

**NATRONA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONVENTION  
PLATFORM AND RESOLUTIONS**

**MAY 5, 2018**

**“We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America.” [Preamble to the Constitution of the United States - 1789]**

The Natrona County Democratic Party adopts the following platform to set forth our philosophy of governance and public policy guidelines and recommendations:

**OPPORTUNITY**

We are committed to equal opportunity across our society. We believe public policy should foster an economic, social and institutional environment where all individuals are supported in developing their full potential to participate in society.

*HEALTH CARE*

We support access to preventative and responsive health care including but not limited to: mental health services, substance abuse treatment, disabled and geriatric care, as basic human rights from birth to end of life.

We support the Affordable Care Act and its continuing improvement and expansion.

We support extending access to Medicaid to Wyoming residents unable to qualify for other medical insurance programs.

We support federal monitoring of the rising costs of life saving drugs.

We fully support Medicare as a universal, single-payer insurance plan for seniors, and encourage its extension to all citizens and documented immigrants in the United States.

We support the Federal Food and Drug Administration in its scientific inquiry into the health and safety of our foods and drugs.

We support strengthening the Veterans Administration’s provision of health care and mental health services to eligible members of the military services and demand that they be delivered in a timely and efficient manner.

We support that all persons have access to comprehensive sex education, pregnancy prevention services, and a full range of reproductive health care options, including safe and legal abortions.

## *EMPLOYMENT*

We support the repeal of “Right-to-Work” laws.

We support a “living” minimum wage of no less than \$15/hour for all workers, including tipped employees.

We support pay equity based upon comparable worth and therefore closing the gender and ethnic/racial wage gaps.

We support stronger laws and the full funding of programs which will establish and expand inspections and promote effective, on-the-job support and enforcement of worker safety.

We support safe work conditions and environments for all workers. We support the use of state and county funds to provide job training and internships to strengthen and enhance the local work force.

We support accessible, affordable, quality child care in communities throughout the State as an integral part of employment opportunities.

## *IMMIGRATION*

We support comprehensive and effective immigration reform which includes a path to citizenship.

We oppose the adoption of local, state, or national laws depriving immigrants of their freedom, health, safety, or well-being.

## *EDUCATION*

We support the inclusion of current research-based curriculum as approved by the State Board of Education.

We support investment in a strong and diverse public education system required for individual success and responsible citizenship. Public education must be fully funded and supported from early childhood through higher education and adult education.

We support an educational system which values the development of each individual within a safe learning environment.

We support language/ethnic immersion programs in public schools.

We support ensuring the educational requirements of all special needs students are fully funded by the State of Wyoming.

We support the arts and physical education as a vital part of a student's education experience in Wyoming Schools.

### **PUBLIC INTEGRITY/FAIRNESS**

Natrona County Democrats support the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Wyoming as the living documents which establish the basic guidelines and integrity of government and public policy.

We adhere to the rule of law and require that it be applied impartially and uniformly.

We support the right of academic freedom in the operation of the University of Wyoming and all public colleges through the elimination of undue industrial or political influence in the structure and function of these education institutions.

### *GOVERNMENT PROCESS*

We support the separation of church and state.

We support transparency in government at all levels including adherence to all public meeting and open government laws; adherence to and enforcement of laws regulating ethics and conflicts of interest at all levels of government; full lobbyist disclosure; and, fiscally responsible government.

We encourage open, comprehensive accounting of expenditures and results of the State's economic development and diversification efforts.

We oppose the privatization of public services benefitting the American people, including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Veteran's Administration, prisons and the military.

### *TAXATION AND REVENUE*

We support a comprehensive tax measure in Wyoming to provide revenues to the State to include full consideration of all forms of taxes and revenue enhancements to ensure adequate and diverse funding for all Wyoming towns, cities and counties, public education systems, highways and to protect the health, safety and general welfare of all Wyoming residents.

We support a progressive and equitable system of federal taxation allowing exemptions limited to those serving the public interest.

We support adequate and reliable sources of funding for all Wyoming towns, cities and counties.

### *JUDICIAL SYSTEM*

We support a criminal justice system in which individuals are held accountable for misconduct with due process of law and where the constitutional rights of the accused are fully upheld with adequate funding for our judicial system at all levels.

We support enhancing the options for treatment of substance abuse and alcoholism for citizens in lieu of incarceration.

We support the decriminalization of the personal and medical use of marijuana.

We support the abolition of mandatory minimum imprisonment sentences.

We oppose any form of discrimination at every level, from ending racial profiling to applying equally-just sentencing within the criminal justice system.

We oppose prisons for profit.

### *PROTECTING OUR DEMOCRACY*

We embrace the Declaration of Independence proclamation that governments derive “their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

We strongly support restoration of the Voting Rights Act throughout the United States.

We support Legislation expanding voting registration procedures and voting methods to enable all forms and methods of voter participation.

We support maximizing the number of polling locations.

We support the fullest participation in our democratic processes and strongly oppose any barriers that inhibit voting.

We support the automatic restoration of full voting rights to all convicted felons upon their having served imposed sentences and probation periods.

We oppose all voter suppression efforts.

We oppose the use of churches as polling places.

Government is “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” We support a constitutional amendment to reverse the ruling of the United States Supreme Court in the Citizens United case,

which allows corporations and other entities to use unlimited and unidentified financial resources to influence elections and legislation.

We support public financing of political campaigns and demand early and full reporting of all political contributions.

We support full disclosure of financial interest in governmental and legislative matters for all officeholders.

#### *PROTECTING OUR CIVIL RIGHTS*

We endorse the freedoms embodied in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights including the right to habeas corpus. Our desires for personal and national security must not over ride commitment to protect individual rights and privacy.

#### *PROTECTING OUR PERSONAL RIGHTS*

*“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”* [2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, Constitution of the United States.]

In recognition of Wyoming’s long history of support of the right to keep and bear arms with safety as a priority, we urge all parties involved in the debate over our country’s struggle with ever-escalating gun violence to engage in legitimate and constructive dialogue on methods by which we can protect both our safety and that individual right.

We support the right of citizens to own firearms and call upon government at all levels to provide for the safety of all people within its jurisdictions.

We support common sense gun safety legislation.

We support federally-fixed financing for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to reestablish its requirements to maintain records and statistics on all deaths and injuries by guns.

*“In their inherent right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, all members of the human race are equal”* [Declaration of Rights, Article 1, Section 2, Equality for All, Constitution of the State of Wyoming.]

We acknowledge and celebrate all variations of the human condition. We therefore oppose discrimination and/or harassment of any person based upon race, color, ethnicity, national origin, perceived citizenship status, religion or non-religion, age, disability, economic status, political beliefs, sex, gender identity, gender expression, and/or sexual orientation. We support strengthening hate crime legislation and urge harsher penalties for the perpetrators of hate crime.

We support and recognize the dignity and capability of disabled persons and support handicap access, public awareness and employment per the Americans with Disabilities Act and the continuing enhancement of handicap access.

We support the right to death with dignity for those with terminal illnesses.

#### *FOREIGN RELATIONS*

We believe the United States must work diplomatically and continuously with all countries to advance peace and prosperity.

We support a foreign policy reflecting and promoting the principles of freedom, human rights, and compassion and support a collaborative process among nations to affect these principles.

We believe the United States must continue to be in the forefront of working to prevent nuclear weapon proliferation, continuing a steady disarming and dismantling of existing nuclear weapons arsenals in existing nuclear powers, and continuing diligent surveillance and cooperation with all countries to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to non-state actors.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY**

We value clean air, land, water, open space, abundant wildlife, and wilderness. The conservation and protection of these resources enhance our quality of life and our economy.

We recognize that sustaining our quality of life requires an increasingly long-term perspective often conflicting with short-term budgets, corporate profits and political agendas. We recognize human well-being is dependent upon the well-being of the earth. Our goal is to nurture, enhance, and develop social, cultural, economic, and physical environments for future generations.

We acknowledge global climate changes are caused by human practices and believe Wyoming must join other states and the worldwide efforts in recognizing this reality.

#### *ENERGY POLICY*

We support the Wyoming manufacture of alternative, renewable energy resources including solar, wind power, and geo-thermal energy. Conservation practices must be widely adopted at every level of our society to minimize energy consumption and maximize the use of clean energy and low carbon footprint sources.

We support the strict enforcement of Wyoming and the Federal Clean Water and Clean Air Acts, along with funding to support that enforcement to ensure the continued protection and health of our citizens from threats posed by unclean water and polluted air by all causes including, but not limited to, fracking.

## *SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES*

We support that energy-resource development should be guided by policies modulating the pace of that development to preclude any further degradation of our natural environment.

We support identifying and nurturing opportunities for economic diversification into manufacturing, service-sector, recreation and tourism, alternative energy, energy-efficient industries and technologies to name a few.

We support reduce, reuse, recycle.

## **QUALITY OF LIFE**

Public lands play a crucial role in sustaining the high quality of life in Wyoming. We encourage action to enhance the quantity and quality of public lands, both Federal and State, and responsible public access to them.

We support the preservation and enhancement of recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, camping and hiking on public lands.

We oppose any transfer of Federal Public Lands to State control. Such lands are part of our national heritage and belong to all Americans. We oppose any effort to transfer Federal public lands as identified by the Wyoming Public Lands initiative. Congress should act to protect our public lands, not the State government.

We oppose the reduction of established National/State /Local parks or sacred Native American lands.

We support the preservation and enhancement of cultural assets and activity in all their forms, including but not limited to music, theatre, visual arts, lectures, and dance.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Be it resolved that Wyoming accept and implement the expansion of Medicaid to cover those citizens who are otherwise not eligible for medical insurance, in order to protect not only the health of those individuals, but also the viability of our hospitals and other care providers. Wyoming taxpayers will benefit if money already paid by taxpayers to the Federal Government is returned to the State.

Be it resolved that voting procedures conform to the Constitution of the State of Wyoming. We assert that separation of church and state disqualifies religious contexts as polling places, and, further, demand that barriers to voting (such as burdensome travel, lack of ADA accessibility, or lengthy waits at polling places on elections days) be eliminated.

Be it resolved that privatization of government services be avoided.

Be it resolved that hemp be legalized for scientific study, development and growth as an alternative agricultural product.

Be it resolved that we support all programs and initiatives developed to eradicate bullying and/or harassment. No person should ever feel or experience the devastating effects of bullying and/or harassment on themselves, family, or community.

Be it resolved that the Natrona County Democrats support the growth of respectful relationships in the work environment to enhance safety, equality and security of their persons.

Be it resolved that we oppose the construction of any immigration prison/detention facility in the State of Wyoming.

Be it resolved that we support the immediate enforcement of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA).

Be it resolved that we oppose the enforcement of local, state, and national immigration laws that serve to separate and/or destroy families.

Be it resolved the we strongly support the right of free speech contained in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Be it resolved that we support tax advantages be applied equally to businesses and individual tax payers.

Be it resolved that we support the fair and equitable application of the federal tax code to both corporations and to individuals.

Be it resolved that we oppose all legislation and acts of government entities that support and/or foster racism.

