



Democratic Party of New Mexico

State Platform

March 2018

www.dpnm-sparc.org

Purpose

This Platform is adopted to inform candidates and voters alike that the assembled body of the Democratic Party of New Mexico, elected to represent the registered Democrats of all 33 New Mexico counties, believes its contents to represent our values, principles and governance goals. Candidates who seek public office and voters who support them and evaluate their performance may use this guide to help judge how well elected Democrats either unite in furtherance of our common objectives or justify their choice to not do so.

Representation

These affiliations are not intended to imply official endorsements of the DPNM State Platform.

SPARC was represented at public meetings that were held in all regions of the state including Bernalillo, Santa Fe, Lincoln, Taos, McKinley, Grant, Doña Ana, Eddy, Luna, Torrance, San Miguel, Valencia, Otero, Colfax, and San Juan counties where direct input and language was incorporated from over 423 public attendees from 18 out of the 33 counties. Planks were reviewed and informed by over 27 experts covering the fields of economics, election ethics, immigration, arts, Native American issues, health care, environment, women's issues, science and technology, agriculture, civil rights, and criminal justice. The website has received over 85 comments and has been viewed over 6,800 times with over 2,500 unique visitors. SPARC has consulted and worked with individuals who are members of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees, American Federation of Teachers, The Black Caucus, The Hispanic Caucus, National Education Association, National Federation of Democratic Women, The Native American Caucus, The Affirmative Action Committee, NastyWomenNM, Retake our Democracy, and the All Pueblo Council of Governors.

While this 2018 Platform as a whole is new and original, reflecting New Mexico's uniqueness and a fresh step forward for the party, it is inspired by language from the 2014 and 2016 New Mexico State Platforms, the 2016 DNC platform, the Santa Fe and Eddy county platforms, Progressive Democrats of America- Central NM Chapter, the Unity Reform Commission, Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton Campaign promises, and several Obama era Executive Orders. The 2018 Platform borrows language that aligns with the priorities of organizations who are unaffiliated with the Party but who share similar values and goals including: 350.org, New Energy Economy, Food and Water Watch, Common Cause, Frack Free New Mexico, Taos Pueblo, Public Citizen, Move to Amend, Sierra Club, and with legislation introduced in 2017 in New Mexico such as HB175, HB242, SB185, SB259, HB67, HB26, SB15, HB201, SB264, SB278, HB89, HJR1, HB105, SB115, SB96, HB28, HJ3, SB312, SB342, HB338, SB307, HB418, SB268, SB286, SB81, HB101, SB172, HB150, SB33, SB7, HB284, HB179, HB116, SB270, HB292, SB120.

Democratic Party of New Mexico Core Values

Preamble

New Mexico Democrats believe that every person matters. We believe that all citizens should have an equal voice in how we as a people are governed and call out the disproportionate influence by rich and powerful special interests on our government. We stand for the 99%. We affirm the ties that bind us together as one human family. We envision a New Mexico in which every person is treated with respect and every person has what it takes to live a life of dignity—secure, decent-paying jobs; a just economic system; not-for-profit universal healthcare; high quality public schools; a safe, healthy environment where the unmatched beauty of our land is preserved for future generations. As caring citizens of this state, this country, and this planet, we hold these basic rights to be the natural heritage of all people. As dedicated Democrats, we band together to claim that heritage for every member of our human community, both now and in times to come.

Agriculture

We support small, local, and sustainable New Mexico agriculture that enables fair water access with water conservation efforts. These farming practices are important to help alleviate food deserts in urban and rural communities. We recognize the importance of local agriculture to include farming and ranching.

Arts

Democrats recognize the role of the arts toward making a community attractive to its citizens, tourists, labor force, and business partners and we are committed to investing in the arts to continue our state's rich cultural heritage.

Business, Economy, and Revenue Sources

Every American, including women, people of color, and other marginalized communities, has the right to a job that earns enough to provide adequate food, housing, clothing, healthcare, recreation, and protection from the economic fears of old age, illness, or accidents, while ensuring adequate resources for future generations to provide equally for themselves. And businesses have the right to operate free from unfair competition at home and abroad. We support a progressive tax system where all businesses and individuals pay their fair share.

Civil Rights

We acknowledge the rights of all persons to be treated equally, with dignity and respect, regardless of race, color, creed, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, physical ability, cognitive ability, or age.

Criminal Justice Reform

Democrats are committed to reforming our criminal justice system as a means to improving safety for everyone, including promoting

community-based alternatives to mass incarceration of non-violent offenders.

Education

Democrats believe that an educated populace is the cornerstone of sustainable democracy, and the single most important driver of economic prosperity. Affordable, high-quality pre-K through college education is a basic right that is protected by New Mexico's dedicated, high-quality educators. We believe that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that the public education system prepares all to participate meaningfully in society.

Ethics, Elections, and Politics

A just and functioning society can only exist when all people have an equal voice. Every citizen of voting age residing in New Mexico and the U.S. has a right and should be encouraged to vote. We actively work to prevent and remove obstructions to voting in any local or federal election. We also believe that the government has the right to regulate campaign finance.

Energy and Environment

Democrats support the use of clean energy and will train the workforce, create jobs, and support small businesses as we transition to a renewable energy infrastructure. We will position New Mexico as a key global hub for technology, manufacturing, and construction to join and accelerate the clean energy transition as a means to protect air, land, and water, and stop the worst effects of climate change.

Healthcare

Healthcare is a fundamental human right. Regardless of their circumstance, everyone in New Mexico and the U.S. should have access to comprehensive, affordable, high-quality health

care in conjunction with comprehensive behavioral health services, and reproductive care, including access to birth control, quality prenatal and postpartum care, and abortion care.

Immigration

Democrats will create an obtainable path to citizenship and comprehensive reform that creates a humane and non-discriminatory immigration system that keeps families together, and strengthens our economy.

International Relations

Democrats call for the use of diplomacy, alliances, and peacebuilding interventions of governmental and non-governmental organizations that re-foster trust in America's role in addressing international and civil conflicts. All actions of United States institutions and supporting organizations—including the military, intelligence agencies, State Department, and military contractors, and any U.S. international business transactions—should reflect integrity, respect, and ethical behavior in accordance with human rights and international norms and laws. And we believe that our security, prosperity, and well-being is best served by friendly and cooperative relations with border countries.

Labor

Democrats will remove obstacles for workers, public and private, to exercise their right to organize and join unions. We recognize how unions contribute to building a stronger middle class, as well as their critical role in fighting for living wages, fair work rules and hiring practices, and safe working conditions.

Media

A free and open media with diverse ownership and multiple opposing views from independent journalists is essential to a functional democracy because voters must be informed to make sound voting decisions.

Native Americans

Democrats will fulfill, honor, and strengthen to the highest extent possible the United States' fundamental trust responsibility grounded in the Constitution, treaties, and case law to Indigenous Peoples. Democrats recognize the inherent sovereignty of

Tribes, Pueblos, Bands, Villages, and Nations, and will work to enact laws and policies that are led and informed by them. We will ensure that Indigenous People have consistent access to clean air, land, and water as well as the ongoing, protected right to defend their natural resources and inseverable sovereignty.

Public Safety

Democrats believe everyone has a basic right to be free from coercion and violence, including harm imposed by corporate degradation of water, air, and soil. We will support a multi-faceted strategy to public safety including law enforcement, intervention and treatment, and universal background checks for firearm purchases.

Science & Technology

Government has a role in supporting science and technology research to be used for public good.

Technological growth and the supporting infrastructure should be equally accessible to all, provide equitable benefits, and ensure socially responsible development for public good. Policy makers should be informed by the best science available.

Transportation & Infrastructure

Democrats believe in state and federal investment in public infrastructure and transportation to improve our state's economic competitiveness and create jobs. We also believe everyone should have clean water, electricity, heat, and high-speed internet.

Veterans & Military Affairs

We believe all qualified persons who wish to serve our nation are free to do so without discrimination.

Our country has a sacred, moral responsibility to honor all of our veterans and wounded warriors. The party that passed the G.I. Bill of Rights will always work to protect the benefits our veterans and their families have earned in service to our nation.

Women

Democrats are committed to ensuring full equality for women in education, employment, healthcare, and in all other spheres of society. We recognize that violence against women and girls is an epidemic and stand firm in the need for a societal shift and prosecution of perpetrators. Democrats are pro-choice.

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Agriculture

We support small, local, and sustainable New Mexico agriculture that enables fair water access with water conservation efforts. These farming practices are important to help alleviate food deserts in urban and rural communities. We recognize the importance of local agriculture to include farming and ranching.

We affirm:

1. New Mexico water is extremely valuable. We should be creating a long-term plan to ensure that our state industry in agriculture be the most efficient in water usage possible;
2. Genetically Modified products must be labeled as such whenever or wherever sold; and
3. Pesticides and herbicides should be used responsibly with full consideration of all effects to the ecosystem.

We will:

1. Support funding and prioritization of “local farming” over “regional farming;”
2. Encourage community-supported agriculture (CSAs) to foster local farming;
3. Support stronger agricultural worker protections including, but not limited to, regulation of work hours, unfair wages, elimination of child labor, ensuring adequate housing for migrant workers, and sanitary facilities in the field;
4. Support legislation that legalizes and promotes an industrial hemp industry;
5. Support incentives for sustainable agricultural practices, agricultural water conservation, and retention of lands of agricultural production and ranching;
6. Ban the use of neonicotinoid pesticides which is critical to the survival of bees and pollinators on which we depend for our food supply;
7. Support efforts to preserve and protect New Mexico’s traditional heritage livestock and varieties of heirloom seeds;
8. Support individual property owners’ ability to control their farm lands and local water rights;
9. Support protecting farmers from lawsuits by companies who produce patented genetically modified seeds, when the local farmers’ crops are corrupted or cross-pollinated from nearby company fields;
10. Support individuals and communities in developing yard and community gardens through supportive land-use policies and zoning;
11. Remove the minimum wage exemption for farm workers; and
12. Support growing legal cannabis in New Mexico.

Arts

Democrats recognize the role of the arts toward making a community attractive to its citizens, tourists, labor force, and business partners and we are committed to investing in the arts to continue our state’s rich cultural heritage.

We affirm:

1. The images that originate within indigenous New Mexico cultures are the intellectual property of that culture and should be protected; and
2. The arts contribute to community building, and to the emotional, physical, and intellectual health of individuals in our society in significant and important ways.

We will:

1. Support the arts through government funding, grants, marketing assistance, training, and increased market access;
2. Support programs and legislation that provide for the health, housing and well-being of New Mexico's artists;

3. Increase awareness of entrepreneurial services and support, such as Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), within the arts community;
4. Restore public funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and for the National Endowment for the Humanities;
5. Ensure that arts and music are included within all public-school curricula across New Mexico;
6. Work to connect local art communities with the New Mexico film industry;
7. Ensure that grant opportunities are fairly distributed among organizations and individual emerging artists in New Mexico. Globally brand New Mexico as a destination for domestic and international tourism; and
8. Celebrate and support our State's majority multi-cultural identity, beautiful terrain and wildlife, public lands and monuments, and opportunities for adventure.

Business, Economy, and Revenue Sources

Every American, including women, people of color, and other marginalized communities, has the right to a job that earns enough to provide adequate food, housing, clothing, healthcare, recreation, and protection from the economic fears of old age, illness, or accidents, while ensuring adequate resources for future generations to provide equally for themselves. And businesses have the right to operate free from unfair competition at home and abroad. We support a progressive tax system where all businesses and individuals pay their fair share.

We Affirm:

1. All New Mexicans have the right to a job that provides them with a *living wage*;
2. We support businesses owned by women, people of color, and millennials and value hiring locally;
3. The Healthcare sector is a vital element of New Mexico's economy and recognize that when Medicaid is protected and expanded, all healthcare jobs are protected and expanded;
4. The opportunity to be a world leader in the renewable energy revolution and the substantial growth potential by requiring utilities to include renewables in new generating facilities, increasing the requirements for the percentage of renewable energy generation (Renewable Portfolio Standards), and reinstating the New Mexico solar energy tax credit;
5. That government, healthcare, retail, and food service sectors are vital components of the New Mexico economy and should be supported with friendly policies and be encouraged to hire locally;
6. We support *direct* job creation through investments in infrastructure and transportation projects and renewable energy projects;
7. That strong economic growth that provides equal opportunity to all results in reduced crime, domestic violence, and substance abuse rates;
8. It is a right of all New Mexicans to have available a strong safety net of services including child care, food and nutrition support, affordable housing, free school breakfasts and lunches, job training and retraining, and comprehensive high-quality health services;
9. Small businesses should be supported with policies that:
 - Promote and guarantee low-interest small business loans and start-up grants to provide the seed capital to launch and expand job-creating businesses;
 - Support legislation that offers incentives for investing in technologies developed by New Mexicans;
 - Implement tax policies that provide a higher degree of equity including a fair self-employment tax rate and the elimination of tax loopholes that allow out-of-state corporations to benefit from preferences intended for small local businesses;
10. The value of workforce education programs *in all regions of the state* including investments in vocational education and training programs for all individuals interested in entering skilled trades, technical, and other hands-on careers;
11. New Mexicans deserve a stable state budget supported through diversified revenue streams that hedge against market volatility;
12. We believe in strong oversight and regulation of banks and other financial institutions;

13. That government, microloan, and assistance programs should be supported to meet the needs of high risk borrowers fairly and transparently and oppose predatory interest rates;
14. We oppose privatization of essential government functions and outsourcing of public sector jobs; and
15. The role of state and federal government to regulate monopolies in the public interest.

We will:

1. Foster programs that remove barriers and create a path to employment for the chronically unemployed including veterans, technologically displaced, homeless, people with disabilities, and youth;
2. Attract tourists from around the world by building New Mexico's brand as the best place to go for enchantment, adventure, arts, open spaces, red & green chile, and legal cannabis products;
3. Support the legalization of cannabis for adult recreational use;
4. Keep our dollars at home with buy-local initiatives;
5. Support developing the market for authentic New Mexico branded products;
6. Encourage the formation of a State Bank to increase state revenues without increasing taxes;
7. Support giving the Taxation and Revenue Department the staffing and funding necessary to ensure that the severance tax and royalties due from oil and natural gas extraction are collected. This should include enacting penalties and interest on companies that have failed to report to the State whether due to negligence or disregard of rules and regulations;
8. Enhance New Mexico's international economy by opening our markets with Mexico and other countries through direct flights, global promotion programs, and exports of energy technology services and aerospace; and
9. Invest in economic growth in the technology sector through STEM education, the development and promotion of advanced tech applications, and generating innovators by teaching information technology and coding in every public school.

Civil Rights

We acknowledge the rights of all persons to be treated equally, with dignity and respect, regardless of race, color, creed, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, physical ability, cognitive ability, or age.

We affirm:

1. The rights of free speech, free press, peaceful assembly, due process, and habeas corpus must be defended and upheld;
2. Personal choices, including reproductive choice, domestic partnership, end of life options, religious choice, including freedom from and of religion, and marriage equality, are fundamental rights;
3. Unreasonable searches and domestic surveillance including the USA Patriot Act, are unconstitutional;
4. New Mexicans should be protected from personal and domestic violence, including emotional, mental, financial, and sexual violence, through education, law enforcement, and through the courts. Victims of these crimes deserve any and all the support they need; and
5. The promotion of civility and speaking out against bigotry and other forms of intolerance.

We will:

1. Protect the Establishment Clause, which is the separation of church and state, in all local, state, and federal government institutions including the military and the public schools;
2. Improve conditions and defend human rights for the incarcerated;
3. Embrace racial and socio-economic equality and counter discrimination in hiring practices and ongoing employment, and use affirmative action within academic admissions;
4. Enact zoning ordinances whereby a portion of new development housing is set aside for low and middle-income households, called "Inclusionary Zoning," and provide tax incentives that racially and socioeconomically desegregate new and existing neighborhoods and increase Public Housing availability;

5. Call out the national trend of the disproportionate use of the death penalty against people of color and other disenfranchised people; and
6. Enact legislation that accurately, appropriately, and actually defines racism in the workplace, including definitions of discriminatory behaviors and adverse treatment, to increase access to legal protections for people of color and to prevent income inequality that disproportionately and negatively affects people of color in the workplace.

Criminal Justice Reform

Democrats are committed to reforming our criminal justice system as a means to improving safety for everyone, including promoting community-based alternatives to mass incarceration of non-violent offenders.

We affirm:

1. Something is profoundly wrong when almost a quarter of the world's prison population is in the United States, even though our country has less than five percent of the world's population;
2. Instead of investing in more jails and incarceration, we need to invest more in jobs and education for the incarcerated and for the average citizen, and end the school-to-prison pipeline;
3. The "war on drugs" has led to the imprisonment of millions of Americans, disproportionately people of color, without reducing drug use;
4. Policies that provide for prisoner re-entry into society and prevent collateral consequences based on criminal history should be required to reduce recidivism, recognizing that 95% of all prisoners are eventually released;
5. A person's financial situation, appearance, race, address, or ethnicity should not determine if they go to jail;
6. Commendation and support of law enforcement officers that inspire and build a trusting community and employ creative and effective de-escalation strategies;
7. The diversity of administrators of the criminal justice system should be representative of the community;
8. The private, for profit, prison industry is predatory, inhumane, exploits racist criminal justice policies and should be eliminated; and
9. The criminal justice system has failed to provide adequate mental health services;

We will:

1. Encourage the federal government to remove marijuana from the list of "Schedule I" federal controlled substances and to appropriately regulate it, providing a reasonable pathway for future legalization;
2. Support the decriminalization and legalization of cannabis in the State of New Mexico;
3. Support the use of DNA Testing and timely Rape Kit processing to protect the wrongfully accused, set free the wrongfully convicted, and prosecute the perpetrators;
4. Advocate for sufficient funding to hire and train more competent public defenders to ensure every case can be timely and thoroughly represented and processed;
5. End mandatory minimum sentences;
6. Abolish the death penalty and solitary confinement, which are cruel and unusual forms of punishment;
7. Eliminate life without possibility of parole for youthful offenders and end incarceration of youth in adult facilities;
8. End policies based on racial profiling that target individuals solely on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin, which is un-American and counterproductive;
9. Prevent conflicts of interest by creating an independent oversight process for the investigation of crimes involving law enforcement, including designating a chief DA position and/or civilian oversight boards chartered with investigative authority;
10. Remove barriers to help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully re-enter society by preventing employment discrimination based on criminal history during the employment seeking process, expanding reentry programs, and restoring voting rights;

11. Strengthen and adequately fund diversion and treatment programs as alternatives to arrest and incarceration;
12. Address all health care needs of arrested and incarcerated girls and women, including pregnancy-related care;
13. Require that all incarcerated individuals, including youth, are afforded medical and mental health services, education, substance use recovery, and rehabilitative services;
14. Treat prosecution and defense equally by providing balanced funding for District Attorney and Public Defender Agencies;
15. Create and adequately fund an Independent Wrongful Conviction Review Commission;
16. Provide adequate mental health facilities and services so as to reduce the incarceration of the mentally ill;
17. End the exploitation of prison labor programs by private industry;
18. Promote expansion of legal aid services in rural communities;
19. Demand all law enforcement personnel receive implicit bias training initiated in the academy and continue throughout their years of service;
20. Demand minimum qualifications for Federal Judge Appointments; and
21. Support specialized courts that focus on unrepresented groups which need special expertise such as the homeless and mentally ill.

Education

Democrats believe that an educated populace is the cornerstone of sustainable democracy, and the single most important driver of economic prosperity. Affordable, high-quality pre-K through college education is a basic right that is protected by New Mexican’s dedicated, high-quality educators. We believe that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that the public education system prepares all to participate meaningfully in society.

We affirm:

1. A high quality public education is a basic right and a sound investment with real and tangible returns for our citizens and economy and is a necessary component of a healthy democracy;
2. That we must adequately fund and incentivize advanced research in our Universities and National Laboratories to restore our country's scientific edge and global competitiveness;
3. New Mexico should meet or exceed the nationwide average salary and benefits for educational professionals;
4. A capitalist democracy which depends upon an informed public should prioritize financial literacy, critical thinking, and civics as a means of sustaining, stewarding, and strengthening American democracy; and
5. That teachers are highly dedicated and motivated professionals and reject punitive impacts to their evaluations. Impacts to the reputations and grades of community schools based on standardized test data does not adequately quantify the quality of education provided.

We will:

1. Urge our New Mexico legislators to find additional and diversified sources of revenue to protect the public education system from volatility in the oil and gas market;
2. Support increasing the distribution from the Land Grant Permanent Fund to support early childhood education;
3. We support equitable education that allocates resources based on need so all students can succeed regardless of where they are from;
4. Support fully funded, free public education for every student from early childhood education through vocational and/or debt-free college education;
5. Support training programs around the state to prepare workers for solar and wind technology, installation, and maintenance;
6. We support the development of a teacher evaluation model that utilizes multiple indicators based on classroom and school evidence;

7. Support rescinding the waiver for oversized classrooms and restoring class sizes to their pre-shortfall levels by hiring more teachers;
8. Support proficiency in second languages including coding as a requirement for graduation from any state-accredited high school in New Mexico;
9. Resist federal programs that weaken schools by funding private school vouchers with public school money;
10. Support LGBTQIA inclusive comprehensive sex education;
11. Support resources for the diversification of curriculum for students with specific needs including but not limited to special education and gifted, high and low achieving students, low income, and English as second language;
12. Support vocational education throughout the state in community colleges and other educational institutions;
13. Support the rights of teachers and parents to influence their own curriculum;
14. Support programs for prisoner reform through education that is uniformed statewide including obtaining a GED, a high school diploma, an advanced degree, or vocational training while supporting a state property tax;
15. Support intensive immersion programs in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and foreign languages for all students;
16. Support community college education and other opportunities to ensure all citizens can be trained and certified to work in the evolving job markets of the future;
17. Support having a Registered Nurse present in every public school;
18. Support having at least one social worker in every public school, based on school enrollment;
19. Support the inclusion of cultural sensitivity training for staff, board members, and students and implement trainings into lesson plans; and
20. Encourage and support programs for anti-bullying, mental and behavioral health, and conflict resolution in the schools including substance use and recovery with family participation.

Ethics, Elections, and Politics

A just and functioning society can only exist when all people have an equal voice. Every citizen of voting age residing in New Mexico and the U.S. has a right and should be encouraged to vote. We actively work to prevent and remove obstructions to voting in any local or federal election. We also believe that the government has the right to regulate campaign finance.

We affirm:

1. Americans' right to vote is sacred and fundamental; and
2. Money is not speech and corporations are not people.

We will:

1. Fight to overturn *Citizens United* and eliminate Super PACs;
2. Fight for campaign finance reform and repeal laws that enable secret money in politics;
3. Create competitive public campaign financing to stop the influence of big donors and special interest groups;
4. Require full and real-time disclosure of all hard money contributions in political and issue campaigns;
5. Require full financial disclosure by all elected officials and paid lobbyists/consultants;
6. Advocate for the creation of an independent ethics commission amendment to the NM constitution;
7. Fight against voter suppression such as voter ID laws and limited polling sites;
8. Increase voter participation by expanding voting hours, the early voting period, and voting convenience center locations;
9. Promote early voting, same-day registration, and automatic registration;
10. Support the elimination of all superdelegates;
11. Support a constitutional amendment that would abolish the Electoral College;

12. Actively put an end to gerrymandering by creating and giving authority to an independent non-partisan redistricting commission separate from the legislative process that will prevent the drawing of political boundaries favoring one party over another;
13. Promote the ability of the average citizen to run for the New Mexico State Legislature by paying legislators a fair salary;
14. Restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965;
15. Demand up-to-date election processes that guarantee transparency, integrity, and accountability in the voter software, and equipment with archived paper ballots;
16. Provide convenient polling sites in all tribal communities;
17. Support the ability to use straight-ticket, party-preference voting;
18. Support ranked choice voting throughout the state to make democracy more fair and functional in all elections;
19. Prevent the revolving door between industry and government employment by requiring a waiting period between the private and public sector; and
20. Develop a strategic plan to maximize engagement with our activists and partners to build coalitions to help our candidates win.

Energy and Environment

Democrats support the use of clean energy and will train the workforce, create jobs, and support small businesses as we transition to a renewable energy infrastructure. We will position New Mexico as a key global hub for technology, manufacturing, and construction to join and accelerate the clean energy transition as a means to protect air, land, and water, and stop the worst effects of climate change.

We affirm:

1. The right to live in a healthy environment and we work for clean air, land, and water; and
2. Historically, people of color are disproportionately, and negatively impacted by climate disruption and/or pollution.

We will:

1. Develop a fully integrated renewable energy plan by 2020 that lays out mandatory benchmarks to accomplish the transition to 100% renewable energy;
2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions more than 80 percent below 2005 levels and have 80% renewable electricity generation by 2035;
3. Not support fracking and will support affected local communities and indigenous sovereign nations economically;
4. Cut energy waste in New Mexico homes, schools, hospitals, and offices through energy efficiency programs, modernizing our electric grid, and making New Mexico manufacturing clean and efficient;
5. Reinstate the New Mexico Renewable Energy Tax credit;
6. Transition tax breaks and subsidies from fossil fuel industries to renewable energy providers;
7. Preferentially incentivize wind, solar, and other renewable energy over the development of new natural gas power plants;
8. Support community solar programs to expand solar access to underserved groups;
9. Ensure and protect the right of New Mexicans to tie residential and commercial solar to the grid;
10. Invest in a statewide, solar & wind powered, and publicly accessible electric vehicle charging network;
11. Construct new transmission lines to get low-cost renewable energy to market in a transparent and environmentally sound way;
12. Close the Halliburton loophole and require that all chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing must be disclosed to the appropriate government regulators as public information;

13. Ensure that all New Mexicans including landowners, communities of color, and affected tribal nations are honored and respected in the decision making and energy implementation process;
14. Require that the oil and gas industry must account for all water, from its origination source, the amount used and recovered, the quality of produced water, and where the water ultimately ends up and that produced water must meet surface and groundwater standards;
15. Prioritize the implementation of clean, modernized, and energy efficient infrastructure into our communities that are predominantly comprised of people of color;
16. Educate our population using independent peer-reviewed science from the overwhelming consensus of the scientific community to face the challenges of human caused climate change including mitigation strategies;
17. Require that concrete well liners, wastewater ponds, and containment tanks that protect groundwater from pollution must be independently certified reliable for their lifetime;
18. Increase funding of the state Oil Conservation Division to adequately staff all offices with qualified personnel at a competitive salary to oversee drilled wells, witness and verify the integrity of all well bores, and enforce state and EPA regulations. We urge civic and public involvement and oversight of this process;
19. Use every tool available to reduce emissions now;
20. Price carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases to offset their negative externalities, and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy;
21. Promote climate leadership and partnership at all levels of government including state and local;
22. Provide environmental education and access to the environmental legal protections directly within our disadvantaged communities, including communities comprised of our State's poorest families, working class people, and people of color;
23. Respect the cultural heritage and historical use of acequias and other traditional irrigation practices;
24. Create an economic model to demonstrate the revenue generating opportunities with an economy that transitions away from fracking and towards clean energy;
25. Increase the power of localities to oppose fracking and mining;
26. Support public lands remaining public for all time;
27. Support the protection and reclamation of New Mexico's state land, public land, and natural resources from damage inflicted by extractive industries;
28. Support protecting the Gila, the last free flowing river in New Mexico, from diversion;
29. Support the protection and preservation of our National and State Parks, Forests, Monuments, World Heritage Sites, and Native American sacred sites;
30. Support the Endangered Species Act to protect threatened and endangered animals;
31. Support a state-level moratorium on the building, placement, or expansion of existing factory animal farms; and
32. Support enlisting farmers and ranchers as partners in promoting conservation and stewardship.

Healthcare

Healthcare is a fundamental human right. Regardless of their circumstance, everyone in New Mexico and the U.S. should have access to comprehensive, affordable, high-quality health care in conjunction with comprehensive behavioral health services, and reproductive care, including access to birth control, quality prenatal and postpartum care, and abortion care.

We Affirm:

1. We support healthcare for all through a Federal single-payer government sponsored health care program like Medicare;
2. Medicare and the state of New Mexico should be allowed to negotiate for lower drug prices;
3. All healthcare services should be culturally and linguistically appropriate; neither fear nor immigration status should be barriers that impede healthcare access;
4. Public investment in research, development, and innovation creates lifesaving drugs, technologies, and procedures and lowers overall health costs;

5. We must pass strict laws to control drug prices such as ending delays that keep generic drugs off the market and allow individuals to purchase prescriptions from licensed drug pharmacies in other countries with appropriate safety protections;
6. Addiction is a disease and should be treated as such;
7. Congress should fully fund the FDA while providing oversight of that agency to ensure generic and foreign drug applications are reviewed according to science and the interests of citizens. Procedures for reviewing applications should be standardized, transparent and free from corporate lobbying;
8. Quality, affordable comprehensive health care, evidence-based sex education and a full range of family planning services help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies;
9. Trusted relationships with the young people in our lives are not created by law. Forcing young people to notify parents is bad policy and can be dangerous for the young person involved. We support protecting young people from legislation that forces young people to tell a parent before accessing safe and accurate medical care; and
10. All people in New Mexico, including people of color and the disenfranchised, deserve access to high-quality healthcare.

We will:

1. Support the New Mexico Health Security Act which enables New Mexico to set up our own health plan, automatically covering the majority of New Mexicans with comprehensive coverage and freedom of choice of provider;
2. Improve preventive care by promoting healthy living and exercise, and improving access to fresh and nutritious foods;
3. Restore and expand access to care for drug and alcohol addiction services, and require coverage by insurance companies. Additionally, invest in proven addiction recovery services and prevention services to combat our deadly opioid and methamphetamine crises, offering immediate treatment to all who need it and decriminalizing the medical condition known as addiction;
4. Strongly and unequivocally support the decision to have a child, including by ensuring a safe and healthy pregnancy and childbirth, and by providing services during pregnancy and after the birth of a child, including paid parental leave, affordable childcare, adoption and social support services, as well as protections against pregnancy discrimination;
5. Support funding for Planned Parenthood who provides full and safe access to the entire spectrum of health options including safe and legal abortion, women's cancer prevention, screening, and treatment, routine physical exams, vaccinations, and screenings for cholesterol, colon cancer, and diabetes;
6. Treat behavioral health with the same importance, care, and resources that we treat physical health; support a robust behavioral health care workforce, and promote better integration and coordination of the behavioral and primary health care systems;
7. Provide coverage for autism support services and lift the age limit and financial caps for treatment;
8. Support the legal use of medical cannabis and allow healthcare providers to decide on treatable conditions;
9. Support fulfilling the Federal government's obligation to fund all Indian Health care services;
10. Offer incentives for highly-qualified healthcare professionals to work in rural areas through increased pay, tax breaks and access to free training and education;
11. Support home healthcare services for seniors;
12. Allow the terminally ill to choose their own end of life options;
13. Support policies and initiatives to provide the resources and training needed to make family caregiving more feasible, affordable, and effective;
14. Renew and expand our commitment to community health care workers, community Health Centers, as well as community behavioral health and addiction treatment centers, family planning centers, and school-based health centers; and
15. Pursue policies addressing the link between poor health and poverty, unemployment, discrimination, and housing instability.

Immigration

Democrats will create an obtainable path to citizenship and comprehensive reform that creates a humane and non-discriminatory immigration system that keeps families together, and strengthens our economy.

We affirm:

1. Immigration is a defining aspect of the American character and our shared history, not a problem to be solved;
2. Unifying and keeping immigrant families intact is good for people, families and our country;
3. We reject the narrative that immigrants can simply “get in line” and apply for legal US citizenship because the current pathway is extremely restrictive and prevents most from becoming citizens;
4. The human rights of every person living or working in the United States, regardless of citizenship status, must be ensured;
5. Targeted harassment, unlawful seizures, and other abuses of undocumented immigrants must cease;
6. Enforcement of immigration laws must be reasonable, humane, and compassionate;
7. There should be no religious test for immigrants or refugees to enter the United States;
8. Immigration policies should not be racist;
9. Border communities are some of the most culturally diverse and economically vibrant areas in our nation;
10. Our commitment to policies that provide immigrants a path to citizenship and promote their quality of life; and
11. We support Sanctuary cities, counties and states and oppose using local law enforcement for immigration enforcement, a federal responsibility.

We will:

1. Oppose profiteering by privatized law enforcement and security industry in border enforcement;
2. Oppose the deportations of immigrants who served in our armed forces, and create a faster path for such veterans to citizenship;
3. Defend and support the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans executive actions (or similar laws) that will help DREAMers, parents of citizens, and lawful permanent residents avoid deportation and pursue a pathway to citizenship;
4. Work to prevent inhumane treatment of immigrants in detention centers;
5. Oppose the funding or building of The Border Wall;
6. Challenge and reject divisive and derogatory language toward immigrants;
7. Fight against wage theft;
8. Eliminate the mandatory quotas for detaining of immigrants for profit;
9. End mandatory minimum sentences for immigrant detainees;
10. Deny the use of private prisons for immigration detentions and deportations;
11. Limit spending on border patrol and ICE agencies; and
12. Require Border Patrol to comply with the same 4th Amendment search and seizure laws as other law enforcement agencies.

International Relations

Democrats call for the use of diplomacy, alliances, and peacebuilding interventions of governmental and non-governmental organizations that re-foster trust in America’s role in addressing international and civil conflicts. All actions of United States institutions and supporting organizations—including the military, intelligence agencies, State Department, and military contractors, and any U.S. international business transactions—should reflect integrity, respect, and ethical behavior in accordance with human rights and international norms and laws. And we believe that our security, prosperity, and well-being is best served by friendly and cooperative relations with border countries

We affirm:

1. The United States has a major role in promoting international peace and justice through diplomacy, actively combating poverty and suffering, and working diligently to secure and maintain a healthy environment for everyone living on this planet;
2. All acts of terrorism should be condemned and prosecuted in accordance with full force of law. Terrorism is not just a Muslim issue and no exceptions or distinctions will be made for members of any race or religious group who commits an act of murder in order to express hate or political ideology;
3. Violent extremism is a symptom of a failure to provide a viable future for disempowered and marginalized populations. U.S. policies to counter violent extremism should balance responses to security threats from extremist groups with the creation of pathways of hope and inclusion for those people that they exploit;
4. Religious tolerance and respect for other cultures, including Islam and Muslims, are cornerstones of American values and should be strongly reinforced and upheld in all foreign policy and international transactions;
5. US-sponsored programs to secure nuclear materials worldwide and eliminate illicit pathways for their production are essential to the goal of reducing the threat of nuclear proliferation and reliance on a nuclear deterrent for national security; and
6. Where U.S. troops are engaged abroad, they should prioritize protection of civilians and assurance of human security in accordance with human rights and international law, and provide for withdrawal plans that ensure the health and safety of the local populace.

We will:

1. Support a strong US State Department to promote US interests abroad through nonviolent means;
2. Oppose any unilateral, unprovoked war against any nation that does not attack or invade the U.S.;
3. Support open and transparent trade policy with input from labor, environmentalists, economists, and public opinion. Trade policy must be drafted in documents that are freely accessible to the public;
4. Oppose the use of fast track procedures that circumvent the democratic process to pass trade agreements;
5. Oppose investor-state dispute provisions that circumvent US sovereign law and undermine local power to adjudicate disputes with foreign corporations;
6. Oppose the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) because of provisions that go against our democratic values by offshoring U.S. jobs, incentivizing the use of non-competitive wages abroad, exacerbating environmental concerns, and challenging the sovereignty of U.S. citizens to enact laws free from global corporate retaliation;
7. Provide safe haven and refuge to those fleeing the consequences of ongoing conflict;
8. Condemn the use of torture;
9. Urge our government officials to continue to reduce nuclear warheads and research our nuclear weapons' safety, security, and reliability; and
10. Support foreign aid models that ensure transparency, accountability, and local participation (where possible) in emergency humanitarian aid delivery. We support foreign development aid models that open market access and investment to local small businesses in the target area and provide training in modernized entrepreneurial skills to facilitate stable economic development in target nations.

Labor

Democrats will remove obstacles for workers, public and private, to exercise their right to organize and join unions. We recognize how unions contribute to building a stronger middle class, as well as their critical role in fighting for living wages, fair work rules and hiring practices, and safe working conditions.

We Affirm:

1. Democrats oppose the outsourcing of American jobs;
2. We support the rights of workers to organize and to bargain collectively for a safe and fair working environment; and

3. The government should bargain in good faith at all times.

We will:

1. Support fair labor practices;
2. Support project labor agreements;
3. Support fair and equitable Earned Sick Leave policies for all workers in New Mexico;
4. Hire local union shops and businesses that uphold the rights and dignity of workers;
5. Expose and oppose “right-to-work” laws which are anti-union, limit the rights and benefits, and suppress the wages of workers;
6. Eliminate unfair hiring and firing practices;
7. Support retirement plans for all without diminishing benefits and increasing employee contributions to benefits;
8. Support equal pay for all within same-leveled positions based on education and seniority; and
9. Encourage all employers to recognize workers needs for rest periods and we call upon NM Legislators to enact law requiring rest periods for employees.

Media

A free and open media with diverse ownership and multiple opposing views from independent journalists is essential to a functional democracy because voters must be informed to make sound voting decisions.

We affirm:

1. Public figures in the media should treat all women with respect and dignity. We call for eliminating the objectification of women and men in press, radio, film, TV, and news as a means of acquiring status or employment; and
2. Mergers of large media companies have the potential to stifle information by limiting the number of voices, opinions, and facts that inform our world view.

We will:

1. Fight for Net Neutrality so that all internet content is equally accessible without favoring or blocking particular content. The internet must remain open and uncensored;
2. Commit to giving candidates free and equal media time and coverage during elections;
3. Support a NM film industry that creates movies, TV shows, and commercials that have people of all races, ethnicities, nationalities, religions, and gender identities, as reflected in the diverse demographics of our State;
4. Dismantle media companies that are monopolies in their geographic areas;
5. Guarantee continued support and funding for NPR, PBS and other public media;
6. Protect journalists and media organizations from intimidation and resist efforts to marginalize and undermine objective media sources;
7. Encourage accurate portrayals of people of color in the media that exacerbate the systemic racism that people of color experience collectively;
8. Support programs that educate people to interpret and critique the news they receive; and
9. Ensure that social media providers provide robust protection of private data.

American Indian Tribes and Pueblos of New Mexico

Democrats recognize tribal sovereignty and acknowledge the fundamental trust responsibility of the United States government to American Indian People and tribal governments as grounded and embedded in treaties, laws and court decisions. With that understanding, Democrats will honor, strengthen and fulfill the sovereign, inherent rights of Tribes and Pueblos in New Mexico by working to enact laws, policies, and political

processes that are led and informed by the Tribes and Pueblos of New Mexico. Democrats will seek to ensure that New Mexico Tribes and Pueblos have access to clean air, land, and water; and will consistently defend their sovereign rights to protect their natural and cultural resources, sacred sites, economic interests, cultural identity, Indigenous languages and rights to self-determination.

We affirm:

1. We must respect and honor the history of the Tribes and Pueblos of New Mexico, understand their unique political, economic, social, cultural strengths, and challenges, and recognize their contributions to the growth, advancement, and development of our state.
2. We must require that all levels of state and local government work with Tribes and Pueblos to develop formal and informed processes whereby tribal leadership and stakeholders can exercise their right to self-determination and have a voice in the process of developing and enacting laws and policies that affect them.
3. We must actively recruit and engage members of our State's Tribes and Pueblos into the Democratic Party of New Mexico and actively encourage participation in all Party proceedings and leadership roles.
4. We will work and invest in tribal communities to provide voter outreach and education to increase awareness of their voting rights and responsibilities and encourage their participation in the election process.

We will:

1. Recognize, honor, and protect the sovereignty and capacity for self-governance of the Tribes and Pueblos of New Mexico;
2. Support and assist New Mexico Tribes and Pueblos in obtaining sufficient and meaningful resources to bolster and strengthen economic development and self-determination in sustainable and culturally sensitive ways; this includes sound infrastructure development, access to internet connectivity, broadband deployment, utility accessibility, and road improvements;
3. Support and protect the past and present homelands of Tribes and Pueblos and help ensure that water, air, land, cultural resources and sacred sites are protected from damage, disturbance, and contamination utilizing existing state and federal laws. In addition, provide support for existing tribal and Pueblo agricultural practices that includes the protection of seed-saving and other cultural traditions;
4. Support and assist Tribes and Pueblos in obtaining affordable and accessible quality healthcare through delivery systems that include the Indian Health Service (IHS), Medicare, and Medicaid and will help in: protecting funding streams that enable Tribes and Pueblos to procure multi-level health care services for their members; providing sufficient funding for eldercare services such as nutrition and caregiver programs in tribal communities; and, preventing Medicaid funding based on a block grant formula;
5. Assist and support sound educational programs that comply with state and federal accountability standards with an emphasis on high quality instruction, effective professional teacher development, recruitment, and retention, and the development of culturally sensitive curricula including Native language retention and instruction. Will work to effectuate meaningful education policy change that includes: collaborating with the Bureau of Indian Education; supplementing and not supplanting federal Impact Aid funding; strengthening self-determination by enabling culturally inclusive learning techniques unique to each tribal nation; furnishing and funding tribal libraries; fostering the advancement of higher education that includes the re-introduction of vocational education; creating and developing a literate, highly skilled and well-educated work force within tribal communities; and, providing childcare, nutrition, and early childhood education programs in tribal communities.
6. Protect existing laws and intergovernmental agreements benefitting tribal interests in the areas of taxation, education, voting, healthcare, and cultural resources, with the understanding that intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration benefits the entire state of New Mexico.
7. Invite New Mexico's Tribes and Pueblos to participate and comment on all legislation affecting tribal interests as early as possible in the legislative process including interim periods and legislative sessions.
8. Ensure the development of efficient and practical methods of communication and consultation between branches of government and New Mexico's Tribes and Pueblos by adopting protocols embedded in laws such as the State Tribal Collaboration Act, which has framed state-tribal relations and assured a continuous and productive government-to-government relationship

Public Safety

Democrats believe everyone has a basic right to be free from coercion and violence, including harm imposed by corporate degradation of water, air, and soil. We will support a multi-faceted strategy to public safety including law enforcement, intervention and treatment, and universal background checks for firearm purchases.

We affirm:

1. We must expand and strengthen background checks for firearm purchases and close dangerous loopholes in our current laws;
2. Crimes of sexual violence against women and trans women deserve full and timely investigation, due process, and serious attention of the legal system; and
3. Tribes must be given timely and expeditious access to justice at the Federal level.

We will:

1. Support the principles and best practices of the Community Policing model;
2. Oppose the sale of assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines by reinstating and strengthening the assault weapons ban;
3. Support increased training for de-escalation procedures for law enforcement including the use of behavioral health teams and oppose the use of excessive force by law enforcement;
4. Support demilitarization of law enforcement;
5. Support efforts for the Center for Disease Control to study the effects of gun violence as a public health issue;
6. Support comprehensive services for survivors of violence and increase prevention efforts in our communities and on our campuses;
7. Ensure that all necessary measures are taken to eradicate family violence in our state;
8. Increase sexual violence prevention education programs;
9. Support fully funding programs that provide safe houses and counseling;
10. Strengthen the laws that prevent illegal seizure of cash and property from New Mexicans without first bringing criminal charges against them;
11. Support strong civilian community oversight of law enforcement agencies to improve transparency in the hiring and firing of officers, and make recommendations for disciplinary action, budgets, and policies;
12. Repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) that revokes dangerous legal immunity protections for firearm manufacturers and sellers;
13. Support the enactment and enforcement of aggressive laws against illegal gun trafficking;
14. Recognize that nuclear material poses inherent risks to safety and encourage stronger safety-focused oversight and accountability; and
15. Urge our NM Congressional delegates and other public officials to:
 - Demand continued public access to nuclear safety reports;
 - Support transparent and accountable oversight of New Mexico nuclear facilities by the U.S. Department of Energy and New Mexico regulators;
 - Challenge the unilateral authority of the President to use nuclear weapons;
 - Support (1) the continued reduction of nuclear warheads; (2) continued research on nuclear warheads' safety, security, and reliability; (3) our National Laboratories, hoping future research will be repurposed toward sustainability and other more humane projects.

Science & Technology

Government has a role in supporting science and technology research to be used for public good. Technological growth and the supporting infrastructure should be equally accessible to all, provide equitable

benefits, and ensure socially responsible development for public good. Policy makers should be informed by the best science available.

We affirm:

1. Unhindered high-speed internet is a necessity for 21st century success in all sectors of the economy (including agriculture), social mobility, education, health care, and public safety in both urban and rural areas. Strong net neutrality rules are essential to permanently protect the rights of every person to equal, uninhibited access and distribution without a fee;
2. That ambitious public and private investments in local science, technology, and research is key to economic growth in New Mexico. Such publicly funded Research and Development should reflect our Democratic values;
3. The government should hire and keep qualified scientists and research staff in all regulatory and policy-making bodies that use or oversee science and technology. Decisions by these bodies on funding Science and Technology Research and Development should not be politicized or censored, and policy makers should be aware of any potential conflicts of interests in scientific results used as the basis of policy;
4. There should be transparency and accountability in autonomous technology developed by the private sector and its use in the public sector; and
5. As “disruptive technologies” -- i.e., technologies that drastically change our economic and social landscape - emerge, we must create opportunities for local workers, local industries, and local entrepreneurs to participate and adapt.

We will:

1. Secure financing and providers for affordable, high-speed, high-quality internet and cellular service in all areas of New Mexico, especially rural. Where practical and feasible, support municipal and local management of these services;
2. Support training, education, and policies that encourage technology transfer, entrepreneurship, and science and technology-based small business creation in New Mexico in all types of innovation sectors, and that leverage the science and technology base of the universities and national labs in New Mexico;
3. Recruit companies to put New Mexico at the forefront of deploying next generation science and technologies, supported by qualified, trained state workers to facilitate their growth;
4. Enact programs and policies that enable New Mexicans to benefit from transformative technologies and scientific advancements (such as Artificial Intelligence, autonomy in the transportation industry, and adaptive manufacturing) while preparing workers to adapt to the technological displacement from these advancements;
5. Support patent reform to protect innovations while allowing for the fair use of common science and technology;
6. Strengthen partnerships with space commerce companies to encourage economic growth in response to the growing demand for space technologies and launch capabilities;
7. Undo Republican roll backs of net neutrality rules by the Federal Communications Commission;
8. Attract and retain scientific and technologically trained people from all over the world; invest in research and development, innovation hubs, and getting ideas to market; and
9. Ensure that all students are offered STEM courses throughout their K-12 education and learn Information Technology by the time they graduate high school.

Transportation & Infrastructure

Democrats believe in state and federal investment in public infrastructure and transportation to improve our state’s economic competitiveness and create jobs. We also believe everyone should have clean water, electricity, heat, and high-speed internet.

We affirm:

1. We support more advanced technology across New Mexico.

We will:

1. Hire locally to:
 - Restore roads and bridges to address decades of neglect;
 - Build the infrastructure for affordable public transportation, electric vehicles, and bicycle routes;
 - Install the infrastructure so that high-speed broadband networks can be a reality for both urban and rural New Mexicans and schools and;
 - Modernize all public buildings at all levels of government to be powered by solar and wind;
2. Develop and implement a statewide plan for land use and infrastructure growth;
3. Protect communities from the impact of climate change and help them to mitigate its effects by incentivizing renewable energy utilities;
4. Prioritize water use for human needs over industrial use;
5. Encourage the reduction of residential and industrial water usage by providing sustainable water policies including aquifer protection, water-supply planning, consumptive water-use permitting, and resource protection programs; and
6. Protect public health and safety by modernizing drinking and wastewater systems including technology to recycle water.

Veterans & Military Affairs

We believe all qualified persons who wish to serve our nation are free to do so without discrimination. Our country has a sacred, moral responsibility to honor all of our veterans and wounded warriors. The party that passed the G.I. Bill of Rights will always work to protect the benefits our veterans and their families have earned in service to our nation.

We affirm:

1. War is the last resort. The only reason we will ever put anyone through war is because we have exhausted all other options and our safety is in peril;
2. Our country has a moral responsibility to support all our veterans because they have put their lives on the line to defend us;
3. Any person, regardless of immigration status, who served and was honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces must receive citizenship upon completion of service;
4. We are proud of the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” and we commit ourselves to ensuring fair treatment for LGBTQ veterans, including by proactively reviewing and upgrading discharge records for veterans who were discharged because of their sexual orientation;
5. Our military is strongest when people of all races, religions, sexual orientations, and gender identities are honored for their service to our country;
6. The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) must be fully resourced so that every veteran gets the timely care that he or she has earned and deserves, including those suffering from sexual assault, mental illness and other injuries or ailments;
7. The VA should take responsibility to identify all unserved and underserved veterans including those that are homeless;
8. We reject attempts to privatize the VA; and
9. We are committed to addressing the scourge of military sexual assault and will increase efforts to prevent sexual assault and rape, and aggressively investigate and prosecute allegations.

We will:

1. Support a smart, reasonable, and predictable defense budget that meets the strategic challenges we face and seek an economy that does not require resources from hostile regions;
2. Support full federal funding for comprehensive veteran-centric systems to fulfill our commitment to all veterans by meeting their needs upon discharge, with an emphasis on suicide prevention, employment,

housing, family support, reintegration, comprehensive healthcare with timely processing of claims and appeals, and legal assistance;

3. Provide support to care for our military family members, especially for the spouses, partners, and children who have to rebuild their lives after the loss of a loved one or life-altering injury or disability;
4. Push for more educational benefits, job training, and protect and preserve the post-9/11 GI Bill for future generations;
5. Ensure that reservists and Guard members are treated fairly when it comes to employment, health, education benefits, deployment, and reintegration; and
6. Support closing loopholes in the for-profit college industry that exploits veterans, and support strengthening programs that help veterans choose the best educational programs possible.

Women

Democrats are committed to ensuring full equality for women in education, employment, healthcare, and in all other spheres of society. We recognize that violence against women and girls is an epidemic and stand firm in the need for a societal shift and prosecution of perpetrators. Democrats are pro-choice.

We will:

1. Support ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing equal rights for all citizens regardless of gender;
2. Fight to secure equal pay for women to ensure women's economic independence and power, which will benefit all women and their families, particularly women of color who are disproportionately impacted by discriminatory pay practices, and against other factors that contribute to the wage gap;
3. Fight to end gender discrimination in all areas by combatting biases across economic, educational, political, and social life that hold women and girls back and limit their opportunities — tackling specific challenges facing women of color;
4. Call for our political leaders to set the precedent to address any form of sexual harassment and sexual violence wherever it occurs; and to end non-disclosure agreements that silence women and others who have suffered sexual harassment and violence. We will promote civility and speak out against sexism and other forms of intolerance that have entered our political discourse;
5. Demand funding to Planned Parenthood health centers, which provide critical health services to millions of people;
6. Repeal the Hyde Amendment which impedes a woman's access to abortion;
7. Ensure all women have full and equal access, within reasonable proximity, to comprehensive healthcare and insurance, including reproductive healthcare services, cancer prevention, screening, and treatment;
8. Strongly and unequivocally support a woman's right to choose to have a child or end a pregnancy. This includes ensuring access to safe abortion services. It also includes ensuring access to services that promote a safe and healthy pregnancy and childbirth. We will also work to provide services during pregnancy and after the birth of a child, including paid maternity and family leave, affordable childcare, adoption and social support services, and protections for women against pregnancy discrimination;
9. End the scourge of violence against women and girls wherever it occurs — in our homes, streets, schools, military installations, or elsewhere. We condemn and fight against human trafficking in all its forms. We believe FDR's vision of Freedom from Fear should apply equally to women so that women can live full lives without fear of gender-based violence; and
10. Support the Violence Against Women Act to provide law enforcement with the tools it needs to combat this problem. We commit to ending the backlog of processing rape kits.