

# **WASHOE DEMOCRATS**

## ***2024 PLATFORM***

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# **2024 WASHOE DEMS PLATFORM**

## ***INTRODUCTION***

The highest priority of the Washoe County Democratic Party is the preservation and protection of our democracy from both external and internal threats. We embrace the idea that government should primarily be organized to support all Americans. To that end, the Platform of the Washoe Democratic Party puts forth our values, our beliefs and the policies we support in order to ensure:

- The preservation of that democracy,
- The protection of our climate and our environment,
- The integrity of our borders,
- The rights of all citizens to equal justice under the law,
- The rights of all citizens to free and fair elections,
- The rights of all citizens to high quality health care,
- The rights of all citizens to a world class education,
- And the rights of all citizens to enjoy the blessings of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in a democracy of the people, by the people and for the people.

## ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES***

### ***PRESERVING OUR DEMOCRACY***

Democrats believe that the government should work for everyone, that our diversity is our strength, and that our democracy is in danger from the growing fracturing and divisiveness in our society. We believe that adherence to the rule of law is the glue that holds a democratic people together; without it, we risk dissolution of the social contract that protects the rights of ALL people. We support the appointment of judges who are dedicated to upholding the rule of law, and particularly the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We support the passage of sensible gun laws. We support a woman's right to choose, to autonomy in her healthcare, and to easy access to reproductive health care and abortion. We believe the Electoral College should be abolished and

that the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision must be overturned. We support immediate, concentrated legislative and judicial efforts to ensure fair elections, in other words, to get money out of politics.

## The Rule of Law

The signers of the Declaration of Independence understood the oppression that occurs when those in power control the law for their own purposes. The signers understood that it was necessary to have a stable justice system – to have rules and laws based on certain fundamental principles and not the arbitrary whims of those holding government power at any moment. Only in this way could we protect ourselves from tyranny.

*-Missouri Chief Justice Michael A. Wolff in his October 2005 Law Matters article*

It is very important in a republic that the people should respect the laws, for if we throw them to the winds, what becomes of civil government?

*—Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1860)*

There can be no free society without law administered through an independent judiciary. If one man can be allowed to determine for himself what is law, every man can. That means first chaos, then tyranny.

*—U.S. Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter,  
United States v. United Mine Workers (1947)*

## Social Justice and Voting Rights

Democrats are committed to ending discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, language, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability status. We will appoint U.S. Supreme Court justices and federal judges who look like America, are committed to the rule of law, will uphold individual civil rights and civil liberties as essential components of a free and democratic society, and will respect and enforce foundational precedents, including Brown v. Board of Education and Roe v. Wade. Democrats are committed to restoring the full power of the Voting Rights Act and ensuring every citizen can access the ballot box.

## Health Care

Universal healthcare is essential to the overall well-being of humans and therefore to the advancement of a democratic society. It must be easily affordable and available to all. Healthcare is a basic human right.

## **Housing**

Home ownership has always been at the center of the American Dream—and yet it has rarely been within the reach of almost 40% of the population, and that fraction is increasing. Red-lining, rising income inequality, college debt and predatory lending practices targeting lower-income families and people of color have made home ownership all but impossible for millions of hard-working Americans. Housing in America should be stable, accessible, safe, healthy, energy efficient, and, above all, affordable.

## **Gun Laws**

We support the right to bear arms in a responsible manner.

## ***IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY***

We support federal legislation or executive action that will ensure resources are available to hire sufficient appropriate judges and support staff, as well as to train border security police to make timely decisions on, and provide humane treatment and monitoring of individuals and families applying for immigration status.

## ***CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT***

We believe that a stable climate and intact ecosystems, including clean water and air, are essential for human existence and supporting productive economies. A stable climate requires immediate reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, in Nevada and worldwide. We believe that Nevada must contribute its best efforts to accomplish this reduction. Intact ecosystems require protection of air and water resources, protection and effective management of fish, wildlife and plant resources, and emphasis on sustainable, economically viable agriculture. We strongly support the use of scientifically based strategies in all legal, managerial and enforcement efforts to achieve these goals.

## ***EDUCATION***

The social, political, and economic health of our communities, our state, and our country depend on a well-educated citizenry. All children have the right to a free, high-quality, and well-rounded public education appropriate to their individual needs and talents. We support guaranteed funding that will make this possible, including sufficient resources to lower class sizes and provide competitive pay

and benefits for teachers. We oppose diverting any education funding away from public schools and support teachers as professionals whose voices, along with those of parents and administrators, should be included in all educational decision-making.

## ***ECONOMIC POLICY***

We believe that government has an important role to play in maintaining a strong economy that works for all people, protects the environment, addresses climate change, and supports workers' rights. All corporations and individuals should pay their fair share of taxes and therefore, we support progressive income and estate taxes, legislation that addresses tax loopholes and that increases the IRS's enforcement budget. We understand that organized labor plays a crucial part in supporting and growing a society with a strong middle class. We support increased investment in infrastructure and passage of the PRO ACT.

***The headings have individual planks associated with them below.***

# **WASHOE DEMS BELIEFS & PLATFORM PLANKS 2024**

## **PRESERVING OUR DEMOCRACY**

### **The Rule of Law**

#### **Our Beliefs**

- We believe that the consent of the governed is the defining principle of democracy and that it is the consent of the governed that makes possible the rule of law.
- We believe that without strong support for the rule of law that prosecutes corruption and unfair advantage, the wealthy and powerful will substantially evade the law and will also have priority access to public social goods - to things like freedom, opportunity, healthcare and education. When the rule of law is undermined, we risk autocracy along with a host of other social ills: discrimination, inequality, erosion of voting rights, lawlessness, poverty, mass incarceration, distrust and anger.
- We believe that it is the rule of law that safeguards our liberty, equality of opportunity and a functioning civil society in the face of those who, through ambition for power or wealth, seek to impose their will on the less powerful.
- We believe that every level of government must have rules to ensure that no one either by virtue of their wealth or position in the government has so much power that they can act above the law.
- We believe that the rule of law requires a well-educated citizenry willing to accept responsibility for their government and the duty of citizenship.
- We believe that the Constitutional Right to Free Speech is not a license to lie.

#### **Our Planks**

1. We support our Washoe county elected and appointed officials who are carrying out the duties of their office and therefore oppose those who would prevent them from carrying out the duties of their office through intimidation, threats, and abuse of the tools of public comment. At a time when our public servants are facing threats and hostility simply for doing their jobs, their continued willingness to serve is even more meaningful and important, and the Democratic Party of Washoe County stands with them.
2. We support the mandatory teaching of civics and government for every student, and the implementation of a required examination on the Constitution and the responsibilities of citizenship in order to graduate from the 12th grade.
3. We support legislative policies that promote accountability for law enforcement officers for violations of the Constitution and the laws of the United States.

4. We support eliminating the Permanent Apportionment Act of 1929 which limits the size of the House of Representatives.
5. We support the preparation of a Constitutional Amendment that would limit and stagger the terms of Supreme Court justices.
6. We support the passage of a law that applies to Supreme Court justices the same code of conduct and recusal rules that apply to all Federal judges.

## **Social Justice and Voting Rights**

### **Our Beliefs**

- We believe that money is not speech, and corporations are not people.
- We believe in a woman's right to unrestricted access to reproductive choices and health care.
- We believe in a criminal justice system that supports community safety, rehabilitation, and restorative practices for all communities.
- We believe in the fundamental right of self-determination for each adult to manage their own sexuality and marriage preferences.
- We believe that 'the consent of the governed' demands the broadest possible access to voting. The entire Voting Rights Act of 1965 must be restored.

### **Our Planks**

1. We support strong enforcement of legislation banning discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations and services.
2. We support passage of the Equality Act, which amends the Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination.
3. We support the principle that personal liberties under the Bill of Rights should apply only to natural persons, not corporations.
4. We support the elimination of the Electoral College.
5. We support funding, legislation and regulations that address reforms of our criminal justice and policing systems.
6. We support federal decriminalization of marijuana.
7. We support expunging from an individual's criminal record all low-level drug convictions once penalties have been fulfilled.
8. We support abolition of the death penalty
9. We support statehood for Washington, D.C.
10. We support statehood for Puerto Rico.
11. We support comprehensive efforts to end violence against the LGBTQIA+ and all other communities.
12. We support the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights", adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948.

13. We support public and private efforts to ensure that women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems.
14. We support all domestic and global efforts that eliminate child marriage, sex trafficking, forced labor and all types of slavery.
15. We support the passage of HR40, Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act .
16. We support continuing the use of proven reliable signature verification and oppose photo identification requirements for voting.
17. We support continued use of electronic voting machines that include a verifiable paper trail for all in-person voting in Nevada.
18. We support the creation of a public campaign finance system for elections at the local, state, and national levels.
19. We support reporting all private financing to federal and state elections.
20. We support overturning the [Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission \(558 U.S. 310 \(2010\)\)](#) decision to remove unlimited corporate and 'dark money' spending on elections.
21. We support maintaining a minimum two-week early voting period, mail in voting and no-excuse required absentee ballot procedures.
22. We support efforts to ensure that the voting process is accessible to all people, including but not limited to ensuring the availability of sign language interpreters, ballots in Braille, language translators, and providing electronic access to ballot text.
23. We support restoration of The Voting Rights Act as it existed prior to 2013.
24. We support exploring the expansion of automatic voter registration throughout Nevada beyond just through the DMV for all eligible individuals and implementing automatic notification to previous voting jurisdiction.
25. We support placing the top two (2) candidates from a primary election onto the general election ballot when there are no other candidates for a given partisan office.
26. We support the establishment of a state standard defining gerrymandering.
27. We support the passage of HR1, the For the People Act of 2021, which addresses voter access, election integrity, election security, political spending, and ethics for the three branches of government.
28. We support legislation to establish uniform security standards for all states and territories to conduct fair elections electronically.
29. We support applying Truth in Advertising requirements to political advertising.
30. We support the [DISCLOSE Act](#) introduced in the House and Senate by Rep.Cicilline and Sen. Whitehouse in 2023.
31. We support continuation of voting rights for every legal Nevada resident over the age of 18 who is awaiting trial and has not been convicted, as currently stated in Nevada Law.
32. We support a requirement that campaign donations requiring disclosure include the names of the donors if natural persons, or the names of registered or beneficial owners if not natural persons. Corporations, Partnerships, Trusts, LLCs, LLPs, and other forms of legal artificial persons must disclose their beneficial human owners. If compliance with this requirement is not complete, the donation shall be returned to the donor by the campaign.
33. We support a general requirement that independent (non-governmental, politically unaffiliated) organizations engaging in activities to directly or indirectly affect election and legislative outcomes be required to disclose their beneficial human owners.

34. To encourage citizens to celebrate and participate in our democratic process, we support creating a Federal/State Election Day Holiday.

## Health Care

### Our beliefs

- We believe that healthcare and personal autonomy in all healthcare choices are basic human rights.
- We believe all humans should have easily accessible and high quality healthcare regardless of their ability to pay or where they live.
- We believe that substance abuse and mental health are public health issues and that equitable access to treatment for those issues must be part of any successful healthcare system.

### Our Planks

1. We support the right of all people to have affordable access to all forms of reproductive healthcare, including but not limited to abortion and In Vitro Fertilization, regardless of where they live.
2. We support laws which prevent discrimination in health care.
3. We support access to health and medical care for all, regardless of the ability to pay or where someone lives.
4. We support the continued maintenance and improvement of public health efforts.
5. We support expanded Medicare and Medicaid services, including dental, vision, and hearing care.
6. We support the development of a public option for health insurance, as originally conceived by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
7. We support expansion of services for all people requiring caregivers.
8. We support the development and expansion of programs that help those suffering from, and families affected by, substance use disorders (substance abuse)
9. We support the expansion of mental health resources and encourage increased access in both rural and urban areas within Nevada.
10. We support Medicare and Medicaid being given the authority to negotiate for less expensive, high-quality prescription drugs.
11. We support medical research aimed at preventing and curing disease and alleviating human suffering, while minimizing the use of animal experimentation.
12. We support continued regulation of the medical marijuana industry.
13. We support allowing Nevada residents to buy into the Medicaid program in Nevada as an alternative to private health insurance.

14. We support elimination of the “doughnut hole” in Medicare’s prescription drug coverage gap.
15. We support elimination of healthcare inequities such as high rates of chronic diseases and premature deaths, among racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly, and low-income individuals.
16. We support authorizing research for medical and recreational cannabis in public and private institutions.
17. We support allowing without reprisal or penalty Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare professionals to recommend cannabis as an alternative to medications.
18. We support equal access to mental and behavioral health in all forms of public and private healthcare.
19. We support the repeal of the [Hyde Amendment](#) and the [Helms Amendment](#).
20. We support the establishment of a state license in Nevada for Certified Professional Midwives.
21. We support efforts to expand and enforce healthcare protections for the LGBTQ+ community and the individual’s right to determine appropriate healthcare.
22. We support scientific data collection and research into community safety and public health issues related to guns and gun-related incidents.
23. We support legislative efforts to provide parental prenatal and postnatal health services for all people.
24. We support greatly expanding school mental health services and the number of counselors available for students.
25. We support legislation prohibiting patient dumping, including evicting or denying treatment because of mental state, inability to pay or lack of insurance.

## **Housing**

### **Our Beliefs**

- We believe that adequate, safe shelter is a basic human right.
- We believe that access to affordable housing for all persons, regardless of income, is fundamental to building strong neighborhoods and safe communities.
- We believe local governments need to do much more to ensure broad availability of affordable housing in their communities.
- We believe that home ownership should be made accessible to a much larger proportion of the community.

### **Our Planks**

1. We support policies that address the affordable housing crisis, such as public subsidies and publicly owned housing. We support setting aside a small percentage of tax revenues each year to build a fund for the construction and maintenance of public housing.
2. We support reforming city and county regulations, such as land use rules, in order to

encourage new housing developments designed for households making at or below the local median annual income as a way to encourage home ownership for local families and individuals.

3. We support increased enforcement of legislation that bans discrimination including but not limited to redlining, predatory loan practices and biased property valuations in housing and public accommodations.
4. We support an overall expansion of affordable rental housing stock in the community.
5. We support a Tenants' Bill of Rights.
6. We support the decriminalization of homelessness.
7. We support increased funding and expansion of the Cares Campus and other forms of transitional housing for people who are experiencing homelessness.
8. We support increased funding for homeless services and programs such as Built for Zero and Street Homeless Outreach.
9. We support local, state and federal programs that protect our communities from the effects of climate change, particularly by encouraging and supporting homeowners and landlords to increase energy efficiency, create tree canopies, install reflective or living roofs, conserve water via permeable streets and/or sidewalks, and install rooftop solar power generation.
10. We support legal challenges to the use by landlords, property managers and realtors of private online sites that allow them to share data about local properties and rents for the purpose of maximizing rental rates – that is, for price-fixing. Sites such as [RealPage](#) are currently being challenged by the Department of Justice for forcing subscribers to guarantee they will not offer property for less than the artificially high rates.

## Gun Laws

### Our Beliefs

- We believe in the right of law-abiding citizens to own firearms, excluding military grade weapons.
- We believe in the need for gun regulations that will help ensure the safety of all citizens.

### Our Planks

1. We support mandatory universal background checks and a waiting period for all firearm purchases including at gun shows, online, and between private parties.
2. We support a federal ban on assault weapons, automatic firing conversion kits, and high capacity magazines.
3. We support the mandatory surrender of firearms when extended protection orders against domestic violence are issued.
4. We support closing the domestic violence “boyfriend loophole”
5. We support the implementation of a nationwide voluntary surrender and buy-back of weapons.
6. We support gun-free zones in all public government venues, and in non-governmental

- venues which choose to prohibit guns on premises.
7. We support parental or guardian responsibility for any gun use by minors.
  8. We support the repeal of Nevada's preemption law, which currently limits the ability of local jurisdictions to create ordinances to prevent gun violence within local jurisdictions.
  9. We support removing liability exemptions from gun manufacturers that target minors in their advertising, encourage illegal modifications to their weapons, or highlight a weapon's killing capacity.
  10. We support technology and legislation aimed at keeping children safe and ensuring that firearms are stored safely in gun owners' homes, such as requiring gun locks.
  11. We support requiring licensed gun dealers to prevent straw-man purchases.
  12. We support Nevada's right to determine whether or not to honor other state's concealed or open-carry rules.
  13. We support a ban of all untraceable weapons including but not limited to ghost guns.

## ***IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY***

### **Our Beliefs**

- We believe our border security depends upon adequate funding to provide a sufficient number of trained judges and border guards to process all immigration claims in a timely manner.
- We believe immigration has been a source of energy, talent, growth, and power for America.

### **Our Planks**

1. We support reviving, with some revision, the Border Security bill passed by the Senate in February 2024, but then scuttled by Donald Trump to "deny the Biden administration".
2. We support removal of state-driven efforts to interfere with federal efforts to establish border security as that approach not only defies clear sections of the Constitution but will also lead to chaos at U.S. borders.
3. We support providing all necessary health care and social services to families in the process of gaining citizenship, which should not negatively impact their path to citizenship.
4. We support the [Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors \(DREAM\) Act](#), the [Deferred Actions for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents \(DAPA\) Act](#), and [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Act \(DACA\)](#), including a path to citizenship for DREAMers.
5. We welcome refugees as classified by the United Nations.
6. We support the right of municipalities in Nevada to declare themselves to be Welcoming or Sanctuary Zones.
7. We support the humane treatment of immigrants and asylum-seekers at the border, and oppose the use of [Title 42](#).
8. We oppose efforts to criminalize people providing humanitarian aid to refugees and immigrants

9. We support development, implementation, and full funding of a comprehensive approach to immigration that clearly lays out processes for entrance into the United States that is fair and timely.

## ***CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT***

### **Our Beliefs**

- We believe that a stable climate and intact ecosystems, including clean water and air, are essential for human existence and vibrant economies.
- We believe that a stable climate requires immediate reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, in Nevada and worldwide, and that Nevada must contribute its best efforts toward accomplishing this reduction.
- We believe that intact ecosystems require protection of air and water resources, protection and effective management of fish, wildlife and plant resources, and emphasis on sustainable, economically viable agriculture.
- We believe that science-based strategies must be used in all legal, managerial and enforcement efforts to protect and enhance our climate and environment.

### **Our Planks**

#### **Climate**

1. We support programs and policies that address global climate change disruption. We acknowledge that human-induced climate change and global warming are settled science that should be the basis of sound public policy.
2. We support continued cooperation with the international community in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the [Paris Climate Accords](#) and other appropriate international, national, state, and local efforts
3. We support legislation to combat climate change to support our goals of fighting all forms of discrimination and economic inequality.
4. We support legislation and programs to keep all communities free of pollutants, and to construct green buildings as prescribed by [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design \(LEED\)](#) standards.

#### **Energy**

1. We support the production and consumption of renewable energy, including solar, wind, and geothermal, as the primary sources of energy for Nevada, with a Nevada renewable energy portfolio standard of 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2040.
2. We support the continued phasing-out of fossil-fueled power plants in Nevada, and oppose new fossil fuel infrastructure projects.

3. We oppose permitting of fossil fuel extractions via hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) and other forms of oil/gas well stimulation in Nevada.
4. We support public funding and incentives for development of distributed solar energy generation on businesses, public buildings, private residences, and multi-dweller structures, including condominiums and apartment buildings., including income-based incentives.
5. We support income-based subsidies for energy efficiency and alternative energy projects on private residences and multi-dweller structures, including condominiums and apartment buildings.
6. We support public funding for research and development of new, clean-energy technologies in Nevada, including development of clean, renewable energy production, while assuring that such development is conducted in full compliance with environmental regulations.
7. We support the Public Utility Commission (PUC) transitioning from the traditional Cost of Service (COS) regulatory framework for NV Energy to a Performance Based Regulation (PBR) framework that improves performance in line with customer service and public policy, including meeting state environmental goals, supporting and encouraging rooftop solar generation, improving efficiency, enhancing reliability, offering innovative services, and being more attentive to equity issues.

## **Clean Air, Water, and Food**

1. We support sustainable water use and water rights policies that protect streams, river zones, wetlands, springs, lakes, ponds, and other bodies of water.
2. We support the recent Nevada Supreme Court ruling that recognizes the connection between groundwater and surface water and the authority of the State Water Engineer to make decisions based on that science.
3. We support prohibition of inter-basin transfer of surface water and groundwater where hydrologic analysis reveals a potentially significant detrimental environmental impact on fish and wildlife habitat and other beneficial water uses.
4. We support effective regulations for groundwater protection, including disposal of fracking fluids; and/or injection of any fluids, including infiltration fluids; and require full public disclosure of any chemical constituents contained in these fluids.
5. We support the provision of clean drinking water in schools, public buildings, rural housing and municipal water systems as a governmental duty.
6. We support restoring the clarity and cleanliness of Lake Tahoe.
7. We support upholding all facets of Washoe County’s [Air Quality Management Regulations](#), in compliance with the [Federal Clean Air Act](#).

## **Public Lands**

1. We support local and regional planning that preserves open space and agricultural lands in a manner that conserves wildlife habitat, maintains habitat linkages, protects water quality, maintains agricultural productivity, and reduces flood risk.
2. We support maintaining national stewardship of our federal public lands. We support policies that keep public lands public, protect native plant and wildlife species, conserve and

- strengthen protection for natural resources, and increase access for all Americans.
3. We support Senator Jacky Rosen's sponsoring the Truckee Meadows Public Management Act recognizing both future growth needs and preservation of important places, including land rights of indigenous populations.
  4. We support full funding for the management and protection of public lands for recreation, watershed values, scenic and cultural resources, open space, and national, state, and local parks and monuments, including funding for the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission and the Nevada Division for State Parks, part of the Nevada Department of Conservation.

## **Transportation**

1. We support alternatives to the motor vehicle fuels tax to provide funds for energy conservation, transportation infrastructure, and to encourage the adoption of electric, hybrid, and other vehicles not dependent upon fossil fuels.
2. We support Nevada's "[Clean Car](#)" regulations of 2021 which advance Nevada's climate action and sustainability goals and reduce harmful air pollution from cars and trucks.
3. We support expansion of transportation systems that include bus, rail, and bicycle travel (bike lanes, dedicated bike paths, and bike-accessible public transit) as well as safe walkways and road crossings for pedestrians, including those with disabilities.
4. We support incentives for expanded consumer access to electric and hybrid vehicles and other alternatives to fossil-fuel powered vehicles, and for vehicles with increased fuel-efficiency.
5. We support expansion and increased funding for public transportation powered by clean, renewable energy.

## **Waste Reduction and Recycling**

1. We support providing recycling collection services to all residents, including those in apartments and multi-unit dwellings, and to all businesses. We also support recycling of construction and commercial waste.
2. We support development and implementation of approaches to protect Nevada's ecosystems and neighborhoods by reducing and eliminating single-use plastics such as plastic grocery bags, plastic water bottles and polystyrene (Styrofoam), and to encourage Eco-friendly packaging.
3. We support development and distribution of a county-wide education program to promote the 5 Rs of Recycling approach (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot)..

## **Environmental Regulation**

1. We strongly support full funding for Federal agencies and laws that are critical to environmental protection, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the US Department of Interior, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species

Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and others that can affect the environment.

2. We strongly support removing from consideration the Yucca Mountain Project and similar projects that designate Nevada as a dumping ground for nuclear waste, mercury, and/or other toxic substances.
3. We support mining regulation reform that supports environmental remediation, including protection of groundwater, surface water, and water dependent flora and fauna in our desert state
4. We support full environmental protections and enforcement for all projects constructed or conducted in Nevada and elsewhere, including those that are proposed to support renewable energy development.

## **Wildlife Conservation**

1. We support more diversity and more members of the general public on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, and other planning and management agencies.
2. We support strengthening enforcement and penalties for those who violate Nevada trapping laws.
3. We support increased funding for the Nevada Department of Wildlife (particularly to support its work pertaining to non-game species), the Nevada Department of Water Resources, Nevada State Parks, and other state agencies that support environmental protection.
4. We support scientifically based management of wild equine populations on public lands to reach and maintain “a thriving ecological balance.” Public agencies should be fully funded to manage wild equine populations.
5. We support the flora and fauna of Nevada through scientific management, including wildfire management strategies, healthy habitats and sustainable wildlife populations, and through legislation conserving and protecting wildlife and plant species.
6. We support legislation that requires use of bear-proof garbage containers in communities within bear habitats.
7. We support protection of wildlife habitats and migration corridors in areas that may be potentially developed for utility scale solar power production or other types of development.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Our Beliefs**

- We believe that all children have the right to a well-rounded, high quality public education which is essential for success in life.
- We believe that every student has the right to equal access to educational resources regardless of

race, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or religious affiliation.

- We believe every student should receive all the resources necessary to meet their unique needs for a high-quality education.
- We believe that educators and school staff are professionals who should be represented on all decision-making bodies that affect their work.
- We believe that public funding for education should be limited to supporting true public schools that serve all children with all needs and are not run by for-profit corporations
- We believe that the most effective way to improve education is to empower well-prepared teachers and school personnel, rather than spending district funds on commercial, for-profit curricula or programs (“people over programs”).

## Our Planks

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

1. We support education policies that promote safe, supportive, welcoming and inclusive school climates for all students and staff. We condemn all discrimination, bullying, and harassment. We support diversity, equity, and inclusion.
2. We support a well-rounded, standards-based, developmentally appropriate education for all children which includes music and the arts, physical education, career and technical education, and STEAM programs at all levels.
3. We support expanding programs that have demonstrated success in helping all families gain access to high-quality childcare, early childhood education, and child development programs. Such measures include expanding Head Start and Early Head Start, pre-K for all three and four year olds, mandatory kindergarten for all eligible children, and increased federal funding for services for childcare on college campuses.
4. We support significantly expanding the community school model. Such policies will facilitate the employment of additional school professionals to provide health and nutrition services, free school meal programs, before- and after-school programs, and parent education classes.
5. We support an increase in funding for the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights. We support expanding data collection efforts that will better inform the public on the status of equal educational opportunity for all children.
6. We support training for all school staff that will foster an environment free of discrimination for students of diverse racial, ethnic, gender identities, and religious backgrounds.
7. We support increased education funding to allow for teacher training in order to provide comprehensive education for all students in Nevada that will help them better understand the contributions of indigenous and minority populations. This education requires teaching and learning about Nevada’s rich cultural heritage and the contemporary contributions of the Paiute, Shoshone and Washoe people, as well as Nevada’s other tribal nations, urban communities, and minority populations.

## **Fair and Accurate Assessment of Students and Schools**

1. We support the use of age-appropriate assessment strategies which provide all stakeholders with accurate and reliable data to inform future instruction.
2. We support adherence to and enforcement of open meeting laws for all school governance bodies.
3. We support the collection and clear communication of data that provides consistent information about how public, charter, and private schools are meeting national standards and their commitments to educate all students.

## **Strong Support for All Teachers and All Students**

1. We support public school educators and staff in their right to organize, join a union, and collectively bargain.
2. We support increasing efforts to recruit, retain and reward high-quality teachers. These efforts should include offering competitive wages that are at or above the national average and regularly adjusted for the cost of living.
3. We support the Time for 20 Campaign, which includes a 20% wage increase for teachers statewide, reducing class sizes to a maximum of 20 students per teacher, and increasing wages for support staff and paraprofessionals to a minimum of \$20/hour.
4. We support reliable funding for all Nevada public schools per recommendations from the Commission on School Funding to ensure adequate per-pupil funding, including rural schools, schools in impoverished urban areas, and Bureau of Indian Education schools.
5. We support an accurate and holistic curriculum that will give students the tools and guidance to honestly face our past and present to create a better future.
6. We support the enforcement of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## **Student Debt**

1. We support free public community college and two-year trade schools for all students.
2. We support adequate higher education funding including funding for trade schools.
3. We support policies which will ease the student debt burden.

## **Libraries and Censorship**

1. We support free access to public libraries for all.
2. We support adequate government funding for public libraries.
3. We support the prerogative of librarians to select the materials which will be included in their collections. We oppose censorship and book-banning.

# **ECONOMIC POLICY**

## **Our Beliefs**

- We believe that a properly regulated Free Market is beneficial to society.
- We believe in a balance between ‘demand-side’ and ‘supply-side’ economics.
- We believe that government should protect and support all Americans.
- We believe that all corporations and individuals should pay their fair share of taxes,
- We believe tax abatements and other incentives for new businesses should be prohibited in cases where the new business would thereby gain a competitive advantage over an already existing Nevada-based business,
- We believe that tax abatements and other incentives for new businesses must be structured in ways that do not deprive local public service agencies such as schools, fire and police of the additional revenue necessary to support mandated services in the area.

## **Our Planks**

### **Infrastructure**

1. We support increased public investment in infrastructure, education, clean energy, public transportation, and basic scientific research as elements of a comprehensive fiscal policy that supports sustainable economic growth and addresses the climate crisis.
2. We support the USPS as a public good and so oppose any efforts to privatize or otherwise inhibit the United States Postal Service. We encourage the appointment of a new Postmaster General who sees the USPS as a valuable national asset. We support allowing the postal service to reinstate postal banking services.
3. We support the position of the Mayors, Washoe County Commission, the Nevada Secretary of State, Governor, United States Senators and Representatives, on keeping the Northern Nevada mail processing operation in Northern Nevada.
4. We support the preferential awarding of contracts under the Federal Infrastructure Act to companies with an organized labor force in order to ensure quality of installation and reduce future maintenance costs to the State.
5. We support legislation establishing a realistic, vibrant and environmentally responsible film production industry in Northern Nevada.

### **Anti-trust and Anti-Monopoly Policies**

1. We support strong antitrust enforcement policies as specified in the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 and the Clayton Antitrust Act of 1914 in order to sustain meaningful competition across all markets. We support particularly aggressive anti-trust actions in those markets

where half a dozen or fewer entities together constitute more than half of the market and so competitive pricing cannot exist.

2. We support anti-trust action to prevent vertical mergers (supply chain acquisitions) in concentrated markets.
3. We support increased accountability and transparency in our financial systems, and legislation such as the Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act that is aimed at curbing “too-big-to-fail banks,” public bail-outs of private businesses and banks, and protecting the public from abusive financial services practices.
4. We support the separation of commercial and investment banks.
5. We support employees’ creative rights and therefore oppose the mandatory relinquishment of any employee’s Constitutional patent ownership rights as a pre-condition of employment.
6. We support creators’ rights and therefore oppose the mandatory relinquishment of any creator’s copyright ownership rights as a pre-condition for engaging in agency, representation, recording and similar contracts for composers, musicians, performers, entertainers, and groups of the same or similar people.

## **Fair and Equitable Taxation**

1. We support restoration of the Federal Child Tax Credit on a permanent basis.
2. We support a progressive individual/joint income tax with a top tax rate not less than 50%. This is Down from Dwight Eisenhower’s 94%
3. We support restoration of the individual/joint alternative minimum tax.
4. We support a progressive corporate income tax with a top tax rate not less than 50%.
5. We support restoration of the corporate alternative minimum tax.
6. We support a progressive estate tax with a top rate reaching 92% for estates valued above 1,000,000 times the median family income in order to stem the creation of an inherited aristocracy.
7. We support elimination of the “step up in basis” for assets distributed from estates. This prevents the scheme of permanent avoidance of taxes on appreciated assets.
8. We support expiration (sunsetting) of tax exemption and deduction provisions (loopholes) after no more than 4 years for any provisions used on less than 20% of taxpayers’ returns.
9. We support increases in the IRS recruitment, training, and enforcement budgets.
10. We support legislation to institute a Federal stock market transaction tax of not more than .01% in order to protect small traders and curb volatility - especially that caused by high-volume electronic trading.
11. We support legislation that will regulate corporate stock buy-backs - especially those financed with loans against foreign assets which allow abusive corporate tax avoidance.
12. We support removal of the payroll tax income caps for Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and Medicare.
13. We support a gradual phase out of Nevada’s real property depreciation tax law.

14. We support efforts to require the State government to enforce the careful auditing and collection of already existing mining taxes, as well as to pass a new Nevada minerals depletion tax, the proceeds from which to be invested in a state trust for environmental remediation.
15. We support an international Unitary Tax to prevent multinational corporations from offshoring (sheltering) taxable income. Corporations should be taxed on their worldwide profits where the taxable revenue is allocated to individual countries based on the fraction of the corporation's business operations that are based in each country.
16. We support the expiration in 2025 of the 2017 Trump tax cut provisions for the wealthy.

## **Preserving the Commons**

1. We support legislation that will allow the government (the taxpayers) to share in profits resulting from patents produced as a result of government-funded research.
2. We support the rights of cities, counties, regional, and sub-federal government entities to operate publicly owned utilities including, but not limited to power, sewage, waste disposal, transportation, water, and internet infrastructure.

## **Labor and Employment**

1. We support the passage of the PRO-ACT (protecting the right to organize) as introduced in Congress in order to increase income equity and decrease the widening income disparity between corporate management and their workers.
2. We support Unemployment Earned Benefit Programs.
3. We support laws that will prohibit employment discrimination based on credit history.
4. We support labor protections for immigrants.
5. We support the passage of Paycheck Fairness Act.
6. We support the funding of business incubators and mentoring opportunities for minority, female-owned and small businesses.
7. We support legislation that will prevent predatory loan practices.
8. We support paid sick, parental, family and medical leave.
9. We support additional programs (including low-interest loans) to encourage growth in small and rural businesses, especially those owned by women and minorities.
10. We support candidates who oppose the privatization of government functions and services and the out-sourcing of public sector jobs.

## **Foreign Policy and Trade**

1. We support the United States requiring the following in all trade agreements: wage, hour, and working standards; the right to organize; enforceable fire and building safety codes; and environmental protection standards.
2. We support the deletion of provisions for mandatory private, quasi-judicial mediation in the Investor State Dispute Settlement clauses of trade agreements.

3. We support economic and military aid to Ukraine to ensure that it maintains its national sovereignty, and to protect United States security.

## **Agriculture**

1. We support development of eat-local movements, small-scale farming, organic farming, community gardens, farmers' markets, composting programs, and farm-to-table programs as a means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce pesticide and herbicide use, support public health, connect consumers to local farmers and food production, drive Washoe County economic growth, and provide more humane treatment of animals.
2. We support humane, safe working conditions for farm workers as a matter of environmental justice and as a basic human right.
3. We support policies and legislation that educate the public on plant-based food choices to reduce reliance on animal-based food systems which are a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and one of the root causes of climate change disruption.

## **Commerce**

### **The Internet**

1. We support the United States taking the lead in developing strong international standards for internet security and protection from fraudulent cyber activity of all types. These standards should be implemented as quickly as possible by all public utilities.
2. We support strong sanctions on any nation interfering in US elections either by covert cyber attacks, manipulation of social media or illegal campaign contributions of any kind.
3. We support the development of secure source identity verification extensions to the Internet Protocol.
4. We support absolute individual personal data ownership and a secure, verifiable list where individuals can elect to prohibit the sharing of their personal data.
5. We support including the internet with the mail and the telephone as public media in which the commission of fraud is a federal crime.

## **Artificial Intelligence**

1. We support the passage of strong legislation that discourages and strongly punishes the use of AI for deceitful, illegal, or dangerous purposes in political advertising or directed at candidates in general.
2. We support the inclusion of Artificial Intelligence products and services among those that must be evaluated against published standards and publicly listed as approved (or not) for individual and public safety and for use by non-governmental entities. We encourage the creation of an organization such as Underwriters Laboratories or similar for this purpose.

## **Public Broadcasting**

1. We support robust government funding of public broadcasting.
2. We support setting aside sufficient public service time on all public media to broadcast at public expense debates which inform the public on all sides of issues of importance to carrying out the public's business, including political campaigns, the environment, law and justice, oversight of commerce including monopolies and oligopolies, education, and foreign policy.
3. We support Congress codifying and requiring all broadcast media to enforce the FCC Fairness doctrine of 1949.