Americans means equal access to safe and healthy communities. We believe that a more equitable society benefits all Americans.

1. We support a living wage for all workers, closing the gender wage gap, a safety net for those suffering hardship and infirmity, and universal health care. We support affordable day care and elder care, paid sick leave and parental leave, affordable housing, and affordable internet access. We support the right to collective bargaining, and a safe, healthy, respectful workplace. We support wage increases for Wyoming government employees, including but not limited to educators, firefighters, teachers, snow plow drivers, and law enforcement.
2. We support investment in Wyoming’s economy and new technologies to promote job creation, retain workers in our state, and to ensure the continued economic power and leadership of our state. We support Wyoming as a technological and environmental leader in clean energy.
3. We support infrastructure investments to improve health in our homes, workplaces and schools, including safe drinking water and mitigating radon, asbestos, and other environmental hazards.

II. Free and Fair Elections

The success of our democracy requires us to be active participants in ensuring a fair, honest, and transparent government and to hold ourselves accountable for the results. For this to happen, our elections must be free and fair.

1. We will work to ensure all citizens, including indigenous peoples, have equal access to the polls. We oppose infringement on the right to vote and especially impediments placed to hinder the participation of minority groups.
2. We will oppose the use of unethical tactics and illegal activities by political parties and organizations, oppose gerrymandering, and fight to end foreign government interference in our elections.
3. We will limit the power of money in our elections and ensure political contributions are transparent and traceable.
4. We support creating an independent, non-partisan commission for redistricting.
5. We support a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United.

III. Education

A quality education is essential to the economic, moral, and political health of our country. All children must have access to quality education starting in preschool and extending through college, university, and career and technical education.

1. We support teachers. We support the rights of teachers to organize to achieve adequate pay and benefits that are commensurate with their responsibilities and experience.
2. We encourage diversity among teachers, administrators, staff, and Board of Education members.
3. We support developing high-quality, accessible, and affordable pre-kindergarten options.
4. We support increasing broadband accessibility across Wyoming to ensure equity in rural communities.
5. We support a basket of educational goods and services that promotes broad, knowledge-based learning. We support well-rounded curricula in our schools that include and promote the humanities, creative arts, social sciences, civics, natural sciences, technology, mathematics, and formal sciences, including evidence-based research, inside and outside of the classroom.
6. We oppose the banning of books in school and public libraries.
7. We support creating and maintaining a safe educational environment for all students including the implementation of anti-bullying measures to protect the rights of marginalized students to a quality education.
8. Our schools should follow the advice of medical professionals as to the wearing of masks and mandatory vaccinations for students and staff.

9. We support alternative discipline methods that reduce suspensions and expulsions, which lessen educational opportunities and lead to inequality.
10. We support policies that increase: graduation rates for all students, investment in our community college system, affordability for post-secondary education, and varied excellent career paths.
11. We encourage offering after-school and enrichment activities that support the educational environment and working families.
12. We support the autonomy of the faculty and staff at the University of Wyoming to determine high-value educational programming.

IV. Immigration

Immigration strengthens our nation and enhances our culture. Our nation's obligation, epitomized by the Statue of Liberty, is to take in the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

1. We favor providing a clear, consistent, and accessible path to citizenship for those immigrants already here, including Dreamers.
2. We support the dismantling of the prison system that jails people who are crossing the border for the sole purpose of immigration. We abhor the use of detention to incarcerate children and separate families. We oppose any immigrant detention centers and other Customs Enforcement facilities in Wyoming.
3. We demand an end to the requirement that prospective immigrants stay south of the border while awaiting hearings. We condemn the further construction of a wall on our southern border.
4. We support humane treatment of immigrants and prospective immigrants, including access to health care, education, and justice.

V. Safe and Orderly Society

A fair and impartial justice system is necessary if our communities are to be free of fear, oppression and violence. Everyone should be judged by the content of their character: equal in the eyes of the law.

1. We oppose private prisons and immigrant detention centers.
2. We will promote police training, accountability, and reform to minimize conflicts.
3. We support reasonable alternatives to prison, including restorative justice.
4. We support the legalization of marijuana.
5. We favor repealing the death penalty.
6. We demand adequate funding for public defenders.
7. We recognize the rights of the disability community to full access to all spaces and programs within the justice system.

VI. Equality in the Equality State

The fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution must be recognized equally for every person across our country. We demand equal access and protection under the law, equality for women in all aspects of life, and oppose discrimination in all forms.

1. We support legislation to include LGBTQ+ citizens under the protections of existing anti-discrimination laws.
2. We support the rights of the disability community for full access to all spaces, equal wages, and full and equal human rights.
3. We support mitigating systemic racism and inequalities intertwined in the history of the United States and believe we should strive to reach the ideals of our founding documents.
4. We decry legislation designed to eliminate the examination of the role of race and gender in our history.
5. We support marriage equality.
6. We support increasing the representation of marginalized groups in leadership roles in our communities and encourage their involvement as candidates for office.
7. We support the Violence Against Women Act and the Women's Health Protection Act.
8. We promote and respect women's full and equal participation in families, relationships, society, workplaces, and government.
9. We will protect reproductive rights, including access to abortion. We will support reproductive health care for all.
10. We will work to eliminate the gender wage gap.

VII. Native Sovereignty

Our government has a legal and moral obligation toward Native American Tribes and Indigenous communities. We are committed to honoring, upholding, and strengthening Wyoming's trust obligations to Tribal Nations and communities, as enshrined in treaties, federal statutes, and case law. We pledge to find our commonalities, celebrate our differences and creatively work together for our shared future and that of generations to come.

1. We recognize and support the sovereignty of Tribal Nations and the protection of Tribal lands, spiritual artifacts and places, resources, and treaty rights.
2. We honor, respect, and support the values, traditions, history, and cultural practices of Indigenous peoples in Wyoming .
3. We support efforts to eliminate violence against Indigenous women.

VIII. Healthcare

Accessible, quality healthcare is a human right. Promoting the general welfare is a constitutional obligation of our government and nothing is more integral to that welfare than healthcare.

1. We support the creation of a universal, single payer health care system.
2. We will work to protect women's access to reproductive health services, including all forms of contraception and safe, legal abortion.
3. We will work to expand Medicaid coverage in Wyoming as authorized in the Affordable Care Act.
4. We believe increasing access to mental health and substance-dependency treatment is essential for healthy communities. We support decriminalizing mental health-related offenses.
5. We support the use of medical marijuana under the supervision of a licensed medical professional with prescriptive authority. We support legalizing, regulating, and taxing it.
6. We believe medical professionals should guide decisions on public health and safety, including vaccinations and masking.

IX. A Healthy and Sustainable Earth

Our highest priority must be protecting this planet which all humanity calls home. In order for our descendants to enjoy clean air and water as well as healthy landscapes and abundant wildlife, we must come together to protect and conserve our natural resources and meet the challenges of climate disruption.

1. We support the use of renewable energy sources and energy conservation to reduce our carbon footprint. We recognize the role of renewable energy and energy efficiency in economic growth, sustainability, and diversification.
2. We support maintaining access to public lands and open space for the health and enjoyment of our citizens.
3. We will protect the quality of our aquifers on which the citizens of Albany County depend.
4. We support the acquisition of water rights by city and county governments in Albany County.
5. We support conservation and protection of our waterways, native vegetation, wildlife and its habitat, and our viewsheds for the natural, cultural and economic benefits they provide us.
6. We value open space, wildlife, outdoor recreation, and tourism as essential economic factors.
7. We support taking into account climate change adaptation when planning for food systems, energy production, and ecological integrity.

X. Freedom of Speech and the Press

Free expression is a basic right of the American people. Whether it is through print, internet platforms, or public speech and protest, that right must be protected.

1. We will work to prevent the banning of books.
2. We favor improving internet access for all.
3. We will work to protect the right to peacefully assemble.
4. We support the improvement of government transparency.
5. We believe media organizations should be held accountable for accuracy and honesty.

XI. Second Amendment Rights

We support the constitutional guarantee of our citizens' right to bear arms. We will protect our citizens' Second Amendment Rights through responsible gun ownership legislation.

1. We support requiring background checks before acquiring firearms.
2. We will work to restrict access to firearms from domestic abusers, violent felons, and mentally unstable citizens.
3. We oppose armed vigilante groups.
4. We support regulating military-style high-capacity weapons of war.

XII. National Security and International Affairs

All humans on Planet Earth have common interests. We accept the essential morality of sharing with the rest of the world the civil rights and benefits of community that we value. America will be the beneficiary when our world is peaceful and prosperous.

1. We will work to restore collaborative relations with other nations and strengthen the U.S. diplomatic community.
2. We support lifting discriminatory bans of citizens from foreign countries.
3. We support humanitarian foreign aid.
4. We will work to promote peace and democracy.
5. We will cooperate with other nations to alleviate poverty and inequality.
6. We support the resumption of the Constitutional role of Congress to declare war and to authorize defense-related expenditures.
7. We support negotiating fair international trade agreements that recognize international labor standards such as the right to bargain collectively, and prohibition of child labor, forced labor, and discrimination in employment.
8. We support international cooperation in support of the common good in our increasingly interconnected world.

IN CLOSING...

We encourage all Democrats to get involved ...
Hold our elected representatives accountable.
Volunteer for boards and commissions.
Run for office.
Above all,
VOTE!

