

2010 Clark County Platform Planks

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

IT IS A GOVERNMENT'S OBLIGATION TO PROMOTE A VIBRANT ECONOMY THAT ENSURES ADEQUATE INCOME FOR ALL AND PROTECTS AMERICAN CONSUMERS IN THE MARKET PLACE BY GUARANTEEING A LEVEL ECONOMIC PLAYING FIELD AND PRODUCT SAFETY. IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROMOTE CAPITALISM, PROTECT THE CONSUMER AND THE WORKER, PROMOTES FAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES AND PROVIDES FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD. THEREFORE, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY SUPPORTS:

- **A vibrant economy based on a responsible partnership between citizens, businesses and government to benefit the broadest community.**
 1. Supports the establishment, licensing and maintenance of quality daycare facilities and urges businesses to consider on-site or subsidized daycare for their employees when possible. Additionally, encourages separately ventilating all childcare areas from all areas where smoking is allowed.
 2. Supports legislation that requires firms receiving favored tax status to meet fair economic standards for wages, benefits and work conditions for employees and to satisfy all Federal and State standards of environmental and social responsibility.
 3. Since the backbone of the American economy is small business, responsible for up to 75% of all employment, supports effective government policies to foster small business development and success.
 4. Encourages public policies that level the playing field for all Nevada businesses by providing affordable health care for employees and their families; equitable taxes and regulation; fair access to capital; and support for business innovation and technology.
- **Core services must not be privatized.**
- **Consumers have the right to safe products, equitable dealings, and fair prices.**
 1. Supports zoning that restrict specific adult activities in areas open to the general public.
 2. Supports the formation of a commission to hear proposals and justifications for rent increases at mobile home parks, and to decide what is reasonable and justified.
 3. Support the reinstatement of usury laws in the State of Nevada to protect consumers from predatory "loan practices" that exploit the economically vulnerable.
 4. Supports efforts by Congress to protect consumers from overzealous credit card offerings, especially to seniors, minors, and the economically vulnerable.
 5. Illegally obtained personal data cannot be retained even in private databases.
 6. Ban the use of credit scores and histories for anything other than credit and employment matters.
 7. Anytime a credit history or score is provided to a decision maker that fact must be disclosed and the individual have a right to challenge and correct any inaccuracies in any data that was provided in the history or used in calculating the credit score.
 8. Supports steps to guarantee safety of all domestic and imported products sold in U.S. markets.

- **Efficient and fair tax structure that meets the legitimate needs of its citizens by employing progressive tax policies that share the cost and meet the needs of core services across the broadest spectrum of participants that is linked with their ability to pay.**
 1. Supports examining all possible tax options to ensure a stable, long term tax base.
 2. Supports efforts to change the Nevada State Constitution so that the mining industry is taxed on "gross revenues" instead of "net revenues."
 3. Opposes any federal tax or regulation of Nevada's stage-regulated gaming industry.
 4. Supports a property tax rebate program for those Nevadans receiving disability benefits.
 5. Supports provisions to assist small family-owned farms.
 6. Supports measures that direct economic support and tax relief to those most in need.
 7. Opposes a national sales tax or a value added tax in lieu of an income tax.
 8. Supports taxes based on wealth, not just work.
 9. Tax policy needs to ensure that businesses cover the true social and environmental costs of their products and services instead of shifting the costs to the community of future generations.
- **Economic justice is a global issue.**
 1. Supports trade policies that do not unfairly penalize American workers.
 2. Rejects tax subsidies that help companies take jobs overseas.
 3. Supports foreign aid policies oriented toward eliminating global hunger and poverty by helping individuals through education, clean water and fighting HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.
 4. Encourages the legislature to look at unintended consequences of internal economic policies to ensure that we are not undermining the economy of other nations so that their citizens are forced to immigrate in order to survive.

CIVIL RIGHTS

GOVERNMENT HAS AN OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE ITS CITIZENS WITH ACCESS TO ALL BENEFITS OF SOCIETY WITHOUT REGARD TO GENDER, COLOR, AGE, RACE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY, MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ARE THE GREATEST STRENGTHS OF OUR NATION AND OUR PARTY. THEREFORE, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

- **Stands for equal civil rights for all people.**
 1. Supports an anti-bullying law.
 2. Opposes illegal wiretapping, search and seizures.

3. Supports Geneva Convention's rules on torture.
 4. Re-emphasizes our commitment of habeas corpus as a core constitutional value.
 5. Supports a comprehensive state of Nevada Civil Rights Law that guarantees access to all benefits of society by making discrimination illegal regarding employment, housing, education and public accommodations regardless of sexual orientation, gender expression and/or gender identity.
 6. Supports the equal protection and rights and responsibilities in all areas for domestic partners including creating civil unions including same-gender couples. This plank specifically applies to immigration and immigration sponsorship.
 7. Supports the inclusion of gender identity and gender expression in the definitions of hate crime laws.
 8. Supports the passage of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act.
 9. Demands equal rights for women.
 10. Encourages enforcement of Title IX (equal opportunity for girls and women in physical education and athletics).
 11. Supports fair and effective affirmative action.
 12. Supports the reinstitution of the Fairness Doctrine ensuring accurate and fair information from media.
 13. Supports the elimination of "racial profiling."
 14. Supports the inherent rights of indigenous peoples to maintain cultural autonomy in their economy, sovereignty, religion, language, customs and land holdings.
 15. Opposes a national I.D. card system.
- **Supports the constitutional right to privacy and reproductive freedom of choice established in the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision of Roe vs. Wade and affirmed in Nevada Revised Statutes, Sec. 442.50. The ability to pay should not infringe on this right.**
 1. Opposes notification for termination of pregnancy.
 2. Supports judicial nominees who protect the right to privacy.
 3. Opposes any change to current laws that would redefine "personhood."
 - **Supports comprehensive immigration reform.**
 1. Supports a pathway to citizenship.
 2. Ensures that the rights of children of undocumented immigrants are protected.
 3. Supports the enforcement of immigration policies and border security.
 4. Supports the protection of the rights of legal immigrants.

LABOR

THE GREATNESS OF AMERICA IS BUILT ON THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF ITS WORKERS. A FAILURE TO PROTECT OUR WORKERS IS A FAILURE TO PROTECT OUR NATION AND OURSELVES. PROTECTING THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF ALL WORKERS INCLUDING A WORKERS BILL OF RIGHTS AND THE RIGHT OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IS CRITICAL TO PRESERVING AN AMERICA THAT IS STRONG AND DEMOCRATIC. THEREFORE, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

- Urges the state and federal government adopt the Workers Bill of Rights:

WORKER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

In the workplace, every individual is entitled to all of the basic rights and protections of the United States Constitution and The Constitution of the State Of Nevada.

Every worker is entitled to health care disability benefits, unemployment benefits and retirement Benefits.

Every worker and every Public Employee is entitled to organize for the benefit of Collective Bargaining and an absolute right to Binding Arbitration.

Every worker is entitled to a living wage and fair compensation and benefits for their labor including the opportunity for affordable healthcare for themselves and their family.

Every worker is entitled to a safe and healthful work environment.

Every worker is entitled to protection from unfair business practices or work rules or the exporting of jobs for the purpose of denying or evading The Worker's Bill Of Rights.

Every worker is entitled to a work place environment that promotes a positive Worker-Business Partnership for the benefit of all.

Prohibits business from utilizing unfair business practices and exporting jobs to evade the basic Worker's Bill of Rights.

- **Supports the right to organize with collective bargaining and binding arbitration including all public workers**

1. Protect public employee collective bargaining and don't roll back NRS 288.
2. Calls on employers to acknowledge the rights of employees to organize, and to support those employees who organize a union by recognizing that union by simple card check recognition only. Additionally, calls on employers to negotiate fairly with those workers.
3. Supports legislation that prevents, and opposes the permanent replacement of workers engaged in a legal strike.
4. Opposes the anti-worker so-called "paycheck protection" initiative which destroys the political viability of unions.

5. Opposes the use of anti-union consultants hired to instruct their clients on how to avoid labor laws & hiring requirements
6. Supports recognition of collective bargaining rights or civil service status for TSA screeners, or any other federal employee affected by the Homeland Security Act.

- **Supports a living wage and fair compensation and benefits for all workers**

1. Supports efforts to eliminate poverty by increasing the minimum wage, increasing salary as cost of living increases, and repealing withholding taxes on unemployment compensation.
2. Urges the use of project labor agreements on government projects.
3. Supports additional funding for the workers compensation system in Nevada so that benefits will be distributed sooner and in increased amounts.
4. Supports enforcing and increasing penalties for Companies who falsify wages and hours reported to Department of Labor.
5. Supports implementing mandatory monitoring of all projects covered under the Davis/Bacon act, making companies accountable for hours towards productivity.
6. Supports the protection of federal Davis/Bacon Act (prevailing wages) and Nevada's "Little Davis/Bacon Act."

- **Supports protecting workers from an unsafe working environment**

1. Supports restoring injured worker benefits that were deleted or reduced by the 1993 and 1995 legislature. Injured workers required to retain attorneys to obtain legal benefits should have their legal fees reimbursed by the insurance company.
2. Supports efforts to fully fund the Nevada Division of Occupational, Safety, and Health Agency and the Mine Safety and Health Agency.
3. Supports the recognition of skilled labor training and certification for all crafts performing life threatening activities, preventing potential loss of life, and or injury to self and others.
4. Support the minimum requirement of ten hours of OSHA training for all workers employed in the construction industry.

- **Supports protecting all worker's basic rights in the workplace including worker's disability health care, unemployment and retirement benefits**

1. Supports legislation to protect workers from unwarranted invasion of privacy.
2. Supports the right of workers to picket peacefully without undue restraint.
3. Supports legislation that would prevent companies from misclassifying workers or keeping employees in continued part-time status in order to avoid paying benefits.
4. Supports legislation that prevents companies from firing workers in order to avoid paying benefits.

5. Opposes the discriminatory practice of the Social Security Administration in determining spousal benefits of widows and widowers by use of the Government Program Offset and the Windfall Tax.
6. Opposes the reduction of benefits to Social Security.
7. Supports legislation that would require all employers to pay into a health care plan for all workers employed on prevailing wage jobs.
8. Supports the election of the state labor commissioner versus an appointment by the Governor.
9. Supports legislation requiring qualified pension plans be fully funded.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND LAND USE

ENERGY

THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION AND OUR STATE DEPENDS ON AN ENERGY POLICY THAT WILL PROVIDE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY, PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT, PRESERVE OUR LANDS, AND PROVIDE FOR THE HEALTH AND ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE CITIZENS OF OUR STATE. THEREFORE, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

- **Supports Nevada as an international leader in the research, development, education, and production of green energy.**
- **Supports an energy policy that leads to energy independence by promoting conservation, the development of renewable resources.**
 1. Calls for state legislative action to require that all new public buildings meet energy and environmental and design standards and provide incentives, develop a plan for the conversion of existing public building to meet those standards, and provide incentives for the construction of new, or conversion of existing, buildings to meet those standards.
 2. Continue to enact standards for the percentage of energy that public utilities must provide from renewable sources until we reach 100%.
 3. Provide incentives for existing power plants in Nevada that exceed the clean energy standards by designated dates.
 4. Provide incentives for distributed energy.
 5. Encourage municipalities and counties to provide net metering.
 6. Become energy independent and energy exporters by 2020.
 7. Focus the Office of Economic Development on the recruitment and retention of green businesses to Nevada.
 8. Supports the creation of a regional high-speed rail system.

ENVIRONMENT

THE NATION AND NEVADA ARE FACED WITH PRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES INCLUDING WATER SUPPLIES, CLIMATE CHANGE, AIR AND WATER POLLUTION, AND THE LOSS OF NATURAL RESOURCES. BECAUSE THE MAJORITY OF LAND WITHIN THE STATE IS UNDER FEDERAL JURISDICTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES TRANSCEND CITY, COUNTY, AND STATE BOUNDARIES, THESE ISSUES MAY ONLY BE RESOLVED THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS AT ALL LEVELS. THEREFORE THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

- **Supports a water resource management policy that promotes conservation, sound impact analysis, and the management of the waters of the State in a manner that provides sustainable water supplies for future generations without diminishing the economic viability of our rural areas; reducing the habitat critical for fish, game, protected species, and other wildlife; or reduces the scant surface water recreational opportunities of our arid state.**
 1. Calls for federal, state, and local governments to assess all regional and local environmental and socioeconomic impacts resulting from interbasin transfers of water from rural to urban areas.
 2. Urges State agencies to revise and update water and drought plans and identify, assess, and aggressively pursue new, affordable technologies.
- **Supports municipal, county, state, and national action to assess and prepare for the consequences of climate change, regardless of the cause.**
 1. Supports local government in taking steps to reduce air emissions, promote conservation, develop mass transit, and provide educational programs.
 2. Urges Congress and the President to take immediate action to reduce the disproportionate contribution of our nation to climate change, and to take a leadership role in addressing a critical worldwide issue.
- **Opposes the transportation and disposal of high-level nuclear wastes in the State and calls for the mitigation of the impacts of underground nuclear weapons testing through the replacement of the irreparably damaged water resources of the State.**
 1. Urges all state agencies and elected representatives to continue to vigorously continue the State's opposition to the licensing, construction, and operation of Yucca Mountain as a waste repository.
 2. Urges the Governor to designate the Nevada Test Site a Superfund Site.
 3. Urges the State to take steps to seek mitigation to replace resources that have been irreparably damaged through Department of Defense and Department of Energy actions.
 4. Strongly urge finding alternative uses for Yucca Mountain.
- **Supports mandatory recycling for all business and individuals.**
 1. Expand competition for current recycling companies.
 2. Provide recycling bins for all inhabited domiciles and businesses.

LAND USE

PROVIDING FOR CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS AND RESOURCES, WHILE ENSURING ECONOMICALLY VIABLE COMMUNITIES, RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES. THEREFORE THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

- **Supports land use management policies that provide for the retention of wilderness areas, recreational opportunities, wildlife, woodland, and water resource protection, and land and activities that support the continued economic opportunities for future generations.**
 1. Supports the continued evaluation of wilderness study areas and their timely designation as either suitable for wilderness area or multiple use management.
 2. Calls for the legislature to designate a state network of bicycle trails and to provide funds for the construction and maintenance of this network.
 3. Urges the cooperation of local, state, and federal agencies to designate and develop specific areas for the use of off highway vehicles.
 4. Supports the transfer of lands to communities or counties for economic or recreational development to mitigate the impacts of increased wilderness area designations, areas of critical environmental concern, or other designations that remove lands from future development.
 5. Supports federal legislation to designate the Gold Butte area as a national conservation area with wilderness.
 6. Supports a ballot question for legislation to further protect Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and all our other natural resources.

ELECTIONS, ETHICS and GOVERNMENT

ELECTIONS

DEMOCRACY IN OUR STATE AND NATION DEPENDS UPON FAIR AND FREE ELECTIONS WITHOUT UNDUE INFLUENCE FROM VESTED FINANCIAL OR IDEOLOGICAL INTERESTS. WE ADVOCATE THE RULE OF LAW, EVEN WHEN IT IS DIFFICULT; FREE SPEECH, EVEN WHEN PEOPLE DISAGREE WITH WHAT WE HOLD MOST DEAR; FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS, EVEN IF OUR CANDIDATE FAILS TO GET THE MOST VOTES; AND CIVILITY, EVEN IN THE FACE OF OVERT CONTEMPT AND CYNICISM BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT TRUTH AND JUSTICE ARE THE AMERICAN WAY. THEREFORE, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

- **Supports voter rights so that no qualified voter is denied the opportunity to cast their vote, actions that will ensure that all ballots are counted, and comprehensive campaign finance reform that eliminates corruption and provides for full transparency in financing political campaigns.**
 1. Urges legislation that eliminates inequities in the voting process by mandating equal voter access in the designation of polling places and facilities, regulates the distribution and type of voting machines, provides for same day registration, and enacts criminal

penalties for the destruction of voter registration forms, voter intimidation, or the dissemination of false information regarding voter eligibility, polling locations, or election dates and hours.

2. Opposes any ban on public employees holding elected office or participating in the political process.
3. Supports legislation to set standards and provide public financing for qualified candidates for any state Constitutional Office or seat in the Nevada Legislature or Congress so that any person, regardless of their financial status, has an equal opportunity to be an elected representative of the people.
4. Supports legislation requiring registration and intention of Political Action Committees to be transparent and clearly identified.
5. Urges the Secretary of State to work with minority groups to increase early voting sites in their communities, establish citizen's election oversight committees of at the State, County, and District levels to review and investigate any allegations of election improprieties, and recommend prosecution for any violations of the election laws of the State.
6. Urges the legislature to designate General Election Day a State Holiday.

ETHICS

THE DEMOCRATS SUPPORT THE HIGHEST ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR ALL PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND FULL TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ALL LOCAL, COUNTY, AND STATE GOVERNMENT AND ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL PARTY OR AFFILIATION. THEREFORE THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

1. Supports sanctions against candidates in elections that knowingly make false statements.
2. Supports banning registered lobbyists from the floor of the Nevada Legislature.
3. Supports the election of state and local judges.
4. Urges all offices on State and local ballots be partisan offices and all candidates be required to declare their party affiliation.

GOVERNMENT

THE CITIZENS OF CLARK COUNTY AND NEVADA MUST HAVE A GOVERNMENT THAT PLACES THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON THE HEALTH, WELFARE, AND SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE. THAT NEVADA LEADS THE NATION IN HOUSING FORECLOSURES, IS RANKED LOW IN HEALTH CARE, AND FACES SEVERE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PROBLEMS POINTS TO THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS. THEREFORE THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

- **Supports government policies that provide fair, adequate, and apportioned taxes and state spending**
 1. Urges State regulators to work with banks and lenders to mitigate the mortgage foreclosure crisis and to reform lending laws in Nevada to mitigate future loan defaults.

2. Urges legislation that requires holders of Nevada gaming licenses who own gaming operations in other states to pay Nevada taxes at a rate equal to the average taxes paid to all other states.
 3. Urges consideration of non-traditional forms of tax revenue.
 4. Urges the legislature and State agencies to simplify and clarify all laws and regulations including tax laws.
 5. Supports all local, county, and state government contract awards going to Nevada businesses and labor whenever possible.
- **Supports Medicare and Medicaid and incentives for small businesses to provide their workers with health care benefits.**
 1. Urges the immediate cessation of fee reductions to doctors as a means to reduce Medicare benefits and avoid keeping promises made to its recipients.
 2. Opposes cutting Medicaid benefits by the State of Nevada, and supports funding of health care for the most vulnerable even if taxes on corporations and severance taxes on natural resources must be raised to pay for them.
 3. Urges the legislature to provide all Nevada based small businesses receive tax breaks for giving health insurance and other benefits to their employees.
 - **Supports investment in the future of our state by increased funding for transportation, public safety, consumer protection, and the involvement of our citizens in improving our State.**
 1. Urges the legislature to fund upgrades of our state highways, provide funding for maintenance and improvement of our roads, bridges, state parks, and other infrastructure, and fund safety enhancements for our rural roads.
 2. Supports increased funding levels for the Nevada Highway Patrol, County and municipal law enforcement agencies, and state agencies responsible for the regulation of food and drugs, toys, pet food, cosmetics, and public water supplies.
 3. Supports the development of a Nevada Civilian Conservation Corps to provide vocational training to our youth, assist in infrastructure improvement, and to instill a sense of pride in their State.
 4. Urges legislation that requires all wireless, cable or satellite television and/or internet providers with exclusive service areas be regulated by the Nevada Public Utilities Commission.
 5. Strongly recommends that the Nevada State Legislature meet annually rather than bi-annually.

FAMILY, HEALTH, & WELFARE

A STRONG NATION PROMOTES THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL THROUGH QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE, STRENGTHENING OUR FAMILIES, PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING, PROMOTING A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, AND PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN. THEREFORE, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

- **Supports a health care system, which ensures quality, affordable health care for all.**

1. Strongly supports Nevada's access to the national Healthcare Reform Act of 2010.
2. Supports mental health parity as part of any health care plan so coverage for serious mental illnesses is provided on the same terms and conditions as other illnesses and diseases.
3. Supports exploration of cost-savings through programs like universal pricing and automated checklist care plans.
4. Supports expansion of and equitable funding for programs regarding HIV and AIDS prevention, education, research, health care, and counseling.
5. Urges increasing the availability of medical treatment in rural areas and underserved areas through programs like Clinics in Schools.
6. Supports requiring insurance companies to accept any willing provider.
7. Supports universal screening programs for infants for disabling or life-threatening conditions and re-screening for young children for developmental disorders.
8. Supports funding community clinics to provide vaccinations for all required vaccinations.
9. Supports increased funding for medical research.
10. Supports stem cell and fetal cell research.
11. Supports restricted use of marijuana as a controlled substance for medical use.
12. Supports addressing the nursing shortage by providing resources, incentives, and safe staffing regulations.
13. Urges requiring adequate yearly training programs for care givers, including courses in CPR, basic first aid, nutrition, preventive care, and counseling.
14. Supports lowering the nurse/patient ratio to meet nationally recommended nursing standards.
15. Supports the mandatory inclusion of at least one practicing physician and at least one layperson on every hospital executive board with equal and full voting privileges.

- **Supports women's health care and reproductive freedom.**

1. Supports individuals, not the government, taking responsibility for making personal decisions about their reproductive lives and the size and structure of their families.
2. Supports affordable birth control.
3. Supports state and federal funding for reproductive health services.
4. Supports providing pre- and post-natal care for all pregnant women and their infants.
5. Supports comprehensive school-based sex education with a full range of science-based, medically accurate, and age-appropriate education.

6. Supports enforcement of allowing the distribution of birth control information and devices in appropriate public schools settings.
 7. Supports federal funding for voluntary international family planning because it saves the lives of women and children and contributes to the welfare of communities.
- **Supports veteran's health care and taking care of our military families. The greatness of America is founded on the sacrifices made by our veterans. Government has an obligation to provide all veterans with access to quality medical and mental health care**
 1. Urges fully funding the Veteran's Administration.
 2. Urges providing lifetime, paid healthcare for service-related medical conditions.
 3. Supports expanding veteran's health and assistance programs, including psychological, psychiatric, prosthetic, rehabilitative, and job placement programs, particularly focusing on programs for veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).
 4. Supports creation of housing opportunities for veterans with traumatic injuries so they can remain within their community and not be institutionalized.
 5. Urges providing health care coverage for families of enabled guard members and reservists.
 6. Supports closing the gap between military and civilian pay.
 7. Streamline the existing VA disability rating system to make the process simpler and fairer.
 8. Ensure that the VA Outpatient Facilities work for Veterans and their families.
 - **Supports families and community through strengthening social and community services.**
 1. Supports expanding the Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to support paid sick leave for smaller companies than currently mandated.
 2. Supports providing quality and affordable day care to working families.
 3. Supports continuation and improvement of programs, such as rent support, low-income housing, food stamps, SCHIP, Medicaid, child abuse prevention, and shelters for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
 4. Supports subsidizing bank accounts for working families.
 5. Supports banning the most abusive payday loans.
 6. Supports re-instituting usury laws and limiting fees.
 7. Urges the development of programs that help families save and get ahead.
 8. Supports expansion and enforcement of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

9. Supports expanding community direct care services with the goal of ensuring high-quality care for those with disabilities to allow Americans with significant disabilities the choice of living in their community rather than living in a nursing home.
 10. Supports continued and additional funding of transportation for seniors for necessary and recreational activities.
 11. Supports quality after-school programs with enriching programs, which offer a safe environment and enhance children's participation in community involvement.
 12. Supports creating a comprehensive job program for those who have been unemployed a long time or those populations with higher percentages of unemployed by establishing a Nevada community service-related Job Corps.
 13. Supports providing safe, accessible, and affordable housing.
 14. Supports housing programs that eliminate the barriers for all individuals including homeless, elderly, disabled, and low-income people.
 15. Urges full and vigorous implementation and enforcement of all equal opportunity housing and affirmative action laws and opposes agency distortion of the original intent of the law.
 16. Supports investing in struggling neighborhoods and working to replace dilapidated housing in areas of concentrated poverty.
 17. Supports defending homeowners against predatory mortgages and foreclosures.
 18. Urges requiring lenders to negotiate in good faith with every borrower facing foreclosure by reviewing the homeowner's financial situation and offering an alternative repayment plan, forbearance, or loan modification.
 19. Urges the creation of a binding arbitration panel to force lenders to negotiate in good faith.
 20. Strongly supports the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2009.
- **Supports our families and community through providing a healthy environment.**
 1. Supports programs that provide education about firearms safety in homes.
 2. Supports providing consumers with country-of-origin information.
 3. Supports increasing inspections of imported food.
 4. Supports regulations, which provide increased research on all bio-engineered foods to ensure safety for agriculture as well as environment and health.
 5. Opposes the use of downed or sick animals, or parts thereof, to feed other animals.
 - **Supports programs which strengthen our families and protect our children.**
 1. Supports fully funding foster care programs and children.
 2. Supports programs that pair a responsible adult with every foster child.

EDUCATION

THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION RESTS WITH OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR ABILITY TO FIND WORK THAT WILL PROVIDE A MIDDLE CLASS INCOME AND TEACH THEM TO BE PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY. NO BETTER TOOL EXISTS FOR SECURING THIS FUTURE THAN TO GUARANTEE A FREE QUALITY EDUCATION FOR EVERY CHILD BEGINNING WITH PRE-SCHOOL AND ENDING WITH HIGHER EDUCATION OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

THEREFORE, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY BELIEVES THAT ALL CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO A FREE, QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION AND REJECTS ALL ATTEMPTS TO PRIVATIZE THIS CORE SERVICE. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

- **Supports investing in our future and saving taxpayer dollars by fully investing in early childhood education including Head Start, Full Day Kindergarten, reading readiness programs and child nutrition programs.**
 1. Supports adequate funding for training and technical assistance for Head Start and Early Head Start programs and components that are essential for maintaining program quality.
 2. Opposes the federal block granting of Head Start programs, shifting administration and or control of Head Start and Early Head Start programs to the state level.
 3. Supports providing an equal education for non-English speaking students and students whose first language is not English beginning in preschool.
- **Supports fully investing in K-12 education.**
 1. Believes homeless and transient children should be able to register for a home school and be provided with transportation to that school in order to facilitate their ability to graduate from high school, despite their unstable circumstances.
 2. Supports the ability of runaway children to register for school without parental information or consent, if they believe their life, health or safety is threatened.
 3. Supports paying college expenses for children of police and fire professionals killed in the line of duty.
 4. Reaffirms teaching a core Social Studies curriculum K through 12 including Economics, State, U. S. and World History, and Geography.
 5. Reaffirms teaching a core Science curriculum with labs K through 12.
 6. Supports the implementation of regular study hall outside school hours.
 7. Supports a statewide academic success-mentoring program for children in foster care.
 8. Affirms the commitment to comprehensive, medically accurate age appropriate science-based sex education that includes information on accurate information on contraception, abstinence and sexually transmitted diseases.
 9. Supports one-hour daily physical activity daily for all students.
 10. Supports yearly teaching of foreign language beginning in kindergarten.

11. Condemns any effort to re-write American history through selective textbook writings in such states as Texas.
12. Supports in-school Drivers Education with driving practice labs.
13. Supports increasing funding for math and science curricula.
14. Supports fully funding access to daily arts education for grades K through 12 including visual arts, orchestra, band, and related applied arts.
15. Supports a longer school day in order to enrich the current curricula.
16. Supports funding for summer school remedial opportunities for at risk students.
17. Supports additional funding for technological and general vocational programs at high schools and community colleges.
18. Supports school-trade union partnerships for vocational education.
19. Supports increasing the state per-student funding to an amount equal to or greater than the average national standards by the year 2012.
20. Strongly opposes censorship of educational and school library materials and opposes the advocacy of any religious doctrine in public schools.
21. Supports legislation that would lower the average student-teacher ratio to 25:1 in grades four through twelve and 16:1 in grades kindergarten through three throughout the state by increasing the number of classrooms, rather than increasing the number of teachers working in the same space.
22. Opposes any federal education program that determines student achievement solely by high-stakes testing.
23. Opposes the deconsolidation of the Clark County School District.
24. Supports the funding of quality, nutritious and balanced school breakfast and lunch programs for all children and adequate time to eat.
25. Urges Congress to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as currently written.
26. Strongly opposes privatizing education.
27. Supports accountability for home schooling education by requiring a prescribed curriculum and the passing of the same standards that are required of public school students.
28. All educators should have the resources and tools they need to perform their jobs well.
29. Supports funding of mentoring programs for new teachers and principals.
30. Supports funding for educational scholarships for educators interested in pursuing degrees in the educational field.
31. Supports access for teachers to a broader range of options to fulfill their continuing education and licensing requirements.
32. Supports funding for implementation of state requirements for environmental education for grades K-12 including, but not limited to continued sponsorship and funding by the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for Project Wild, Project

Learning Tree, and Water Education for Teachers, which educate teachers about natural resources education.

33. Supports ensuring that all educators are assigned to positions for which they are certified.
34. Supports funding for school districts to pay teachers for extra teaching time. Teachers should also receive a comparable amount of paid preparation time in the event that the school day is extended.
35. Supports collective bargaining and binding arbitration for all educators and support professionals with legislation that would require non-members of the bargaining units to provide payment to the bargaining agent if those non-members benefit directly from the negotiated agreements.

- **Supports fully investing in a strong university and college system that allows all qualified high school graduates to get a quality college education without incurring crippling debt.**

1. Urges legislation to fund the university and community college system at a level sufficient for excellent education without increasing tuition.
2. Supports the rights of Nevada high school graduates to millennium scholarships.
3. Supports directly funding the student loan program and eliminating the surcharge on Stafford and non-Stafford student loans added by lenders in order to cap all student loans at no more than 3 percent per annum.
4. Supports allowing students to refinance student loans in order to receive the lowest rates.
5. Allow parents whose income is used to determine FISA parental financial responsibilities to deduct student loan interest payments on their tax returns.
6. Provide counseling and tutoring to foster care children in high school to prepare them for college.
7. Supports fully funding the costs of education including tuition, books and room and board for foster children who are aging out of the system through the age of 26, as long as they are making steady progress toward a degree or vocational training certificate.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

PROTECTING SOCIETY FROM CRIME IS ESSENTIAL FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT. EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO PROTECT SOCIETY AND VICTIMS OF CRIME THROUGH THE APPREHENSION, FAIR TRIAL, SENTENCING AND ULTIMATE REHABILITATION OF THE OFFENDERS. THEREFORE, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

- **Supports a criminal justice system that promotes a fair sentencing, safe prisons, and comprehensive rehabilitation to enable released prisoners to become productive members of society.**

1. Supports legislation providing for alternative forms of criminal penalties thus enabling offenders to continue to provide for themselves and their dependants and therefore reduce the cost to society.
2. Support judicial discretion in sentencing and utilizing judicial peer review to address perceived sentencing problems and inconsistencies.
3. Opposes the death penalty.
4. Oppose disparate sentencing between crack and powder cocaine.
5. Support racial and gender neutral sentencing.
6. Supports the basic human rights of prisoners to be protected from abuse.
7. Support treating mentally ill offenders in appropriate setting and with medical treatment.
8. Supports diversity training on an ongoing basis, in order to eliminate discrimination, for police officers and their commanders, members of the judiciary, prosecutors, teachers and administrators, students, and persons within the social work environment.
9. Supports eliminating requirements that former felons denote their records on job applications if that criminal history will not affect their ability to perform the job they are applying for endangers the public safety.
10. Opposes racial profiling.
11. Supports a job integration program for released prisoners.
12. Opposes prosecuting minors as adults.

- **Supports instituting programs that reduce the root causes of crime.**

1. Supports local and state programs offering solutions to gang violence and alternatives to juvenile incarceration for minor offenses. Also, supports the expansion of work, educational, counseling and recreational programs, both in and out of the institutional setting.
2. Urges State government to re-evaluate the effectiveness of our state's drug policies.

- **Supports programs that help victims of crime.**

1. Supports intervention programs for victims of domestic abuse and funding at a level to cover the costs of basic needs for shelter services.
2. Supports the funding of safe houses for sexually abused children, including child prostitutes.
3. Supports funding for counseling and health services for victims of sexual crimes.
4. Support counseling, medical and mental health services for victims of bullying, cyber stalking, and hate crimes and their families.

- **Ensure accountability of criminal justice agencies and social services through meaningful citizen oversight committees.**
 1. Support establishing citizen oversight review boards regarding problems with police, public and social services.
 2. Establish a coroner's inquest that provides for questioning in open proceedings by the victim's attorney or family members.
 3. Urges a national requirement that when police forces use riot officers to control people assembling, every officer display in large letters and numbers his/her specific badge number in plain sight.
- **Work towards the elimination of prison sentences for victimless crimes.**
 1. Supports regulation and taxation of marijuana.
 2. Supports decriminalizing all drug use.
 3. Supports the recognition of drug addiction as a treatable disease.
- **Opposes the privatization of prisons.**
- **Supports the "Invest in Kids" strategy developed by more than 3000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutor's judges to reduce crime. The four parts are:**
 1. Provide all families access to quality pre-kindergarten
 2. Educational child care programs
 3. Help at-risk parents improve their parenting and prevent child abuse and neglect by offering in-home parenting coaching and ensure children protective services have resources sufficient to protect and heal abused children
 4. Provide all school-age children and teens access to after-school youth development programs.