



2024 DCDP Platform

DCDP Platform Values

The Douglas County Democratic Party supports policies that foster opportunities for all Americans to achieve the American dream. This must be fostered by defending democracy, supporting workers, protecting the environment, and protecting the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for every American regardless of race, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or gender.

Economic Policy, Job Creation, and Social Justice

Economic policy must be built on this foundation:

1. Equal pay for equal work
2. Universal basic income to ensure no one in the wealthiest nation in human history is left hungry, homeless, or without basic necessities
3. Labor unions are a cornerstone of the middle-class
4. Everyone including the wealthy, corporations, and churches must pay their fair share of taxes
5. Consumers must be protected
6. Full-time employment must be compensated with a living wage, no matter the job description
7. The minimum wage must be raised and pinned to inflation and no job should pay less than the minimum wage
8. Economic growth must be tuned to maximize human well-being, not corporate profits
9. Remove overtime exemptions to ensure that salaried employees are compensated for overtime work
10. Financial institutions and markets must be well-regulated to meet their fiduciary obligations to the people, not just the shareholders
11. Housing markets must be regulated to prevent housing pricing from outpacing the incomes of the working class and prevent housing market crashes like the one in 2008
12. Increase benefits for programs such as SNAP, CHIP, etc to allow families in need to feed, house, and clothe their families and fund that by ending corporate loopholes which allow large corporations to pay almost no taxes

Labor

In response to globalization, AI, and automation we must protect our labor force and adopt policies that allow Americans to adapt and thrive. To ensure a thriving workforce:

1. Support lifelong learning programs that allow workers to adapt to changes in their career paths (i.e. reskilling for industries that are rapidly changing or declining)
2. Ensure labor unions are empowered to negotiate better compensation and working conditions for all workers in all industries
3. Ensure workers are provided with paid family and medical leave
4. Require companies that are outsourcing labor to foreign sources to ensure those sources are not using child labor or sweatshop working conditions
5. Shore up programs like Social Security to ensure workers who have contributed throughout their working lives will have access to their contributions in retirement
6. Expand non-discrimination policies to protect all religions, races, genders, and sexual orientations have their rights in the workplace protected

Education

A well-educated populace is key to a thriving democracy. To ensure a well-educated populace:

1. We must enact legislation to stop the banning of books, especially those that give voice and representation to underrepresented communities. Free access to information is the backbone of a free society.
2. Public schools must be fully funded to ensure the highest quality education
3. Teachers must be compensated competitively to ensure the best teachers stay in the classroom
4. History must be taught accurately and comprehensively to ensure that students learn from the successes, failures, and atrocities of our past to build a better future
5. Science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and the scientific method must be taught to ensure America leads the world in innovation and scientific advancement
6. Education must teach the importance and value of diversity and inclusion in a free and fair society
7. Tax dollars must only be used to fund public education
8. All schools must meet curriculum standards to ensure that every child has an equal opportunity at a good education
9. Our schools must be secured to ensure students can learn without fear or violence
10. We must address and protect the needs of students with differently abled medically, emotionally, physically, or developmentally as well as English Language Learners, LGBTQ+, and gifted/talented students
11. Take action to ensure anti-bullying measures are instituted and fully enforced

Energy, Environment, and Climate

We have one planet we share with all of humanity. Access to clean water and air are required for life. To ensure a planet that is livable for future generations:

1. Climate change must be addressed aggressively and immediately
2. Sustainable energy sources must be sought out
3. Honest evaluation and adjustment of our water usage based on models that adjust for climate change must be done to ensure available clean water for all
4. Investment in our agricultural communities must be made to ensure farmers and ranchers remain competitive and thrive in our changing climate using technologies that allow more efficient irrigation and carbon sequestration for the revitalization of soil
5. We must take the recommendations of the Paris Accord and push further, leading the world by example with investment in carbon sequestration, green energy, and cleanup of existing pollution

Healthcare

Healthcare must be a universal human right. Without a healthy populace, no society can thrive.

We must ensure the following:

1. Insurance coverage must be universal, continuous, and portable without link to employment status or personal financial situations
2. A single-payer healthcare system must be made available to all Americans to drive down healthcare costs
3. Mental, dental, and vision care must be included in our standard healthcare programs
4. Public health policy must be driven by verified and peer-reviewed science
5. Nutrition being vital to health, we must work to eliminate food deserts and ensure that nutritious food is available and affordable for all communities from rural to urban areas
6. Access to healthcare must be available to all promptly, never restricted or limited by prior authorizations, narrow networks, or patient financial status
7. Medical care is a public good and patient outcomes must be foremost in every healthcare decision, not corporate profits
8. Safeguard Medicare and close the Medicare gap to ensure all senior citizens have equal access to safe and affordable healthcare

Immigration

We must treat all people, including immigrants and asylum seekers, with dignity and humanity. We must revise immigration policy to equally protect human rights and due process as dictated in the Constitution and our laws. As such, we must ensure the following:

1. The process for asylum seekers must be streamlined to allow processing of asylum claims promptly
2. A path to citizenship must be established for immigrants and asylum seekers that is equitable and attainable

3. Children must not be separated from their families, except in cases where trafficking is suspected
4. Conditions in detention centers must be humane and ensure detainees are provided with adequate food, shelter, and health care
5. Immigrant workers on visas must be protected by labor laws to prevent exploitation and abuse
6. Focus at the borders must be on drug and human trafficking, not detention of asylum seekers and immigrants seeking a better life for their families

Rural

Rural communities are often overlooked and underserved by policymakers, creating inequities in opportunities for our rural constituents. These must be addressed by the following:

1. Access to rural broadband technology must be created to allow rural communities to take advantage of the educational, informational, and financial resources available to urban and suburban communities
2. Support local farmers and ranchers in ways that allow them to be competitive and thrive in a market currently dominated by factory farms and corporations
3. Fund renewable energy sources that allow rural communities to become energy-independent and carbon-neutral
4. Fund initiatives that provide equal access to healthcare to rural communities
5. Fund irrigation and carbon capture innovations that allow farmers and ranchers to revitalize the land, use water more efficiently, and capitalize on these innovations to thrive in a global economy
6. Ensure rural access to clean, potable water

Securing Democracy

Our constitutional democracy must be protected from the rise of authoritarianism. As such, we support the following:

1. Universal mail-in voting
2. Campaign finance reform to ensure the voice of the people is represented, not the voice of corporations
3. Elimination of the Electoral College to ensure that every vote carries equal weight
4. Laws that ensure all elections follow industry best practices for data collection and integrity, building public confidence in our electoral system
5. Implementation of a national holiday for voting to ensure that every adult citizen has access to their right to vote
6. Restoration of the protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965
7. US territories seeking statehood to ensure no citizen is taxed without representation are recognized.

Senior Issues

Our senior citizens are an important part of our society, bringing experience and wisdom gained over a lifetime to the table. As our senior population grows, we must protect their interests to ensure the highest possible quality of life for them.

1. We must strengthen and enforce age discrimination laws to ensure that senior citizens are allowed the same opportunities in the workforce for as long as they are able to perform their respective duties
2. We must establish a Seniors' Bill of Rights protecting senior citizens from abuse, scams, and exploitation and ensuring safe and livable communities with adequate housing and transportation options
3. We must ensure clean, well-regulated long-term assisted living and care facilities are available to all senior populations regardless of income to ensure seniors are granted the dignity, care, kindness, and respect they deserve are given to them as they age
4. We must ensure that individuals are educated on their rights and options for end-of-life care and ensure that those choices are respected and carried out

State, Defense, and Homeland Security

Protection involves achieving safety and security for our citizens. This includes safety from international threats as well as threats originating in our communities.

International Safety and Security

We recognize that one major key to protecting our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is a well-thought-out foreign policy and a comprehensive policy to protect our homeland. To do so we support the following:

1. Foreign policy favoring diplomacy as our primary tool
2. Supporting our troops not only when they are at war but when they return as veterans, ensuring their mental and physical health are cared for and they are given the tools and training they need to reintegrate into civilian life properly
3. Maintaining a strong military with strategic goals to ensure the security of our nation while utilizing our strategic partners to achieve peaceful resolution of conflicts
4. Providing support to internationally established peacekeeping forces and humanitarian assistance programs
5. Maintaining strict adherence to international agreements that affirm the fundamental rights of all human beings
6. Partnering with nations to protect human rights and establish just trade policies
7. In times of conflict, we must work diligently to ensure that civilian populations are protected and that our strategic partners are doing the same. In any conflict, any party which fails to protect civilian life cannot maintain the moral high ground. In cases where civilian populations are being used as human shields, we must support strategies that protect those lives and find alternatives to reach our military objectives.

Local Safety and Security

Firearms

We support the Second Amendment right to bear arms while advocating for responsible regulation.

1. We believe in the importance of securing, maintaining, and using firearms safely.
2. Firearms owners must be held accountable for any harm caused by their negligence.
3. As Justice Antonin Scalia stated in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the Second Amendment is not without limits; it does not permit unrestricted possession or use of firearms. "Like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited. [It is] not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose." - Justice Antonin Scalia

Technology

As technology evolves, we must recognize the need for regulations that protect the needs of the people and ensure that technological advancements serve those needs.

1. We must ensure that AI is regulated to prevent the theft of intellectual property, protect copyright, and ensure that when intellectual property is used as part of a training data source it is only with the permission of the owner of said intellectual property.
2. We must ensure that AI is not used to replace jobs without offering those phased out of jobs alternate employment with equal or greater compensation and benefits.
3. We must ensure that any technological advancement follows a strictly enforced code of ethics to prevent harm to people, society, and the environment.
4. We must work to make the benefits of technological advancement available to all members of society.