



**COLORADO  
DEMOCRATS**

*BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE*

# Colorado Democratic Party 2022 Platform

Approved by the  
Colorado Democratic Party State Assembly  
April 9, 2022

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## Welcome From our Platform Co-Chairs

DEDICATED DEMOCRATS from across the state have provided the core of a party platform process in transition.

Built upon a historical record of biennial party platforms, we have not reinvented the wheel but have incorporated much past language that is still applicable. Our core values and aspirations do not change, but some specific areas evolve at different times. We are adapting the platform process and are moving toward a more Web-centric piece that will incorporate this document in a much-improved layout and easier to navigate platform. We respectfully ask the state assembly members to approve this platform today.

Colorado Democrats have witnessed the challenges and opportunities that the global pandemic has created. Technology has changed. Internet access and dependability has improved. Mobile phones have become a primary source of information and communication and most individuals now carry more computing power in their pocket than astronauts had when landing on the moon.

This year's platform work has been one of evolution, as we worked to create a document that represents the views of 1.07 million Coloradans who are proud to call themselves Democrats. We have worked in an environment where intentional disinformation has compounded efforts to provide a consistent source of factual policy objectives. In an environment where COVID-19 is still active. In an environment where Russia has invaded Ukraine. In an environment where Congress had been compelled to investigate an attack on the seat of Democracy by a mob inspired by the previous President.

Platform Committee members, elected from House or Congressional Districts and appointed by vested Initiatives, began meeting last December. As in 2020, all meetings were conducted virtually. Using the 2020 Party Platform as a base document, we published a "Pre-Draft" on the state party Web site in early February and for the first time, requested feedback from any Democrat in the state. We received close to 150 new submissions.

Workgroups representing each platform section worked independently, spending countless hours building our platform, then incorporating items submitted by individuals, caucuses, and assemblies earlier this month, many of them virtual or hybrid meetings. The system is still imperfect, but members of the committee went above and beyond in focusing on the beliefs of Democrats statewide. The result is what you see today.

We sincerely appreciate the time and energy each of the working members devoted over the past few months to complete this project as we move more toward a more "living document" and a guide that will remain relevant beyond just the next election.

The "document" you are being asked to approve is a traditional "paper-based" view that doesn't do justice to the electronic version that will be created on our state party Web site after approval. The new Web-based format will be more user friendly, allowing readers to easily access areas of interest and drill down to different levels of detail. While the document today is primarily structured as an outline, it will not look this same way when it is displayed.

We sincerely thank all Colorado Democrats, and especially members of the Platform Committee, for their support of the 2022 Colorado Democratic Party Platform.

*Dennis K Obduskey and Joshua E Trupin*  
Co-Chairs of the CDP Platform Committee, 2022

# Our Platform: Our Values

**In the United States, government is a contract with the people.** The people of Colorado and their way of life are the focus of the Colorado Democratic Party Platform. They are the heartbeat of our democracy.

**We strive to empower people,** by building on trust and transparency, by amplifying our collective voices, by protecting the foundations of democracy and freedom.

**We seek to lift people up, to** protect them from threats new and old, to establish equal and fair access to the Colorado way of life.

**We speak up to protect the rights of all people.**

We are guided by the following core values:

1. **Empathy, Caring and Respect.**
2. **Individual and Social Responsibility.**
3. **Strong Working/Middle Class.**
4. **Equality and Fairness.**
5. **Service and Community Building.**
6. **Trust, Honesty, and Open Communication.**
7. **Courage and Strength.**
8. **Innovation and Excellence.**

We believe these core values foster freedom, opportunity, prosperity, and equity for all Coloradans and their families.

**We still believe in the self-evident truth that all people are created equal.** We hold that Colorado is exceptional because of its people. And its people are diverse. Our platform is a guideline to advocate for their freedom and opportunity, to protect their dignity--regardless of all the diverse identities represented throughout Colorado.

**We acknowledge that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness** are more difficult for some people in our society to attain. Our mission is to work hard to address that.

**American love of freedom is an empty concept without our civil liberties.** We acknowledge that our civil liberties are under attack, and we are committed to the protection of these sacred rights.

**Colorado is beautiful. And we want to keep it that way.** Our economy and health depend on it. The health of our land, air, food, and water--and the health of future generations--cannot be bought and sold.

**Democracy functions only when driven by fairness and equality of opportunity.** Prosperity is best ensured when those who seek work can find jobs and be rewarded fairly.

**We believe our votes are our voice.** The people of Colorado must be assured that all elections are fair and transparent.

**The physical and mental health of our citizens is essential to the strength of Colorado.** Universal access to necessary medical services is required to preserve dignity, opportunity, and the ability to contribute to society.

**Colorado's hard-working citizens and unions helped build this country.** The Democratic Party is proud of our legacy as the partner of workers fighting for fair treatment and a living wage. That legacy lives on through our values and commitment today.

**Colorado Democrats believe in a strong, well-funded public education system** where all students and educators are empowered.

**We believe that criminal justice cannot be enacted** without the understanding that true justice results from fairness and equal protection under the law.

**We honor and defend the basic human rights of everyone in Colorado, regardless of citizenship.** We value the cultural and economic contributions of immigrants and refugees to the vibrancy of our state.

**We believe The United States' foreign policy should reflect our highest principles.**

**We will fight for the day when liberty and justice FOR ALL is no longer a dream of the weary.** Our Party will fight for all people, not special interests. FDR proclaimed that "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." **We are of, by and for ALL the people of Colorado. This platform is a testament to their hopes and hard work in the past, and it is dedicated to our future together.**



**OUR VALUES ARE EMBEDDED IN ASPIRATIONS.**

**A primary objective of a party Platform is to provide inspiration and declaration of what we, as Democrats, believe.** It seeks to inform the public of our goals and show evidence that many of them are the same, regardless of political affiliation. We believe our efforts will help lead to material success. **Our values provide guidance to current members of the party and identify issues supported by the majority of Democrats within the state.** It acknowledges that we have a very diverse state, yet we honor that diversity across all areas from the smallest county to the most populated metro area. We are all Coloradans and respect our similarities and differences.

# Economic Policy, Job Creation and Social Justice

*We support a free and fair economy based on Equity, that gives everyone an opportunity to pursue their Happiness. This means a strong and fair economy that works for everyone.*

## General

*Ensure that legislators have the resources they need to fulfill their duties as servants of the people.*

1. Fully fund the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA).
2. Increase investment in public infrastructure: lands, buildings, research, and development.
3. Strengthen and enforce Dodd-Frank to prevent future financial and bank crises.
4. Fully fund all government agencies that protect the public consumer, such as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
5. Increase enforcement and oversight and expand existing Anti-Trust laws.
6. Ensure that the cost of all financial government bailouts are borne by the executives, shareholders and bond holders first, of any company receiving a bailout, that they are legally held accountable for any malfeasance or crimes they perpetrated.
7. Enforce and expand laws that void government contracts with companies that violate the public trust, that repeat offenders be barred from future government contracts.
8. Implement new and enforce existing policies banning offshore tax shelters, as well as tax shelters in the U.S.
9. Extend and expand tax credits for children, families, seniors and public education opportunities for those in need.
10. Enforce existing tax-exemption rules regarding religious organizations that promote political candidates.

## Defense Policy and Spending

1. Enforce present policies that audit and oversee defense contractors to ensure any unauthorized payments or cost overruns are reimbursed to the government. Excess profit should not be a motive for war.
2. Replace all private contractors used for armed conflict and security purposes with military personnel.
3. Replace or eliminate obsolete, ineffective, redundant, or unnecessary weapons and other military systems.
4. Require any company using Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) or other government funded research and technology, pay appropriate royalties and licensing fees to the Federal Government.

## Corporations

1. Repeal laws that protect corporations from lawsuits or other forms of public accountability.
2. Prioritize public ownership of "natural monopolies" in industries such as energy and the internet; oppose the regulated monopoly framework.
3. Fully prosecute corporations and their officers who violate securities, investment, health, or environment laws.
4. Hold corporations doing business in the United States accountable for human rights abuses they commit or enable anywhere in the world.
5. CEO pay and compensation should be no more than 60 times the pay of the lowest paid employee of the same company.

## Trade and International Commerce

1. Support Fair and Free Trade Laws and Treaties that guarantee labor's right to organize, worker protections, safe working conditions, child labor laws, living wages, environmental protections, public safety, and human rights in general.
2. Negotiate proposed and re-negotiate existing international trade treaties to reflect our values.
3. Increase incentives for companies to bring jobs back to the United States and repeal any laws that do the opposite.
4. Promote a global standard for earned income that protects the rights of workers.
5. Oppose the privatization of water rights and water systems here or abroad.
6. Oppose the limiting of public access to crops through patents.



7. Encourage Fair Trade products whenever possible.
8. Support the Buy American Act, that the U.S. government purchase only U.S. made products where possible, that all domestic U.S. contracts be with U.S. companies using U.S. products where possible.

## Taxation

1. Repeal TABOR.
2. Implement progressive and uniform taxation on all forms of income and wealth at both the State and Federal level.
3. Implement progressive estate taxes on the wealthiest Americans.

## Income and Wealth

*Work should be valued. A full-time job should provide enough income for workers to have a comfortable standard of living.*

1. Raise the minimum wage to a living wage that reflects inflation and productivity gains.
2. Establish a universal basic income.
3. Eliminate the food service exception to minimum wage laws.
4. Enforce equal pay for work that is comparable in terms of skill, effort, and responsibility.
5. Require all companies with 500 employees or more to reimburse Federal and State governments 100% of the cost of public assistance to their employees.
6. Assess reparations/land transfers to Colorado's indigenous peoples and people of color for previous takings of life, liberty, and land.

## Banking, Finance and Consumer Protection

1. Implement strict controls on predatory and other usury loans.
2. Implement stricter regulation of the credit card industry.
3. Support the establishment of postal, State and community-owned public banks.
4. Reform Bankruptcy Code regarding the means-test to ensure that bankruptcy offers a fresh start, not continued servitude to debt.
5. Modernize and increase the state homestead exemption to reflect current property values, incorporate means testing, and expand the statewide cap.
6. Protect consumers from insolvency due to externally caused situations such as medical expenses and predatory lending practices.
7. Protect consumers from the debt-buying industry. Full documentation must be required from end-to-end and not allow debt buyers to have special privileges to file cases without full supporting documentation.
8. Make the Mortgage Electronic Recording System (MERS) public; home buyers are entitled to know who services their mortgage and the real owner of the debt.
9. Law firms representing foreclosing banks in all states must be held to account for practices that are abusive to consumers in all areas of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

## Housing

1. Address homelessness and housing insecurity as a state of emergency.
2. Require that low-income housing units be 25% of all new housing and rehabbing of existing housing stock.
3. Revise Zoning to increase density where possible.
4. Promote the rights of tenants to organize.
5. Implement and enforce a Tenants Bill of Rights.
6. Increase wait time before landlords can evict tenants without cause.
7. Implement stricter regulation against landlord abuses.
8. Overturn the state ban on rent control, with a cap on annual rent increases.
9. Encourage local implementation of rent control.
10. Strictly regulate "rent to own" and other leasing schemes.
11. Ban price-gouging after disasters.
12. Empower bankruptcy judges to modify mortgages on primary residences for all individuals.

13. Provide government-funded legal assistance for those who are facing foreclosure or eviction.
14. Allow policies, without threat, that permit loan modifications to allow the lender and borrower to share in future appreciation of the property.
15. Give those foreclosed upon first right of refusal to repurchase the home at current market value.
16. Promote public investment in struggling areas underserved by traditional financial institutions.
17. Support the development of community Land Trusts.

## Social Safety Net & Retirement

1. Implement cost of living adjustments on Social Security and Social Security disability benefits equal to actual increases in the cost of living.
2. To ensure solvency of the Social Security System, increase the cap for maximum taxable earnings to \$250,000.
3. Expand programs to allow seniors and the differently abled to live in their own homes.
4. End the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision.
5. Repeal Government Pension Offsets.
6. Repeal lifetime limits on public assistance.
7. Increase benefits in programs such as SNAP, CHIP, etc. to a reasonable amount that actually helps families and individuals out of poverty.
8. Implement legislation to require that all publicly supported social service offices be adequately staffed to ensure proper access to services for those in need.
9. Invest in services that enable seniors to live independently as long as possible and facilitate the highest quality of life for people of all ages and abilities.
10. Fully fund emergency shelters, food banks and programs to end homelessness.
11. End criminalization of resting in public places.
12. Allow all those on public assistance to keep their modest savings for emergencies.
13. Amend laws to encourage and support Community Development Corporations, Cooperative businesses and neighborhood-based nonprofit corporations to create jobs, housing and other opportunities and physical and social infrastructures.

## Veterans' Affairs

1. Improve access to earned benefits for veterans and their families to health care, education, and job opportunities.
2. Protect and maximize veterans benefits and expand benefits for dependent survivors of fallen service members.
3. Fully fund the Veterans Administration, and VA hospitals, and provide adequate healthcare access by constructing satellite VA clinics.
4. Allow military personnel to remain on active duty following recovery from serious injury.
5. Implement accountability for VA employees and management who breach the compact and violate the trust of veterans.
6. Implement property tax exemption for disabled veterans, Property Tax Assistance for Widows or Widowers of Veterans.
7. Oppose efforts to privatize the VA.
8. Provide safe and sanitary short and long-term shelter for veterans.

## Education

*A quality public education system is fundamental to democracy and an essential investment in our future. Our civic and economic vitality depends on the skill level, creativity, problem-solving capacity, and leadership abilities of its workforce. A high-quality public education for 21st-century learners—from preschool through post-secondary vocational programs, college, and life-long learning opportunities—must be accessible and affordable to all student populations.*

### Funding and Government Responsibility

*Create additional dedicated sources of funding for public schools, as well as following existing state statutes for public schools to fill the gap left by several decades of underfunding. Federal and state mandates must meet their financial obligations. We support:*

1. Utilizing public school funds only for public schools.
2. Increased funding for mental health, counseling services, anti-bullying programs and suicide prevention.
3. Developing a formula to equalize economic disparities across the state.
4. Holding charter schools to the same standards as public neighborhood schools.
5. Investing in our aging public school buildings.
6. High-speed internet services for all students.
7. Nutritious meals for students.
8. Reducing corporate privatization of our public schools and corporate influences on decisions.
9. Full funding of Special Education and Title programs.

### Inclusivity and Diversity

*Our education system must be inclusive of our diverse population, equally serving all ethnic and cultural, and religious groups, tribal members and students from varied socioeconomic backgrounds. Diversity is to be honored and respected. We support:*

1. Parent outreach and involvement in public schools.
2. Programs to recruit staff from diverse communities.
3. Programs of inclusion and enhancement regarding the needs of special populations of students including those with medical, emotional, physical, or developmental disabilities, English Language Learners, LGBTQ+, and gifted/talented students.
4. Lower class sizes especially for at-risk students.
5. Staff and Family management of student behavior and recommend a restorative justice model.
6. Adult education programs that provide career training and continuing education.

### Student Curriculum, Instruction, Evaluation

*Every pre-K-12 student should have access to high-quality, balanced, engaging instruction at a neighborhood school. We support:*

1. Curriculum that provides multiple pathways to success that is authentic, engaging, and culturally relevant.
2. Fact-based science and history curricula presented without bias.
3. Extracurricular activities and the arts as part of a well-rounded public education system.
4. Critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, innovation and collaboration at all levels.
5. Reduction of excessive standardized testing to punish rather than support.
6. The development of an accountability system that honors students' disparate talents.
7. Early childhood education (preschool and full-day Kindergarten).
8. Unstructured "play" time appropriate for students' social, emotional, creative, and intellectual development.
9. Comprehensive sex education classes.
10. Evidence-based intervention strategies.
11. Vocational, career and technical training, and post-secondary programs for high school students.
12. Close monitoring of the quality and administration of on-line education.

13. School sanctions that include proven and effective interventions, smaller class sizes, and wrap-around services for students and families.

## Emergency Crisis Response

*Schools and districts must be prepared for emergency crisis situations that interrupt the learning process. We support:*

1. Efforts to reengage students and families who have not been able to work virtually or have disengaged from the educational system.
2. Improving remote learning technology and provide the assistance necessary to mitigate disruption.
3. The creation of additional learning opportunities for students whose learning was disrupted.
4. Hazard pay for educators and suspension of the use of student testing to evaluate teachers.

## Educators, Educational Support Professionals, and Students' Rights

*Educators and Educational Support Professionals deserve fair wages and benefits, safe working conditions, and legal rights, including the right to collective bargaining and should be part of the decision-making process. Students have a right to a safe, equitable, inclusive learning environment. We support:*

1. Professional teachers' academic freedom and professional judgment.
2. Teachers' rights to due process.
3. Fair, equitable, and non-discriminatory licensing, recruitment, hiring practices, and retention of teachers, educational support professionals, and administrators.
4. Timely access to professional health services for students and staff.
5. A safe workplace free of guns.
6. Public education experience should be required for the Colorado Secretary of Education.
7. Decoupling student scores from teacher evaluation, compensation, and pay-for-performance (or merit-based pay).
8. Student privacy rights that reflect ethical, lawful, and responsible security of data.
9. Licensed teachers in every classroom.

## Higher Education and Post-Secondary Education

*Continuing education at institutes of higher learning should be available at reasonable cost to all qualified students. We support:*

1. Free or low-cost public higher education for all students.
2. Financial aid and in-state tuition for undocumented students on the same basis as other students.
3. Removing student loan funding responsibility from the private sector to public underwriting.
4. Student financial aid packages including student loans, work-study programs, scholarships, and Pell grants should be increased.
5. Faculty, including part-time and adjunct-faculty, at all public institutions of higher education should have the right to organize and to receive fair and equitable compensation and working conditions.
6. The right to organize for graduate students and student athletes.
7. Increasing funding for merit scholarships for highly qualified Colorado students.
8. Vocational training programs in green energy and information and other emerging technologies.
9. Equal opportunities for women and minority students in STEM programs.
10. The rights of persons convicted of non-violent felonies to be able to apply for and receive student loans.
11. Increasing concurrent enrollment programs in high schools.

## Energy, Environment, and Climate

*Colorado's social and economic mainstays of agriculture, tourism, and wildlife diversity depend on a sustainable, healthy, and clean environment that is protected from environmental threats such as pollution, natural resource depletion, and climate change. Global climate change is an emergency, and it calls us to action for the lives and futures of everyone. As a result of the increasing climate crisis, Colorado has not been immune to devastating wildfires, destructive flooding, stronger storms, persistent droughts, and record-setting temperatures. Urban, suburban, and rural communities alike and throughout our state have suffered millions and billions of dollars in economic losses to infrastructure and property.*

### Environment, Energy, and Conservation

*We demand forward-looking local, state, and federal energy policy that moves America's dependence away from fossil fuels and preserves clean energy while sustaining and creating jobs, promoting economic growth, and preserving our great outdoors. We recognize that recent geopolitical turmoil, especially around the invasion of Ukraine, has disrupted the energy supply chain globally and resulted in high energy prices. We support the strong leadership of the Biden Administration to navigate us through this painful period requiring adjustments of our near-term energy strategy while not losing our long-term goal for transition to renewables, which among other benefits provide energy security.*

1. Enact policies that maintain the integrity and biodiversity of our ecosystems, and the overall health of our planet. Government and industry projects, including new transportation and other infrastructure projects, must avoid disturbing contaminated soils, polluting air and water, endangering fragile ecosystems, and creating noise pollution that harms humans and animals.
2. Collaborate to implement an accelerated transition from fossil fuels to renewables. The inevitable energy transition to renewables makes strong economic sense.
3. Accelerate the development and installation of renewable power-generating infrastructure such as wind and solar and correlate these with the phase out of fossil fuel energy development and usage to minimize disruption.
4. Accelerate the development of energy efficiency, sustainable energy technologies, and the jobs they create, including fair wages, benefits, workforce development dollars, and placement assistance.
5. Implement and fund large-scale workforce career training and transition programs that support the workforce transition to new careers.
6. Implement incentives to encourage the development, manufacture, and construction of renewable energy equipment and facilities in the U.S. and by U.S. workers.

### Alternative and Renewable Energy, Conservation, and Efficiency

*Every Colorado resident deserves clean air, safe and secure drinking water, public lands, and communities free from the harm of toxic and leaking sites and gases, including active underground coal seam fires. Our water, soils, and air must be monitored for and protected from contamination. Leaders must monitor population growth and urban sprawl and manage pollution, waste, and the extraction and consumption of natural resources while providing for the long-term protection of society and the environment over the interests of short-term needs and profits. Greater emphasis must be given to water conservation and to the recycling and safe and economical reuse of water in agriculture and industry.*

1. Push the U.S. to become a leader in the Paris Climate Accords and in future policies and goals for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and finance.
2. Accelerate the development and implementation of renewable energy projects and increase their reliability and efficiency.
3. Prohibit industrial Bitcoin and cryptocurrency mining in Colorado to preserve our energy resources.
4. Oppose the licensing of new coal power plants, demanding transition from coal-produced electricity and promoting instead commercial and residential development and use of power generated by solar, wind, and sustainably produced hydrogen fuel, and offer incentives.
5. Implement tax credits for the purchase and use of renewable energy systems for residential and commercial zones; advocate for federal renewable tax credits to be extended indefinitely.
6. Implement policies that encourage the U.S. development, manufacturing, and consumer use of pollution-reducing, conservation devices and procedures.

7. Enact legislation requiring all government buildings to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental design certification.
8. Enact legislation to implement passive House-type standards in all dwelling units, such as consideration of building orientation, solar panels, and green roofs to prompt the phase-out of gas in new construction.
9. Implement incentives to encourage the development and use of electric, hybrid, and alternative fuel versions of all types of vehicles, and establish the phased elimination of emissions and exemptions for all vehicles.
10. Increase the federal Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards that dictate the number of miles per gallon that automakers and dealers should establish for all vehicles they build and sell; begin conversion of government fleets to electric vehicles.
11. Index transportation fuel taxes to inflation to fund transportation infrastructure.
12. Trade negotiations must include carbon emission requirements and regulations which hold the U.S. and our trading partners accountable for carbon emissions and other damages to humans and the environment.
13. Colorado utilities must enhance transparency by publishing their curtailment costs at least once a year regarding actual use of renewable energy investments.
14. Fund the urgent and continual upgrade of the power grid, to handle a variety of energy sources for enhanced efficiency, security, reliability and flexibility.
15. Guarantee that renewable energy produced by consumers can be sold back to the local utility at the same price as energy that is purchased from the local utility.
16. Increase funding for infrastructure that relates to the use of human-powered vehicles, such as bicycles for transportation.
17. Support the inclusion of a transit component in all CDOT congestion-relief transportation projects and support a requirement to address climate change in a meaningful way in CDOT's planning, construction, operation and maintenance of transportation projects.
18. Support community ownership of energy and local energy investment and provide incentives that encourage Colorado farmers to initiate regenerative agriculture practices as a major impact for CO2 sequestering from the atmosphere and to lower Colorado's footprint. Incentives should be based on established measurable factors.
19. Prohibit elected officials from accepting fossil-fuel money or trading in such Wall Street-traded utilities.

## Energy and Natural Resources

1. Promote and protect the ability of the state and local governments to enact stricter "green" initiatives.
2. Weigh public and environmental health and safety when considering the issuance of permits.
3. Enforce the right of counties to ban, regulate, and/or issue moratoria on commercial resource extraction within their jurisdiction; oppose lawsuits against municipalities and counties that take action to regulate fracking.
4. Repeal the Safe Drinking Water Act exemptions and prohibit deep-water reinjection wells. Require full decontamination of water from hydro fractured wells such that said water is at minimum safe for agricultural use.
5. Eliminate petroleum industry exemptions to federal environmental laws.
6. Enforce the divestment of public funds from fossil fuel investments, and the reinvestment of these funds into clean renewable energy.
7. Reduce carbon dioxide emissions with the goal of ultimately reducing carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere.
8. Increase the state Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).
9. Implement Colorado RPS that requires Rural Electric Authorities to purchase renewable energy produced within Colorado, including that produced by private homeowners.
10. Implement policies that promote concepts such as community ownership and microgrids.
11. Reassess oil shale leases and delay the lease of any federal lands until environmental concerns have been satisfactorily resolved.
12. Implement strict requirements and comprehensive whole-cost based fees for commercial access to land for mineral, petroleum, forest, and water resources and ban exploitation through extraction.
13. Implement and enforce local ordinances, state legislation, and federal programs that require strict reclamation bonds and programs to ensure that industry stakeholders are directly liable for all costs to public health,

property loss, local business, water use, environmental mitigation, etc. resulting from mining and drilling operations, and assess significant penalties in the event of irreparable damage.

14. Prohibit energy, gas and oil companies from being self-bonded. Collect bonds at the start of the extraction process and cover the entire cost of reclamation.
15. Mandate Colorado severance taxes (tax imposed on nonrenewable resources) equal to the maximum imposed by any state in the nation; repeal the exemption for resources extracted from Colorado lands.
16. Reform or repeal the 1872 Mining Act used by natural resource extraction companies to obtain approval for projects that would otherwise not be approved.
17. Regulate abandoned, existing, and new oil and gas industry operations to minimize and mitigate the adverse effect on Colorado businesses/residents that could be impacted.
18. Prohibit all venting or flaring of gasses associated with coal, oil, and gas production, as it wastes natural resources, contributes to climate change, and is a threat to health and the natural environment; Impose penalties for flaring incidents.
19. Ban mining and drilling in municipal drinking water, watershed, aquifers, storage, recharge areas and superfund sites.
20. Prohibit the use of open pits for fluids contaminated with toxins or produced waters from commercial and industrial operations.
21. Prohibit the development of tar sands oil and the transportation thereof via any means.
22. Require strict adherence to 2500 feet as the minimum safe distance or setback of oil and gas extractive operations from human dwellings, high-occupancy buildings, parks, and water sources.
23. Require the full accounting of all external costs, including but not limited to impacts on public health and safety, ecological integrity, wildlife health, and quality of other natural resources for future use; the publication thereof, and all policies, laws, and regulations that recapture the cost of externalities from the responsible operator(s).
24. Enforce requirements for state agencies with regulatory involvement in, or authority over environmental, energy, or conservation policies to take public input, improve public engagement and provide positions on boards and commissions for members of the public who do not have ties to related industries, resulting in conflicts of interest.
25. Implement a responsible and sustainable logging industry that includes environmental mitigation and reforestation.
26. Implement and enforce trade agreements that hold the states, the U.S., and our trade partners accountable for their carbon emissions.
27. Establish strict limitations on industrial use of fresh water from municipal water supplies for fracking and other dangerous practices.
28. Support sustainable harvesting of water.
29. Implement measures to reduce the production and consumption of petroleum-based plastics for single use applications; implement measures that promote biodegradable plastics for durable long-term use.

## Management of Public Lands and Wildlife, Water, Agriculture, and Nuclear Power

*Protect the environment and water supplies in Colorado while proactively making adaptations for climate change.*

### Public Lands and Wildlife

1. End the exploitation of public lands for private economic gain.
2. Require fair market-based payments for leased areas and fully fund the National Park Service and the Endangered Species Act.
3. Develop public/private partnerships to conserve and expand the acquisition of open space lands including roadless areas and wildlands.
4. Use science-based management of public lands to proactively address wildfires, and facilitate optimal balance between human use and the natural world while adapting to climate change.
5. Support the statewide reintroduction and management of gray wolves .
6. Assess return to Colorado native tribes for previous takings of life, liberty and land.
7. Stop all wild free-roaming horse and burro roundups permanently and manage the horses and burros in the wild through the American Wild Horse Campaign.

## Water Rights

1. Develop a statewide water resource plan to balance protection of water resources and enforcement of water conservation measures with environmental and ecological needs in relation to human needs.
2. Prioritize water quality and supply in long-range planning, to include the restriction of new developments for which there would be inadequate permanent water sources and facilitate public comment/review prior to approval of new trans-basin diversions.
3. Require inspection, maintenance, and repair of existing dams. Budget for continual replacement.
4. Require full disclosure by private and public governing entities of all chemicals discharged, injected into the ground, or maintained on the surface.
5. Restrict investments by private entities in Colorado's water resources.
6. Employ technologies that improve use, efficiency and conservation in public and private spaces.

## Agricultural Policy and Land Management

1. Develop policies to balance the need for urban development, open space, and recreation with the need to protect farming, ranching and preservation.
2. Implement and enforce policies that support small family farms.
3. Preserve the ability to operate profitably via sustainable practices.
4. Protect from fluctuating land values.
5. Protect from market rates for commodities.
6. Secure and stabilize new markets and help new farmers through a variety of programs and services.
7. Ensure that relevant tax benefits apply to true working farms.
8. Examine subsidy and regulatory structure for a competitive balance with larger agricultural operations.
9. Enable an independent and sustainable pathway for farmers indebted to corporations.
10. Allow subsidies or tax credits that promote and incentivize organic farming and ranching operations and markets for organic and sustainably produced foods.
11. Increase economic incentives and support public and private investment in research and development of new sustainable agricultural practices and technologies regenerative and sustainable farms.
12. Expand and strengthen local and state conservation easement programs that benefit the public and follow best practices.
13. Examine agricultural runoff practices that contaminate water sources and non-agricultural soils. Develop protocols for best practices in collaboration with farmers.
14. Support the development of an industrial hemp industry with agricultural subsidy eligibility.
15. Mandate 24-hour posting/alerts of intended pesticide application at all public and commercial buildings in Colorado.
16. Support urban farming cooperatives to benefit poor and underserved communities.
17. Establish a 10-year plan to limit the sale and use of high water-consumption vegetation in residential and commercial settings and promote the use of xeriscape.
18. Provide appropriate supervision and regulation of 21st century mining on federal lands, including preventive and safety measures, environmental restoration, and reimbursement for federal oversight costs.

## Nuclear Power

1. Nuclear power is not "green" energy—it produces radioactive nuclear waste, to which there is no safe storage and disposal solution, and other externalized costs. No new nuclear power reactors until there is an actual solution to these problems.



## Healthcare

*The single largest stressor any of us have ever seen on our healthcare system, the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, has exposed critical flaws in our United States and Colorado healthcare infrastructure. Simply having insufficient coverage or no coverage at all puts individuals and families at a significant disadvantage in avoiding serious infection.*

*Supply chains for critical equipment and supplies were disrupted. Healthcare workers have been working difficult hours in substandard conditions. A lack of both common health infrastructure and universal coverage has prevented an appropriate and effective national and state response to a highly communicable virus, resulting in a multi-year pandemic.*

*It is imperative that a comprehensive and universal response to the gaps in our healthcare system is made at once. We cannot tolerate the inevitable effects of a "market-based" system on personal and public health when healthcare does not function like a perfect market, resulting in many Coloradans being uninsured or under-insured and exposing them to financial stress and medical bankruptcy.*

## Human Right

1. Health is a fundamental human right indispensable for the exercise of other human rights. It is intrinsic to our inalienable rights of 'Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness,' as well as a fundamental goal embodied in the Constitutional call for our common defense and promotion of our general welfare.
2. Recognizing universal healthcare as a human right, we support the financing of healthcare through a public single payer system, demonstrated to be the most cost-effective and highest-quality approach to health coverage possible as described in the Colorado Health Care Cost Analysis Task Force report of 2021 and Colorado's Blue Ribbon 208 Commission. It does not require any change to private healthcare delivery other than greatly simplifying provider claims filing and payment.

## Universal

1. The Colorado Democratic Party embodies justice and a respect for rights, as well as empathy and caring for others, so healthcare policies must cover and protect all Colorado residents.
2. Health coverage must be universal, continuous, and portable. It should not be linked to employment status or personal financial situation.

## Comprehensive

1. Health coverage must be comprehensive, to include at a minimum: prescribed drugs; mental healthcare (including care coordination); vaccines, dental, vision, hearing, and speech care; rural healthcare; home healthcare; long term care; chronic disease care; end of life/hospice care; preventive medicine; chiropractic and acupuncture; physical and occupational therapy; durable medical equipment and medical supplies; laboratory and imaging services; inpatient and outpatient hospital care; drug abuse rehabilitation; prenatal care; postnatal maternal care, and the full range of women's reproductive healthcare services.
2. Mental health parity in healthcare is essential, including funding and accountability for behavioral health services to prevent expensive emergency medical services, behavioral health admissions, involvement with the criminal justice system, fractured families, and suicide attempts and deaths. We support a comprehensive system from prevention to intensive treatment which would be integrated into the healthcare system as a holistic patient care model.

## Affordable

1. We seek a healthcare financing system that is transparent and accountable to the public, promoting fair and efficient funding with strong cost containment measures to ensure long term sustainability and improved benefits.
2. Payers and providers must be more transparent about medical costs and the amount spent on actual healthcare versus administrative services.

3. To protect the long-term solvency of Medicare and Medicaid, we oppose privatization efforts as they increase cost and reduce benefits. Rather than subsidizing private Medicare Advantage plans at a far higher cost than traditional Medicare, we support the expansion of traditional Medicare benefits for all.
4. Government purchasers should be able to negotiate prescription drug prices directly with manufacturers.
5. We support global budgeting and certificates of need for hospitals to better allocate limited resources efficiently.

## Public Health/Pandemic

1. Both individual and population health are public health issues, and the COVID-19 pandemic has shone a bright light on the importance of developing and implementing good public health policy based on science and current information, including effective communication of verified and peer-reviewed science.
2. We believe that an investment in public health will curb incidence of dangerous diseases such as heart disease, CTE, diabetes, and HPV. Investing in disease prevention and epidemiology research, strategies, and institutions such as the Center for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health will aid in this effort as well as combatting existing and new pandemics. We call for particular attention to be paid to vulnerable populations such as children, seniors, and people with disability and encourage further research dollars for Colorado institutions.
3. Care must be paid to guarantee that patient needs are met during periods of stress on the healthcare system. This includes planning and preparing for natural disasters and other healthcare emergencies, maintaining strategic stockpiles, and improving communication between interdependent agencies and other health system stakeholders.
4. Health policy must be evidence-based and informed by the best available health system data—including comprehensive claims history—to reduce healthcare costs, improve population health, and increase healthcare quality and satisfaction.
5. Major pharmaceutical companies that profited from the opioid drug market should be required to contribute to any rehabilitation efforts in our communities. We support charging an additional tax to those pharmaceutical companies to be forwarded directly to the states to be used exclusively for opioid addiction and treatment.
6. We support the use of Advance Practice Nurses as Primary Care Providers to improve access to primary care and improve physician/nurse training and incentives to bring healthcare providers to Colorado and pay them accordingly.
7. We support policies to address nursing and health professional shortages, including, but not limited to, increased enrollment/certification, increased pay/benefits, and additional training and support.
8. Nutrition being vital to health, we support policies that eliminate neighborhood food deserts, increase access to local and organic foods, making improved school breakfast and lunch available to all students, and ensure appropriate funding for vital food assistance programs.

## Research and Education

1. Continue federal funding of stem cell research to seek treatments and cures for severe disease as a public health measure.
2. We support the full legalized use of medical cannabis when prescribed for a patient by a physician at doses needed to alleviate patient conditions. Cannabis should be “descheduled” to advance medical research and utilization. Further, we call for the removal of federal and state bans on research into the medical efficacy of cannabis and psilocybin.

## Innovation

1. New healthcare delivery models, such as telemedicine, that emphasize the provision of continuous, comprehensive, and coordinated care—including standardized Electronic Health Records (EHR) and Health Information Exchange (HIE)—provide for the future innovation in healthcare.
2. Support community-based alternative long-term care programs that emphasize independence rather than institutionalization and regulate “independent living facilities” to prevent elder abuse or abuse of those with disabilities.

3. Support statewide coordination of benefits and public health tracking for behavioral and mental health services.
4. We support the state of Colorado being more active in solving the opioid crisis, including providing state funds to treat opiate addiction in all Colorado communities, and promoting alternative pain management approaches.

## Interconnection

*Since health is essential to life, it is therefore interconnected to every other facet of society and our economy. Expanding access to all and reducing costs is essential to tangible improvements in all other areas of human existence. We cannot fully address other issues such as discrimination and fair wages without also taking care of essential healthcare. Healthcare must be patient-centered, focused on the needs of the patient and all appropriate treatment options.*

## Public Good

1. Health coverage as a public good must not impose financial barriers to care on anyone.
2. Public dollars must not be used to subsidize private health insurers either directly or through premium assistance. Medicare must not be privatized in whole or part, but rather strengthened through improved benefits and coverage.
3. Health policy must seek to improve network adequacy in underserved areas.
4. Access to healthcare must be available in a timely manner, and not artificially restricted or limited by prior authorizations, narrow networks, or patient financial status.

## Patients Over Profit

1. As appropriate healthcare is necessary for life, the health financing system should be held in the public trust with dedicated funds use to pay efficiently for healthcare services for residents of Colorado and minimize administrative overhead and profiteering.
2. Healthcare delivery must be based on patient need without non-medical gatekeeping such as prior authorizations or off-label use restrictions.
3. Healthcare delivery should be based on medical triage, rather than the ability of the patient to pay or their purported "quality of life."
4. Universal healthcare must be comprehensive in financing, without additional medical premiums and/or claims being paid through third parties like automobile insurance or workers' compensation.

## Patient Freedom

1. Restore medical decision-making to the patient/provider relationship, unimpacted by insurers, employers, or personal finances. Support and invest in healthcare providers and support staff by prioritizing workers above profits.
2. Colorado residents must have full choice of providers, facilities, treatments, and continuity of care options.
3. Patient protection must address anti-discrimination in both coverage and care including, but not limited to, reproductive rights, transgender and non-binary care, personal genetic information, end-of-life care options, patient/provider relationships, and employment protections.

## Reproductive Rights

1. Colorado guarantees a woman's right to make decisions regarding her pregnancy including a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay. We oppose any effort to weaken or undermine that right, including limiting funding of essential female reproductive health services. It is important to continue to offer education and family planning services, which have been effective in reducing abortion rates in Colorado.
2. Significantly reduce the need for abortion by eliminating financial and access barriers to contraceptive service and pre- and post-natal care, providing comprehensive reproductive education, and funding nutrition and affordable childcare.

## Securing Democracy

*Our constitutional democracy is under attack and needs to be secured and protected from authoritarianism. For the first time in our republic's history, a losing presidential candidate and many in his party publicly encouraged the use of force to keep power and attempted to change the outcome of the election. The failure to accept the results of the 2020 election has led to state legislative efforts to limit every citizen's right to vote.*

*We must push back against the failure to respect the peaceful transfer of power, deliberate efforts to decrease voter trust, partisan gerrymandering, dysfunction in Congress, imbalance in the US Supreme Court, and the undue influence of dark money. Further, we acknowledge the integral role of a functioning fact-based media to disseminate accurate information, free of "alternative facts" and foreign interference.*

*A secure democracy is an existential issue for the United States.*

### Election Integrity

*Colorado serves as a model for voting integrity and we want to build on that trust.*

1. Require thorough non-partisan audits up to full manual hand counts.
2. All aspects of elections should be transparent and open to public inquiry.
3. Require full disclosure of funding sources for all political advertising and activities.
4. Use of hand-marked paper ballots which provide for a permanent paper trail.
5. Fully staff and fund efforts to prevent, investigate and prosecute election meddling, voter and election official intimidation.
6. Prohibit election administrators from adopting procedures which unfairly influence elections and from involvement in any campaigns on their ballot other than their own election campaigns.
7. Prohibit any authority other than the electorate, e.g., a state legislature, from determining the outcome of an election.
8. Fix the Electoral Count Act of 1887 to forbid challenges to a state's electoral votes without justification by enacting the reforms suggested at the federal level.  
Follow the will of the voters in primaries maintaining neutrality with regard to candidates, media coverage, and marketing firms.

### Expand Voting Rights, Voter Access, and Citizen-Petitioning Powers

*Voting rights must be protected and expanded. The people with a stake in the outcomes should have a voice. Colorado has been a leader in expanding access to voting.*

1. Ensure the right to vote by enacting and enforcing the Voting Rights Act.
2. Guarantee the right of suffrage and HAVA (Help America Vote Act) access to voting to citizens regardless of felon status, current incarceration status, housing status, citizens whose first language is not English, citizens with disabilities, and all other citizens of voting age.
3. Support postage-paid mail-in ballots.
4. Maintain sufficient numbers of 24/7 drop boxes.
5. Allow online petition signatures for ballot initiatives and/or reduce the number of signatures for state ballot initiatives.
6. Require only a majority to overturn any constitutional language that was originally passed with a majority.
7. Implement a National Day of Voting.

### Candidate Recruitment and Ballot Access

*The quality of our representative government is dependent on good candidates running for office. Candidates should compete on a level playing field.*

1. Adopt an assembly threshold of 20% or otherwise provide for easier primary ballot access via the assembly process.

2. Allow online petition signatures and/or reduce the number of signatures for candidates and state ballot initiatives.
3. Require US presidential and vice-presidential, gubernatorial, US Senate and US House candidates to submit at least 5 years of tax returns for Colorado ballot access.
4. Oppose organizations using the Democratic name, such as the DNC, DSCC, and DCCC, making endorsements prior to a primary election or bar contracts with organizations who work with a particular Democratic candidate.
5. Pay a living wage and provide adequate stipends and staffing to elected officials commensurate with the time and experience required for the positions.
6. We support a special election when the vacancy of an elected state or local official occurs more than nine months before the next election for that office.
7. Limit recall petitions of elected officials to a specific violation of oath of office or specific election misdeeds, not political motivations.

## Campaign Finance Reform

*An informed electorate, not financial interests, should determine election outcomes. The Democratic Party should work to reduce the influence of money in campaigns.*

1. Require timely and full disclosure of the names of all original donors and amounts donated to all Independent Expenditure Committees and issue committees operating in Colorado.
2. Adopt public funding of elections to attract more diverse candidates.
3. Pass a constitutional amendment to overturn the influence of corporations as currently permitted by *Citizens United* or bring a new case that can overrule *Citizens United* to the Supreme Court.
4. Mandate disclosure of PACs and 527 funding from any group operating within the state and advocating legislative positions, ballot initiative support, or party backed resolutions.

## Better Voter Representation and Voter Satisfaction

*Our current electoral system concentrates power and excludes people. Eliminating structural impediments can result in inclusive representation and improve voter satisfaction.*

1. Support the nationwide passage of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.
2. Oppose an Article V constitutional convention which can become controlled by special interests.
3. Support statehood for the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.
4. Create new district maps that are free of partisan gerrymandering and that meet the required districting criteria.
5. Replace plurality voting with methods that allow voters to rate or rank candidates. Adopt proportional representation for multi-member bodies.
6. Continue to study and assess the effectiveness of our caucus system.

## Government Ethics

*Ethical behavior of decision-makers and decision-influencers affects citizens' trust in their government. We should minimize and penalize opportunities for corruption.*

1. Require the executive and legislative branches to maintain publicly available logs of government officials' interactions with lobbyists and constituents.
2. Oppose elected officials simultaneously working as lobbyists or leaving office and then becoming paid lobbyists.
3. Require national and state legislators to avoid financial conflicts of interest.
4. Support a ban on the trading of individual stocks by federal and state elected officials and their immediate family members.
5. Require the US president, vice-president, US Senators, members of Congress, and governors to place their assets in a blind trust or in index funds.
6. Every government employee and contract worker has the obligation to refuse any order which would cause them to violate their oath of office.
7. Protect whistleblowers from retaliation and public identification.

8. Require ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) or other template bills to clearly communicate the origin of the bill text.
9. Whenever possible, provide the text of sponsor-prepared amendments prior to the testimony phase of Colorado General Assembly committee hearings.
10. Publicly announce Requests for Proposals for government contracts, have an open application process with public, archived records, including justification for choosing the eventual contractor up to and including details of the applicants' scores.

## Government Accountability

*Government officials should govern for the benefit of the people.*

1. Change rules to make a federal government shutdown harder to achieve by requiring legislators to increase the debt ceiling as needed but also to simultaneously create a fiscally responsible plan to reduce the debt in the future without adversely impacting the poor and economically vulnerable.
2. Institute a Colorado-style GAVEL amendment for the US Senate and the US House of Representatives so that every bill and every nominee receives a committee vote.
3. Demand each branch of government take its checks-and-balances responsibility seriously, both in dealings with other branches of government and within its own branch.
4. Repair US Senate rules. As long as our federal government is paralyzed by political polarization, the US Senate rules should be changed to spread power among its members rather than concentrate power in the Majority Leader. Reinstate the talking filibuster.
5. Repair our state vacancy process. All nominations should receive a vote in a timely manner. For a vacancy in a position requiring approval by a legislative body, an appointed acting official should be approved within 90 days or vacate the post.
6. Official documents, including ballot language, should be plainly written.

## Media Reform

*An open and accountable government requires that voters be factually informed on issues, candidates, and the workings of government. A functioning and trustworthy media are cornerstones of a democracy.*

1. Defend fact-based journalism and take action to hold the media accountable.
2. Protect journalists, their sources, and the freedom of the media to provide critical oversight of government activities, including war news when doing so does not endanger our troops.
3. Media ownership should be revealed and not consolidated into the hands of a few, and require Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) access to provide free, fair, and open public access television as a First Amendment, Freedom of Speech forum for all US residents on an equal and non-commercial basis.
4. Provide financial incentives for media competition, local ownership, and independent media.
5. Support Net Neutrality.
6. Return to the principles of the Fairness Doctrine and Equal-Time Rule. Broadcast license holders should be required to give free airtime to all qualified candidates or issues.
7. Return control of Voice of America to a non-partisan board with independent auditors.
8. Significantly increase government funding of public broadcasting, e.g., PBS.
9. Require licensed broadcast media to provide an increased level of public service broadcasting.
10. Monitor political data collection to protect individuals' privacy and require collection to be opt-in.

## Human and Civil Rights

1. Protect citizens conducting their civic duty of non-violent protest. Respect and protect all non-violent citizen protesters, including those participating in civil disobedience from any and all use of force by officers of the law or other uniformed personnel.
2. Combat racism, sexism and white supremacy; prioritize nondiscrimination. Protect against discrimination and ensure the promotion of equal opportunity.
3. Require training in all institutions regarding the background of and reporting of hate crimes.

4. Oppose the use of eminent domain to usurp property rights for the economic gain of private individuals, corporations, organizations, government entities or other private-public partnerships.
5. Democracy requires and promotes open access to information and literature and will counter efforts to restrict access by banning books or open discussions.
6. Colorado should follow federal guidelines for disinvesting in foreign countries with civil rights or human rights issues.

## **Patriarchal Systems, Religious Nationalism, Systemic Racism Based on Religion**

1. Implement and enforce laws to ensure that government cannot interfere with the individual right to make decisions regarding one's own life, death, and self-determination.
2. Implement and enforce laws that prevent the use of religious protections to discriminate.
3. Enact and enforce laws that address religious hate crimes by maintaining a hate crime reporting system that is easily accessible to victims.
4. Prohibit religious exemptions, legislation, and ballot initiatives that mask discrimination as religious beliefs.
5. Prohibit the authorization of exemption from generally applicable law if the exemption would impose the religious views, habits, or practices of one party upon another.
6. Prohibit the authorization of exemption from generally applicable law if the exemption would impose meaningful harm, including dignitary harm, on a third party.
7. Prohibit the authorization of exemption from generally applicable law if the exemption would permit discrimination against other persons, including persons who do not belong to the religion or adhere to the beliefs of those to whom the exemption is given.
8. Provide for access to, information about, referrals for, provision of, or coverage for, any health care item or service.
9. Prevent legislation from being used to deny goods or services the government has contracted, granted, or made an agreement to provide to a beneficiary; or a person's full and equal enjoyment of a taxpayer funded good, service, benefit, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation.
10. Expand the definition of public accommodations to include places or establishments that provide (1) exhibitions, recreation, exercise, amusement, gatherings, or displays; (2) goods, services, or programs; and (3) transportation services.
11. Urge the Colorado Democratic Party to adopt the original Pledge of Allegiance, as written by Francis Bellamy: "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

## **Women, Gender Equity, and Reproductive Rights**

1. Protect the rights of all women including young and aging women, women of color, immigrants, refugees, and the LGBTQIA+ community.
2. Protect the Equal Rights Amendment; enact and enforce laws addressing all inequalities that women face.
3. Close the pay gap.
4. Ensure confidential access to reproductive education and healthcare, including access to affordable, safe and legal abortion.
5. Ensure women have the right to life free from mental, emotional, sexual, and physical violence. Strong leadership and active local, national, and international cooperation is critical to improve conditions for and eliminate all abuses of women.
6. Provide all abuse survivors assistance, support, and resources for recovery.
7. Women in uniformed services have the right to be treated with dignity, to not be sexually harassed, to fair trial when victimized, to criminal prosecution in a civilian sector.
8. Prohibit discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in all areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system.
9. Enable the justice system to intervene in equal protection actions in court on account of sexual orientation or gender identity.
10. Prohibit an individual from being denied access to a shared facility, including a restroom, a locker room, and a dressing room, that is in accordance with the individual's gender identity.

11. Active commitment to inclusion of increased diversity in all levels of societal involvement and employment opportunities, for women of all backgrounds, ethnicities, class status; especially for historically male dominated arenas.

## Children's Rights

1. Increase government spending on children to ensure every child has a fair and equitable opportunity for survival, safety, health, education, and a home.
2. Every child has the following basic, fundamental rights:
  - a. Life, survival, and development.
  - b. Protection from violence, abuse, or neglect.
  - c. An education that enables children to fulfill their potential.
  - d. To be raised by, or have a relationship with, their parents.
  - e. Express their opinions and be heard.
3. Ensure all laws fully comply with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
4. Maintain an independent ombudsman for child rights.
5. Cater to disadvantaged and foster youth entering the workforce by investing in a transitional services program.

## Disabilities and ADA

*Disabilities often include any individual or combination of physical, mental, and intellectual impairments, and level of abilities.*

1. Establish and enforce policy that protects the rights of all individuals in all life matters.
2. Protect the right to autonomy and self-determination, enrichment and quality of life.
3. Oppose legislation that would weaken the Americans with Disabilities Act.
4. Urge Colorado senators to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
5. Fully implement and enact the Americans with Disabilities Act in the Colorado constitution.
6. Provide full legal protection from all forms of discrimination and economic pressure to make decisions that do not reflect his/her desire.
7. Pass, implement, and enforce laws protecting at-risk individuals from Mistreatment, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation (MANE).
8. Immediately and fully implement laws to provide improved access to housing, transportation, medical assistance, education, and employment for those with any disabilities.
9. End Colorado's long-term care wait list for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).
10. Fully fund skilled care providers within their communities and homes.
11. Improve maximal community integration in the least restrictive environment to increase quality of life, personal fulfillment, and life purpose; the state should not define what gives enrichment and quality of life to the individual.
12. Enforce current laws that ensure safety through confidentiality and informed consent for the release of information related to developmental, physical, and mental health issues.
13. Safeguard financial security and long term, quality affordable health care.
14. Protect the right to be heard, to meaningfully engage in decisions related to their own well-being and to be valued contributors in their communities.
15. Protect the right to have the conversation at their level of understanding to ensure maximal self-determination and dignity in end-of-life decisions.
16. Ensure more stringent oversight of Group Homes to ensure humane living conditions.
17. Applaud the general assembly for eliminating sub-minimum wage and encourage further actions toward fair, equitable pay.

## Disabilities and ADA: Emergency Management (disaster preparedness and response)

1. Implement emergency preparedness and response policies that ensure the safety and participation of individuals with disabilities as valued contributors.



2. Provide equal access to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, and to facilities and services open or provided to the public.
3. Enact legislation that enables participation in the assessment, design, implementation and monitoring of emergency programs before, during and after an emergency.
4. Honor existing resources and capacities to make meaningful contributions to emergency risk management. Provide training for individuals and communities to develop the skills, knowledge and capacities required to prepare and protect themselves from hazards, and to maximize their ability for survival and recovery following an emergency.
5. Emergency risk management should include all people, especially those with all types of disabilities.
6. Discrimination on the basis of disability "means any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which has the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation."

## **Disabilities and ADA: Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice**

*Ensure that people with disabilities of any kind are treated safely and with dignity, and are treated fairly in the criminal legal system, whether they are accused of a crime, or the victim of a crime.*

1. Implement and fully fund Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) Programs statewide, that pair a mental health clinician with a paramedic or emergency medical technician (EMT) to respond to low risk, low acuity calls.
2. Train law enforcement officers and other first responders to identify IDD and mental illness emergencies, to call for appropriately skilled responders to deal with such emergencies.
3. Protect those who enter the law enforcement/criminal justice system by identifying specific needs and bringing in appropriate service agencies such as the ARC and those qualified to work with this demographic.

## **LGBTQIA+ Community**

*Establish and enforce policy that protects the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals in all life matters; including, but not limited to:*

1. Ensure and accommodate the use of preferred name, gender identity, and pronouns.
2. Ensure the availability of facilities consistent with their gender identity, regardless of assigned sex at birth.
3. Require the use of gender-neutral language in all local, state, and federal documents.
4. Expand current definitions of civil rights and hate crime laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.
5. Expand federal anti-discrimination laws to include sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression as protected classes.
6. Protect marriage equality.
7. Empower individuals to run for elected office at all levels of government.
8. Expand economic equality and funding for programs and services.
9. Defend all military members and their right to serve openly.
10. Defend the dignity and safety of incarcerated individuals.

## **Indigenous People (Native Americans) and People of Color (POC): African Americans, Latinos, Asian American, Pacific Island Americans, South Asian Americans**

1. Ensure Indigenous peoples and POC are treated with dignity in all areas of life.
2. Ensure indigenous peoples and POC have the right to autonomy, self-determination and to preserve their ways of life.
3. Support affirmative action and public assistance programs to enhance equal access.
4. Oppose measures that would eliminate affirmative action programs.
5. Honor unique cultural differences and socio-economic needs. Support first nations people in the preservation and perpetuation of their native languages.
6. Protect indigenous environments, existing treaties, and sovereign rights.
7. Assess reparations/land transfers to Colorado native tribes and POC for previous takings of life, liberty, and land.

8. Denounce all forms of race-based discrimination, hate, harassment, and violence.
9. Enact and enforce laws that address hate crimes by maintaining a hate crime reporting system that is easily accessible to victims.
10. Ensure the education in schools of the history of the local peoples and territories and their significance in current cultural and socio-economic climate.

## Slavery and Human Trafficking

1. Prevent exploitation of citizens and migrant workers: Implement best practices to prevent/keep people from being coerced into forced marriages, illegal or improper adoptions, unpaid domestic services, and sex trades. This includes human trafficking in all forms.
2. End mass incarceration, which is 5-10 times higher than other industrialized democracies.
3. Advocate for the revision of the Thirteenth Amendment, quoted below, to abolish slavery in full.
4. "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."
5. The labor of all people, including those who are incarcerated, deserves respect and fair pay. Prohibit private companies and governments from extracting free or nearly free labor from incarcerated people, who are employed doing often dangerous or menial labor for cents to the hour.
6. Protect victims of trafficking, including allowing for trafficking victims to remain in the US.
7. Implement enhanced criminal penalties in the pursuit of trafficking networks in cooperation with local, national, and international entities.
8. Support reintegration for victims of slavery and human trafficking, including witness protection programs, educational / vocational training opportunities, financial assistance, shelter, and counseling services.

## "War on Terror" Policies

1. Oppose attempts to expand domestic national security or surveillance powers at the expense of rights.
2. Enforce due process for all people detained under suspicion of terrorism.
3. Enforce transparency in governmental criminal and civil proceedings.
4. End warrantless wiretapping and physical searches.
5. Delete detainee provisions that provide for indefinite detention of terror suspects, without charge, trial or representation by counsel.
6. Ensure investigators use all available tools to investigate organized crime, drug trafficking and to surveil legitimate terror threats, both foreign and domestic.
7. Ensure that investigators are legitimately gathering information when looking into the full range of terrorism-related crimes.
8. Justify and monitor legitimate roving wiretaps that are authorized by a federal judge when used in national or domestic instances, such as drug trafficking and terrorism.
9. Regulate and monitor the use of delayed notification search warrants, which have proven crucial in drug and organized crime cases and have been upheld by courts as fully constitutional.
10. Under the Patriot Act, the government can ask a federal court to order production of the same type of records available through grand jury subpoenas. Enforce the requirement that the government prove that the records sought are for an authorized investigation to obtain foreign intelligence information provided that such investigation of a U.S. person is not conducted solely on the basis of activities protected by the First Amendment.
11. Recognize white nationalist and QAnon groups as a security threat and take action to combat them through laws and regulations.

## Criminal Justice

*Funding for law enforcement and the criminal justice system should be appropriate for the problems being addressed, including shifting resources to health services and intervention.*

## Law Enforcement Management and Accountability

1. Ensure all communities regardless of race, ethnicity, or immigration status receive fair and equitable policing.
2. Implement and enforce Policing Equity/Community Oriented Policing Services best practices.
3. Implement and fully fund Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) Programs statewide, that pair a mental health clinician with a paramedic or emergency medical technician (EMT) to respond to low risk, low acuity calls.
4. Train law enforcement officers and other first responders to identify Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and mental illness emergencies, to call for appropriately skilled responders to deal with such emergencies.
5. Implement training programs that prioritize de-escalation training over combat training.
6. Eliminate discriminatory practices in policing.
7. Implement protections for employees reporting a colleague or filing a complaint, using third-party investigators.
8. Implement policies that eliminate suggestive identification procedures for eyewitness identification.
9. Revise policies that shield bad cops, including the curtailing or elimination of so-called "sovereign immunity."
10. Prohibit known members of "hate groups" such as white supremacists and neo-Nazis from serving as law enforcement officers.
11. Develop state programs to help retain well-trained law enforcement professionals in less populated areas.

## Juvenile Justice Reform

1. Eliminate zero tolerance policies in schools.
2. Establish state sponsored youth assessment centers to determine needs of student to determine appropriate interventions prior to incarceration.
3. Juveniles should not be incarcerated for non-violent offenses.
4. Implement, fully fund, and enforce restorative justice and alternative sentencing.
5. Eliminate the ability of district attorneys to directly file a juvenile case into adult court without judicial review and without an opportunity for defense or appeal.
6. Ensure that juveniles sentenced to life in prison are able to seek parole on a case-by-case basis with court review.
7. Ensure that all juveniles have the right to a jury trial.
8. Implement effective violence and bullying prevention programs.
9. Fully fund and ensure that public schools have and use filters to prevent cyber bullying on school-owned devices.

## Community and Victim Support

1. Provide a continuum of resources and services for victims of crimes, including: notifications, shelter, counseling, and effective protection orders.
2. Ensure that all victim services are available regardless of whether a criminal case was filed.
3. Improve access to the courts for victims of negligence.
4. Protect those who enter the law enforcement/criminal justice system by identifying specific needs and bringing in appropriate service agencies such as the ARC and those qualified to work with this demographic.

## Criminal Defense

1. Ensure access to quality defense counsel for all those accused of a crime.
2. Eliminate onerous conditions of pre-trial release and cash bail for non-violent offenders.
3. End the practice of overcharging people to effect a plea-bargain.
4. Restore the right for people to vote while in custody and return all constitutional rights while on parole.
5. Establish parameters for informed consent for offenders and victims, considering age, mental health, intellectual disability, and education.
6. Comply with *habeas corpus*.

## Sentencing Reform

1. Abolish the death penalty federally.

2. Support comprehensive sentencing reform, including ending mandatory sentences and habitual criminal sentencing.
3. Reserve prison beds for those who pose a true danger to society and seek alternative sentences for others.
4. Ensure accountability for “white collar” offenders.

### Prison Reform

1. Ensure safety of detained persons and provide access to rehabilitative programs.
2. Eliminate for-profit institutions and programs such as high-cost phone access, drug testing, and other services.
3. Evaluate and hold accountable all youth and adult correctional programs.
4. Significantly reduce solitary confinement and ban extreme sensory deprivation. Solitary confinement is not an acceptable solution for safety.
5. Provide adequate treatment, rather than incarceration, for those with mental health issues.
6. Provide ongoing education of criminal justice personnel on dealing with specific issues of the offender.
7. Support workforce development and continuing education for detainees.

### Marijuana and the War on Drugs

1. End the War on Drugs. Focus on treatment, not criminalization.
2. Amend banking laws to allow cannabis-related financial transactions.
3. Remove classification of cannabis as a schedule 1 substance.
4. Protect rights of cannabis patients and lawyers and other professionals who consult with cannabis-related businesses.
5. Prohibit drug testing unless there has been probable cause of a crime, specifically prohibit use for state and federal benefits. Prohibit drug testing unless there is probable cause that a crime has been committed.
6. Plant limits must be consistent with voter intent for both medical and recreational users of marijuana.
7. Expunge records of those arrested before legalization, release those now incarcerated for acts that are now legal and remove barriers to industry participation based upon those now-legal acts.
8. No person should be denied state or federal benefits because of alleged drug use. Prohibit drug testing/screening to determine eligibility.
9. Remove limits on the ability of cannabis patients to purchase medical cannabis.

### Firearms and Gun Safety

*Individual ownership should have common-sense regulation.*

1. Ban all military-grade items or items for which hunting or personal protection is not reasonable.
2. Implement universal background checks.
3. Firearm users must be 21 and must demonstrate competency with firearms to purchase, own, carry, and use independently.
4. Prohibit the possession and purchase of firearms by people who have violent criminal offenses or who are on a terrorist watch list.
5. Permit only trained security personnel on K-12 and state college campuses.
6. Enforce extreme Risk Protection Order law, allowing families and law enforcement to seek a court order to temporarily disarm someone who is a danger.
7. Law enforcement at all levels must enforce extreme risk protection orders (ERPO-Red Flag Laws).
8. Enact criminal penalties when adults fail to properly store firearms allowing someone to access.
9. Restrict firearm use in National Forest to designated areas.
10. Fully fund research on gun violence led by neutral agencies.
11. Demand that Congress pass laws imposing civil liability on manufacturers of firearms, ammunition, accessories, and 3D printed firearms (ghost guns).
12. Demand that Congress pass laws requiring manufacturers of firearms and/or ammunition, including 3D printed firearms be licensed to do so.
13. Demand that Congress pass laws mandating that all firearms, 3D printed firearms, kits and parts used to make guns (ghost guns) to be treated as firearms where the parts have serial numbers and are subject to a

background check, including unfinished frames and receivers which are designed and marketed to be easily converted into firearms.

14. Require every owner and user of firearms to carry liability insurance.

# Immigration

*We honor and defend the rights of everyone in Colorado regardless of citizenship. We value the contributions of immigrants and refugees to the vibrancy of our state. We value the contributions that those from other lands bring to our national economic, intellectual, and cultural life. We value diversity and must provide a pathway for aspiring Americans to earn citizenship. We recognize that the current immigration system is broken.*

*We have seen an increase in hate crimes and activity of white supremacist and white nationalist groups throughout the US, including in Colorado. Immigrant communities have been a continued target. We have seen the ending of DACA, turning away of refugees, and termination of Temporary Protected Status for vulnerable communities. Therefore, we support the following:*

1. Pass a compassionate immigration reform bill that promotes a more direct pathway toward citizenship for undocumented immigrants.
2. Uphold rights guaranteed by the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights to all persons in the United States regardless of citizenship status.
3. End efforts to build or finance a border wall between the US and Mexico and support strategic demolition of existing wall structures.
4. Pass legislation that provides a pathway to citizenship for students and those who came here as children, which includes reinstating DACA and passing a Clean-DREAM Act.
5. Continue in-state tuition rates for undocumented students and the expansion of financial aid for undocumented college students.
6. Streamline applications for visas, work permits, and residency into a more just and humane process with substantial reduction in wait time and backlogs.
7. An end to family separation. We support strengthening local immigrant and refugee communities, family reunification, and accepting close family members of current or future immigrants.
8. Ending the practice of deporting immigrants and/or refugees to areas where their health, safety, or lives are in jeopardy.
9. Reinstating TPS to those who have lost this protection and extending an opportunity for residency to all TPS holders.
10. Expand the Colorado immigrant driver's license program, so more immigrants can obtain a driver's license.
11. Ensure that undocumented immigrants have a voice to report crimes without fear of deportation, and therefore urge the repeal of state and federal laws and practices that erode trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement agencies.
12. Protect undocumented immigrants from deportation through sanctuary state policies. We support establishing and adequately funding law enforcement training programs to identify, prevent, and end profiling and discrimination of immigrants.
13. Undocumented immigrants who have committed no criminal offense should not be subject to incarceration or detention, especially to meet Department of Homeland Security's daily quota, which was established to deliver millions of dollars a year to private prison companies.
14. Children taken into custody by the Department of Homeland security should not be detained in cages/holding cells and should receive appropriate nutrition, medical attention and mental health services while in custody.
15. Non-citizens that have served the U.S. Military should not be deported unless they have been dishonorably discharged or committed serious crimes. As such, we support a fast-track process to allow non-citizen US veterans to become US citizens.
16. Implement a moratorium on deportations of all immigrant community members, who have not been convicted of serious crimes, until the enactment of comprehensive immigration reform.
17. Oppose the classification of undocumented immigration as a criminal offense.
18. Congressional review of the actions and administrative oversight of ICE and the abuses and weaponization of its authority against immigrant communities.
19. Protect immigrant workers with labor laws that prevent exploitation, portability to other authorized employers, appropriate living conditions, adherence to International Labor Organization, standard of rights to earned

wages, safe and humane working conditions, the right to travel between the United States and an individual's country of origin, and the opportunity for all workers to engage in collective bargaining.

20. Reform of the H-1B Visa Worker Program to address worker abuses and displacement of US workers.
21. Oppose laws that make any immigrants, including those of long-standing residency, ineligible for health care, public assistance, and other essential programs.
22. Cancel deportation orders, support the wider use of U-Visas (giving victims of certain crimes temporary work eligibility), and create a streamlined roadmap to citizenship for undocumented workers who provide information on violations of labor law by their employers or for other crimes.
23. Oppose any legislation that criminalizes humane acts of assistance to undocumented immigrants or the immigrant community.
24. Support the ability of immigrant populations, regardless of citizenship status, to be engaged and encouraged to participate in the civic process across all levels.
25. Implement foreign policy and trade agreements that help other countries expand their economies in order to provide their citizens with work opportunities and support labor rights that improve their standard of living, making emigration a matter of choice and not necessity.
26. Recognize the legitimate rights of refugees fleeing persecution, violence, and climate degradation, and therefore we support a modernized process that allows for more individuals seeking refuge to enter the US quickly and securely.
27. Oppose any attempts to eliminate birthright citizenship guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution.
28. Urge our legislators to reject xenophobia, ensure that our laws fully protect and promote equality, safety, and respect for all people in the US, so that all people can live without fear, abuse, or retaliation. We reject cutting back on the number of visas issued for legal immigration.
29. Increase funding for English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) instruction, civic education, and citizenship classes.
30. Increase funding and federal action to address the health, safety and family unification needs of immigrants detained at U.S. borders, including, but is not limited to, adequate food and shelter, treatment of medical and health needs, education for children, keeping families together, fast tracking hearings through additional judges and guaranteeing legal representation.

## Labor

*The entrepreneurial spirit of the American economic system has led to innovations and wealth generation with the potential to advance the standard of living for all Americans. However, rewards are going primarily to the wealthy and not primarily with those who generated the wealth. It is time to level the playing field. Corporations must stop sucking the profits from workers to do stock buybacks and for the personal benefits of executives while the middle and working classes struggle to afford housing, food, and healthcare. It's time for a tax code that supports working Americans so that everyone makes a living income for themselves and their families, no one in the United States lives in poverty, and all have the opportunity to get ahead.*

**Wealth inequality** is greater than at any time in our country's history and continues to grow. This is a threat to our democracy. The top one-tenth of one percent owns almost as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent. Deregulation and government policies have resulted in a massive redistribution of wealth from working people to wealthy oligarchs.

**Working poverty** must be eliminated. Nobody who works 40 hours a week should live in poverty.

One of the most significant reasons for the 40-year decline in the middle class is that the rights of workers to **collectively bargain** for better wages and benefits have been severely undermined. Unions are and must remain a pillar of our economy, and workers' rights must be respected.

1. All who do a fair day's work deserve a fair day's pay with adequate benefits, rights to organize, and a safe and healthy working environment.
2. Increase the US minimum wage from \$7.25 to a base living wage that reflects the true cost of living and accounts for inflation.
3. Increase the daily wage for incarcerated individuals to provide a means to attain a higher dollar amount available to the incarcerated individual upon release.
4. Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to ensure equal pay for women.
5. Ensure safe and healthy workplaces with collective bargaining, training, and education, as well as adequate funding for enforcement of all state and federal safety laws.
6. Provide at least 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave; two weeks of paid vacation; and 7 days of paid sick days; and 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave.
7. Ensure that all workers are free from emotional, mental, and physical coercion when exercising rights to assemble and organize, bargain collectively over wages and working conditions, or have dues and political contributions deducted from their paychecks.
8. Strictly enforce child labor laws.
9. Enact legislation preventing courts and bankruptcy laws from being used to abrogate labor contracts and pension obligations.
10. Strengthen the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and oppose exempting more workers from its protection. Retain provisions for covering non-exempt employees.
11. Make it easier for workers to join unions through card check legislation.
12. Continue to dismantle the Colorado Labor Peace Act, which imposes unfair requirements for voting to unionize and denies collective bargaining rights to agricultural and warehouse workers.
13. Restrictions upon the rights of workers to negotiate union security provisions with their employers must be opposed.
14. Colorado citizens should receive the benefits of Colorado state construction and procurement contracts using incentives whereby state contractors are encouraged to hire Colorado workers.
15. Consumer credit information must not be used for employment purposes.
16. Continue to advance "Ban the Box" legislation, which prohibits employers from seeking job applicants making unnecessary or unrelated past conviction disclosures not applicable to the job.
17. "Right-to-work" legislation, which restricts workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain for fair wages and working conditions is harmful.
18. We support state prevailing-wage legislation such as the federal Davis-Bacon Act that includes off-site project fabrication.



19. We support the U.S. Postal Service, continuation of the 6-day mail delivery service, expanding services to include financial services, and repealing the congressional mandate requiring excessive pre-funding of health care benefits. We oppose privatization efforts recreating the postal banking system.
20. The Colorado Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) should remain a defined benefit plan, directed by a board elected by the membership.
21. We support Colorado State Employee protections provided for in the state constitution, including provisions for veterans' preference in hiring.
22. Pay extended unemployment benefits during times of high unemployment and in emergencies.
23. We oppose the use of sweatshop labor.
24. Full-time permanent employment with health care and pension benefits instead of extended use of contract employment must be a goal.
25. Crumbling infrastructure requires putting at least 13 million Americans to work by investing \$1 trillion over five years towards rebuilding roads, bridges, railways, airports, public transit systems, ports, dams, wastewater plants, and other needs.
26. Create 1 million jobs for disadvantaged young Americans by investing \$5.5 billion in a youth jobs program.
27. Fund job training and retraining programs, in order to retool the American workforce for the new economy, relieve underemployment, and counteract homelessness.
28. Support the creation of jobs to address our global climate crisis, including jobs in alternative energy production, conservation, and non-toxic-based food production.
29. Enact policies that improve the competitiveness and sustainability of small businesses and businesses owned by people in marginalized and rural communities.
30. Encourage corporations to set limits on executive compensation, create more jobs, and increase worker wages.
31. Support worker-owned cooperatives or business entities owned and controlled by their members, the people who work in them.
32. Fund job training and retraining programs, in order to retool the American workforce for the new economy, relieve underemployment, and counteract homelessness.
33. Encourage corporations to set limits on executive compensation, create more jobs, and increase worker wages.
34. Encourage and support Community Development Corporations (CDCs) and neighborhood-based, non-profit corporations to create jobs and housing and improve physical and social infrastructures.
35. Provide robust economic support to all individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and explore the creation of national employment and workforce development programs comparable to the creation of the WPA and Civilian Conservation Corps.

# Senior Issues

## Senior Rights

*We believe physical and mental health are human rights, and that we owe Seniors the social and economic safeguards to maintain a decent standard of living and adequate nutrition as they face aging in the modern world. We will fight to combat the ageism that abounds in current society.*

1. We support proactive policies that protect seniors during emergencies, such as the COVID-19 Pandemic. Seniors are the most vulnerable of our citizens when these and similar unforeseen events occur.
2. We believe in full legal protection for seniors from discrimination by employers in hiring and when employed. If a senior is fit to perform all required duties, salary and advancement should be commensurate with experience, regardless of age.
3. We support protection and expansion of Social Security. This includes opposing all efforts to weaken or privatize it, reduce coverage or benefits, or fail to make yearly, accurate, and appropriately computed COLA adjustments using the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E).
4. We favor ensuring liquidity of the Social Security Administration and increasing long-term care benefits by raising the tax limit on our most affluent citizens to \$250,000.
5. We support legislation establishing a governmental entity dedicated exclusively to negotiating lower prices on prescription drugs, hospital stays, medical devices and procedures, all of which are used most often by seniors.
6. We support the reintroduction of legislation passed by the House in the 115th Congress establishing a Seniors Bill of Rights, including "Protection from Abuse, Scams and Exploitation" and ensuring "Safe and Livable Communities with Adequate Housing and Transportation Options."
7. We believe seniors should have representation in all public policy matters that may affect them personally. Seniors, who have unique needs, should be able to age with dignity and safety, so they can continue to thrive and remain vital and creative citizens throughout their lives.
8. We support passing, implement and enforcement of laws protecting seniors from abuse, scams, and exploitation.
9. We will strive to provide full legal protection for seniors from all forms of discrimination and economic pressure to make decisions that do not reflect their desire.

## Healthcare and Seniors

*We support and will work toward the following:*

1. Establishing and enforcing policy that protects the rights of seniors in all life matters, including end-of-life decisions and healthcare.
2. Implementing proactive policies that protect seniors during emergencies and disasters, since they are more likely to be alone, have mobility challenges, lack access to technology and alerts that are disseminated via technology, and may be unable to request assistance in life-threatening circumstances.
3. Ending the requirement that Medicare Advantage policy holders can be charged a higher fee or be refused coverage by a Medicare supplement health insurer if they choose to switch to traditional Medicare with a supplement.
4. Safeguarding financial security and long term, quality affordable health care.
5. Protecting the right to be heard, to meaningfully engage in decisions related to their own well-being and to be valued contributors in their communities.
6. Preserving the right to dignity and individuality by ensuring self-determination in end-of-life decisions.
7. Implementing and enforcing the training and use of tools to indicate an individual's end-of-life choices.

## State, Defense, and Homeland Security

*U.S. foreign policy must reflect our highest principles of democracy and human rights. We must engage with the people of the world as partners. Conflict must be settled through diplomacy whenever possible. Military action must be a last resort, used in proportion to the threat and in accordance with international laws and agreements.*

1. Amend the War Powers Act to prohibit an invasion or preemptive military action without approval by Congress.
2. Support where possible drawdown of US troops in foreign countries and minimize the number of US military bases around the world.
3. End indefinite detention without a trial. Prohibit the use of torture and "enhanced interrogation techniques" on domestic or foreign soil.
4. Maintain strict adherence to international agreements that affirm the fundamental rights of all human beings.
5. Oppose the use of drone strikes except in the case of a legally declared war, international police action or by some other act of Congress.
6. Oppose the transfer of military arms to authoritarian regimes and other groups who oppose fundamental human rights and democracy.
7. Oppose unjust regime change and unilateral military occupation.
8. Partner with nations to achieve the peaceful resolution of conflict, protect human rights, and establish just trade policies.
9. Provide support to internationally established peacekeeping forces and humanitarian assistance.
10. Oppose all forms of genocide, ethnic cleansing, suppression of peaceful protest, conscription of children, rape and apartheid.
11. Work to achieve a world free of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and fully support international treaties to keep space free of all military weapons.
12. Fully support the international ban of landmines and IEDs.
13. End the Defense department program for selling or giving any excess war material inappropriate for civilian use, to local law enforcement departments.
14. Fully fund all State Department visa programs, in order to eliminate the backlogs of visa applications.
15. Force ICE to work under local jurisdictions and laws and keep them out of court houses.
16. Give all DACA recipients permanent residency and a fast track to citizenship.
17. Ban American companies from laying off American STEM workers, to be replaced by foreign workers with STEM visas.
18. Ensure that the State Department is fully funded, and all foreign service positions are filled promptly by qualified foreign service personnel.