

DEMOCRATS OF CHELAN COUNTY 2008 PLATFORM

The Democrats of Chelan County believe in the simple but profound ideals of democracy. We are committed to the protection of our individual rights, the promotion of justice and the assurance of equality and opportunity for all citizens, as guaranteed by our constitution and amendments. We recognize that, ultimately, the true power of our constitution emanates from engaged, educated and responsible citizens. We encourage participation in government because we believe it is the duty of citizens to protect and promote their democracy through self-government. We demand a responsive, responsible government that is accountable, open and respectful of its constitutional limits to power.

We recognize individuals, families and communities as the threads from which our great union is woven. We believe the diversity of the threads that weave our nation together strengthen and enrich the fabric. We believe that the interweaving of strong family and community produces a strong nation, and it is at the family and community level that we first come together to be empowered and supported in accomplishing our common goals. We are committed to programs that support, strengthen, and empower families and communities at the local, state, national and global level.

We believe 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 inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." We believe the ethics of kindness and caring should be foundational to our way of life. We believe the people of a compassionate nation work together to create programs that ensure the basic needs of their fellow citizens. We are committed to programs that ensure the basic needs of their fellow citizens. We are committed to programs that ensure all Americans have the right to food, shelter, education and health care. We believe a compassionate nation respects and promotes diversity. We believe a compassionate nation promotes security at home and abroad through

programs that ensure the basic needs and rights of all humans.

We believe it is our duty to leave future generations with a healthier and more democratic nation. We support policies that not only serve our momentary needs but look to the needs of future generations as well. We are committed to making the sacrifices that ensure future generations the adequate resources, clean and healthy environment, economic stability and ethical foundation they will need to prosper and advance our democracy.

Civil and Human Rights

We support Democrats continuing their tradition as leaders championing the civil rights of all.

We believe food, shelter, medical care, education and economic opportunity are basic human rights.

We support removing unconstitutional components of the Patriot Act.

We support the constitutional rights of individuals' privacy.

We support enforcing laws that require government meetings be held in open with access allowed to public and press.

We support application of the Geneva conventions to all U.S. detainees no matter where they are held.

Education

"It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provisions for the education of all children" Washington State Constitution 1889

We support the use of simple majority to pass school levies and bonds.

We support full funding of education mandates.

We support diversity in educational programs be fully funding Special Education, ESL, vocational/ Technical and Basic Education.

We oppose military recruiting at public high schools except during open job fairs.

Healthcare

We view health care as a basic human right.

We support universal, single payer, not for profit comprehensive, health care that preserves consumer choice for all citizens.

We support parity for mental and physical health care coverage.

We support a simple and effective prescription drug plan run by Medicare committing that plan by law to negotiate for the lowest possible drug prices and guaranteeing coverage for the prescriptions needed.

Immigration

We oppose legislation that denies civil and/or human rights or educational opportunities for immigrants and their children regardless of their immigration status.

Environment and Energy

We support Democrats continuing the tradition of leadership in preserving the environment.

We oppose drilling in the Arctic wilderness. We support ratification of the Kyoto treaty. We support preservation of Federal forestland. We support aggressive legislation for higher

fuel standards. We support research and development of

alternate energy sources. ??We support utilization of biomass conversion

to process farm and forest byproducts into alternative fuels.

We support Hydropower as a renewable energy

We support campaign finance reform.

We support legislation for fair voting practices requiring a paper trail for voting machines.

Foreign Policy

We support the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. We support nonviolent conflict resolution. We support the return to a multilateral

approach to foreign policy. We support the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights. We oppose the ownership and operation of our

ports by foreign governments and foreign entities. We support investigation and reform of the

subcontracting practices of the U.S. military. April 19, 2008

source. Columbia River.

We oppose LNG tankers and terminals in the

Agriculture and rural Communities

We support agricultural subsidies going to family farmers, not agribusiness.

We believe society should continue paying family farmers for their environmental stewardship.

We support funding for programs that provide economic stimulus for survival, protection, and improvement of rural communities.

Political Reform

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We support legislation for fair voting practices

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