



# ALBANY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY 2020 PLATFORM

Adopted May 16, 2020

## 1 - Government only works when citizens take ownership.

**In America, we believe “government” is of the people, by the people, and for the people. The Constitution gives us each an equal vote. This compels us to be active participants in ensuring a fair, honest, and transparent government and to hold ourselves accountable for the results.**

We will treat all people with respect and dignity. We:

- Oppose discrimination and demand equal access and protection under the law to ensure the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution are recognized equally for every person across America.
- Believe immigration to the United States is good and necessary for our country and good for our communities.
- Support a path to citizenship, including for the DACA (“Dreamer”) immigrants.
- Support legislation to include LGBTQ+ citizens under the protections of existing anti-discrimination laws.
- Promote and respect women’s full and equal participation in families, relationships, society, workplaces, and government.
- Recognize the systemic racism and inequalities intertwined with the history of the United States, but believe we should strive to reach the ideals of our founding documents. We recognize tribal sovereignty, and support reparations.
- Support legislation that promotes the closure of the gender wage gap and recognizes that the work women contribute is as equally important and beneficial for our community as men's.
- Support the rights of the disability community for full accessibility to all spaces, living wages, and full and equal human rights.

We will make sure elections are fair. We will:

- Eliminate corporate money in our elections; corporations aren’t people.
- Ensure political contributions are transparent and traceable to their origins.
- Limit the power of money in our elections; money isn’t speech.
- Oppose the gerrymandering of voting districts.
- Ensure all citizens, including indigenous populations, have equal access to the polls.
- Stop foreign government interference in our elections.
- Stop the use of unethical tactics and illegal activities by political parties and organizations.
- Oppose organized gatherings of armed militias in public places, which may intimidate or terrorize the public and elected officials.

We will use legislation to improve society. We will:

- Establish responsible gun regulation, including comprehensive background checks.
- Protect reproductive rights, including access to abortion.
- Protect workers' rights to collective bargaining, and support worker ownership models.
- Support increasing the minimum wage for all workers.
- Protect all people from assault or harassment, child abuse, and domestic violence.
- Protect whistleblowers.
- Protect victim's right to public privacy.

We will work for a fair and impartial justice system. We:

- Oppose private prisons and immigrant detention centers.
- Promote police training and accountability to minimize conflicts.
- Support reasonable alternatives to prison, including restorative justice.
- Support the legalization of marijuana.
- Support repealing the death penalty.
- Support adequate funding for public defenders.

We will hold ourselves and our government officials to high standards. We will:

- Embrace the US Constitution as a guiding document, not an obstacle to be overcome in pursuit of personal or partisan gain.
- Insist on public policy based on science, not prejudice.
- Maintain respectful public discourse.
- Promote candidates with personal integrity, and condemn harassment and abuse of any kind by candidates and elected officials.
- Demand honesty, transparency and accountability in all elected and appointed offices - no one is above the law.

## 2 - Our government and services should reflect us, the people.

**We, the people, are the government. Let us join forces for our mutual benefit. We're all in this together.**

We believe quality health care is part of a strong country. We:

- Support a single payer health care system.
- Support expansion of Medicaid coverage in Wyoming.
- Support expansion of mental health services to address unacceptable suicide rates and domestic violence.
- Support a unified, focused campaign to keep the spread of pandemics to a minimum, and are committed to prevention measures such as education and specific protocols for businesses and schools that are based on guidelines from scientific, non-political sources such as the CDC and the WHO.
- Support increasing subsidies and providing opportunities for people who have lost jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A quality education is essential to our active participation in self-government and to the economic prosperity of our society. We will:

- Protect Wyoming's longstanding investment in high-quality education.
- Include vocational training in a comprehensive education system.
- Honor the Wyoming Constitution's requirements that "The legislature provide for the establishment and maintenance of a complete and uniform system of public instruction" and University education shall "be as nearly free as possible."
- Support the inclusion of early childhood education as a fundamental educational right that should be incorporated into the public education system in order to fully fund early childhood education and ensure equitable access for all children.

We are a community and recognize our interdependence. We:

- Recognize taxes as a basic cost of civilization and require equitable participation across the economy.
- Support the maintenance and adequate funding of a safety net for those suffering hardship and infirmity.
- Recognize good schools, livable wages, and universal health care as important economic drivers.
- Will work for sustainable and quality employment for our citizens.
- Promote affordable day care and elder care, paid sick leave and parental leave.
- Will work to end the gender wage gap.
- Will ensure funding for community infrastructure, including affordable housing and Internet access.

### **3 – We only thrive if our environment thrives.**

**We have a responsibility to leave the world in as good or better shape than we found it. We want our children and our children's children to have the clean air, clean water, healthy landscapes, and abundant wildlife that we enjoy. Sustainable economic gain need not come at the expense of environmental quality. We:**

- Will treat the environment as essential to all life to be respected and conserved, not to be squandered.
- Emphasize the role of renewable energy and energy efficiency in economic growth, sustainability, and diversification.
- Will preserve public lands, public access, and open spaces.
- Understand human impacts on climate change, recognize the climate crisis as an existential threat, and support a Green New Deal that protects and strengthens rural states like Wyoming.
- Will cooperate in preserving our global environment, including habitat and species protection.
- Will maintain the integrity of wildlife corridors, wilderness, wetlands, and protect endangered species while promoting best practices in rangeland management and forestry.
- Recognize open space, wildlife, outdoor recreation, and tourism as essential economic factors.

#### 4 - We are citizens of the world.

All 7.8 billion of us, humans on Planet Earth, have common interests. We accept our responsibility to share with the rest of the world the civil rights and community commitments we value. We reject the philosophy that the United States gains through others' loss.

We will work to:

- Restore collaborative relations with other nations and strengthen the U.S. diplomatic community.
- Lift discriminatory bans of citizens from foreign countries.
- Support humanitarian foreign aid.
- End wars and promote peace.
- Fulfill our treaty obligations to negotiate with other nuclear powers toward nuclear disarmament.
- Restore the Constitutional role of Congress in declaring war and in authorizing defense-related expenditures.
- Negotiate international trade agreements that are fair and recognize international labor standards such as the right to bargain collectively, and prohibition of child labor, forced labor, and discrimination in employment.
- Increase international cooperation. For example, epidemic viruses do not stop at national borders. Nations continue to have their differences, but we can collaborate in public health, science, space, and many other ways.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Albany County Democratic Party acknowledges with great appreciation all those who have shown their personal dedication to advancing Democratic principles by running for elected office. Whether immediately successful or not, these individuals have done much to move the public debate in a progressive direction, to bring important issues to the forefront, to inspire and mobilize voters, and to bring positive change to public policy. We embrace the opportunity to support Democratic candidates at all levels.

Finally, we encourage all Democrats to get involved.

Hold our elected representatives accountable.

Volunteer for boards and commissions.

Run for office.

Above all,

**VOTE!**