

DOUGLAS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM

Adopted 04/10/2010

Douglas County Democrats

County Convention

PREAMBLE

The Douglas County Democrats 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 respect the rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

We recognize that democracy requires participation of the community, by involved and informed citizens, for our Constitution to serve us as our forefathers envisioned. We encourage participation in government because we believe it is the duty of citizens to protect and promote their democracy through self-government.

We believe in the values of community, dignity, equality, fairness, respect, and tolerance. We pledge ourselves to a government that serves and protects its people, with liberty and justice for all.

We are dedicated to:

- Maintaining safety and security while seeking peace and cooperation;
- Sustainable stewardship of our environment;
- Fairness and economic opportunity, access to quality education and health care for all;
- Equal treatment of all before the law;
- Fiscal responsibility, integrity, openness and accountability in government;
- Personal freedom, security, and privacy;
- Respect, tolerance, and compassion for different belief systems and cultures;
- We believe in putting our Democratic values into action and we encourage every citizen to join us in local civic involvement. We welcome support of our platform and help toward improving our quality of life and strengthening our democracy.

We adopt this platform to ensure that voters, candidates for public office, and public officials understand and support our goals.

AGRICULTURE

- We recognize the key role of those involved in agriculture. We support the development of sustainable agricultural practices.
- We support funding for programs that provide economic stimulus for survival, protection, and improvement of rural communities.

CORPORATE POWER AND MEDIA REFORM

- We support a free press that endeavors to provide factual, unbiased, information. Neither government nor corporations should have undue influence on the news gathering or the content of information, or be able to impede its dissemination.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- We believe that affordable housing, adequate transportation options and living wage jobs are necessary for assuring the economic future of our county.
- We also believe that planned economic development is vital to continued growth and quality of life.
- We support measures that will bring about a vibrant economy; thus ensuring a future for our labor force and providing required revenue that will foster infrastructure development leading to greater opportunity for new and traditional business in Douglas County.

EDUCATION

- We believe “It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provisions for the education of all children.” Washington State Constitution 1889
- We believe that all children should be provided a quality public education, preschool through post-secondary, in a safe and respectful environment.
- We support full funding of all educational mandates.

- Qualified, certified professionals should be appropriately recognized and rewarded for their work.

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- We believe that all people, of present and future generations, have the right to clean air, water, safe food and a healthy natural environment.
- We believe that all citizens should be responsible stewards of our environment.
- We believe we should invest in alternative and renewable energy, end our dependence on fossil fuels, and address the global climate crisis using valid scientific research.

FOREIGN POLICY

- We believe the United States should exemplify the principles of democracy and justice in the world community.
- We favor a multilateral approach where the U.S. functions as a member in the world community with a spirit of cooperation, using diplomacy and mutual respect.
- We believe military force should be used only as a last option when all avenues of nonviolent conflict resolution have been exhausted

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REFORM

- We believe that our government derives its legitimacy solely from the people.
- We are committed to a representative democracy that encourages maximum participation and a voting process that is legitimate, fair, transparent and open to all citizens.
- We believe in the balance of power among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of our Federal government and our Constitutional rights.

- We must preserve the integrity of our electoral processes throughout the nation.
- To support the common good, taxes should be levied fairly and spent responsibly; and a balanced budget should be a high priority.
- Government should be conducted honestly, transparently, and fairly for the benefit of all, and protected from undue influence by special interests.

HEALTH CARE

- We believe health care is a basic human right and is important for the stability of our community.
- Our government should assure accessible and affordable health care for all.

IMMIGRATION

- We support comprehensive immigration reform; an immigration policy that is based on accountability, transparency and human rights.
- We applaud cultural pluralism and believe that all people, regardless of their country of origin or their legal status, deserve to be treated fairly under the law. Our core principles of equality, liberty and justice for all should extend to all living among us.

HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND HUMAN SERVICES

- We believe that our civil rights and the ideal of justice are linked and essential to the preservation of democracy. Food, shelter, privacy, education, employment opportunities and access to quality health care are essential to ensuring basic human rights.
- We support the human rights enacted under the Constitution, and support only those laws that continue to ensure that our human and civil rights are preserved or advanced under the Constitution.

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES AND SOVEREIGNTY

- We recognize Native American tribes share a common history with the United States. American Indian Tribal Governments make up a part of our national identity and community.

LABOR

- We believe that a strong economy is based upon jobs that provide safe working conditions, a fair and living wage.
- We believe benefits are obtained and ensured by workers' rights to organize unions for collective bargaining.

LAW AND JUSTICE

- We recognize that civil order is necessary to the survival of a free society. In the pursuit of civil order, we cannot abandon the legal principles upon which a free and democratic society relies.
- We affirm liberty and justice for all United States citizens, and everyone residing in the United States.

MILITARY

- We pledge honor and support to both our troops and our veterans who act in the service of our country.

TRANSPORTATION

- We believe the economy of the State depends upon an efficient transportation system; we support planning and funding for necessary infrastructure in our State.