

Platform of the Democratic Party of New Mexico

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We, the people of the Democratic Party of New Mexico, support governance that fosters the common good, creates opportunity, and protects our rights, as enshrined in our federal and state Constitutions. We are committed to working toward a more perfect Union that ensures fairness, justice, personal freedom, and equal opportunity for our entire people. We are a State rich in human and natural resources, environmental beauty, technological excellence, and cultural and artistic traditions. We strive to put people first, and celebrate the diversity of our state and its rich history. We can become an alternative energy and sustainability center, while responsibly managing our natural resources. We seek to inspire students to excellence, entrepreneurs to success, and inventors to innovation. We join the worldwide community in recognizing the need to combat climate change, and pledge to make stewardship of the Earth our priority.

Democrats from across New Mexico have joined together to write and build this living, evolving Platform. We have had the opportunity to discuss what is important to our Party, and to translate those values and beliefs into a document that expresses our unique diversity and shared principles.

AGRICULTURE

- We support legislation that would legalize and promote an industrial hemp industry.
- We support incentives for sustainable agricultural practices, agricultural water conservation, and retention of lands of agricultural production and ranching.
- We support efforts to preserve New Mexico heritage livestock and heirloom seeds.

ARTS

- We recognize that flourishing arts help to grow our economy; we, therefore, encourage public support for the arts with funding, marketing, training, and increased accessibility.

CIVIL RIGHTS

- We believe in ensuring constitutional rights and freedoms for all.

- We support the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.
- We support marriage equality.
- We support the elimination of racism, discrimination, and oppression.
- We support religious choice, including the freedom from religion.
- We believe that incarcerated persons must not be denied basic human rights.
- We oppose discrimination against formerly incarcerated persons.
- We oppose the reinstatement of the death penalty.

ECONOMY

- We support a living wage, with cost of living adjustments, and overtime pay for non-salaried positions.
- We support legislation to provide incentives for businesses to create jobs.
- We support a strong safety net of services for New Mexicans living in poverty, including food stamps, affordable housing, free school lunches, and comprehensive health services.
- We encourage state agencies to spend taxpayer dollars locally, whenever possible.
- We oppose the privatization of public services.
- We support job creation through investments in infrastructure and transportation projects.
- We support federal regulations to prevent monopolies.
- We support economic development by setting aside a portion of the General Fund for investment in New Mexico.

EDUCATION

- We support fully funded, free public education for every student from birth through vocational and/or post-secondary education, and reject school vouchers.
- We support affordable text books.
- We urge our New Mexico legislators to find additional and diversified sources of revenue to fully fund education in New Mexico for our children and teachers.
- We reject the over-testing of our students and believe advancement, graduation, and teacher evaluations should not be based solely on standardized test scores.
- We support local control of education, allowing New Mexico educators and public school districts to be free to create and implement curricula that support the needs of students in their communities.
- We encourage and support programs for anti-bullying, mental and behavioral health, and conflict resolution in the schools.

ELECTIONS

- We support efforts to make voting easier for New Mexicans, including increased efforts by the Secretary of State, county clerks, and election officials to inform New Mexicans about their civic duty to vote.
- We support the increased use of voting convenience centers, expanded opportunities to vote early, extended voting hours to accommodate working New Mexicans, opportunities to request automatic absentee ballots, and same-day registration.
- We reject photo identification requirements to vote.
- We believe election systems should be transparent, using verifiable methods that support reproducible recounts and audits, and that maintain the ability to archive electoral results.
- We support transparency in the reporting of political finances, and a constitutional amendment to minimize corporate influence in politics.
- We support the ability for New Mexico voters to use straight-ticket, party-preference voting.
- We support automatic voter registration, while allowing citizens to opt out.
- We support nonpartisan voting districts and oppose gerrymandering.

ENERGY

- We support the reduction of dependence on fossil-based fuels.
- We support the transition to a clean energy economy as a commitment we owe to future generations.
- We support, in the interim, a diverse portfolio of power source--including renewable energy, natural gas, oil production, nuclear power, coal, and geothermal--and energy efficiency and conservation, with the goal of domestic energy independence.
- We support policies and the funding of enforcement measures that ensure New Mexican energy production is environmentally sound.
- We acknowledge that oil and gas revenues fund many public services, and provide employment for thousands of New Mexicans.
- We support increased investment of state resources in clean energy research and development.

ENVIRONMENT

- We believe the threat of climate change is real.
- We support global environmental protection policies, including the 2015 Paris Agreement, which resolves to limit global temperature increases and restrict greenhouse gases.

FINANCE

- We believe that all lending institutions should provide small-dollar loans at non-predatory rates, and report repayment history to credit bureaus.
- We support Federal regulation of financial institutions and products in order to prevent harm to the economy.
- We believe commercial and investment banking should be separate.

GOVERNMENT

- We support transparency in government, including open public meetings, live streaming of meetings/hearings, and the archiving of meetings and hearings.
- We support ethics and the avoidance of conflicts of interest in government.
- We support the legalization and taxation of recreational marijuana.
- We believe schools, prisons, public lands, and water supply should be maintained by the government.

HEALTH

- We believe healthcare is a basic human right and support a single-payer, comprehensive healthcare system that is independent of employment. Expanded Medicaid, health insurance exchanges, and the preclusion of pre-existing conditions are important first steps toward this goal.
- We believe in preventing disease and promoting healthy living through fresh, local, and nutritious food, exercise and recreational opportunities, education, and community health centers.
- We support the right of privacy in healthcare decisions, including women's reproductive health and end-of-life.
- We support the legal use of medical cannabis, when prescribed for a patient by a physician.

IMMIGRATION

- We support immigration policies that allow people, including refugees, to make this country their home, and that provide a path to citizenship.
- We support policies that welcome refugees, keep immigrant families intact, and ensure their basic

human rights.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- We believe in promoting peace and the resolution of conflict, human rights and self-determination, and the rule of law through diplomacy, conventions and treaties, and demilitarization.
- We oppose the privatization of the military, the use of contract mercenaries, and war profiteering.
- We support economically just trade policies.
- We support diplomatic over military solutions, utilizing international institutions to achieve this goal, with our armed forces only to be used as a last resort.
- We condemn the use of torture.
- We believe in addressing the global threat from international terrorism, including by non-state actors and failed states, through scrutiny of current policy, effective and appropriate technology, international cooperation, and education.

LABOR

- We support the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively, fair and just labor laws, a living wage, and equal opportunity and pay for New Mexico workers.
- We oppose any effort to erode workers' rights and unions.
- We encourage the use of local union shops, businesses, and workers, and support trade agreements that preserve American jobs and businesses.
- We encourage the New Mexico legislature to preserve and protect the security of state, county, and municipal employees' pensions when making decisions about the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) and the Educational Retirement Board (ERB).
- We support regulations to ensure a working environment free from hazardous conditions and materials, sexual harassment, and discrimination.
- We support paid sick and family leave for New Mexico workers.

MEDIA

- We believe all New Mexicans should have access to high-speed, affordable Internet.
- We support Internet use that is free of censorship, with individual privacy ensured, and not subject to warrantless search by the government.
- We support the principle that Internet service providers should enable access to all content and applications, regardless of the source, and without favoring or blocking particular products or websites.
- We support legislation that restricts monopolies of the media.

MILITARY AND VETERANS

- We support full federal funding for comprehensive veteran-centric systems to fulfill our commitment to all veterans by meeting their needs upon discharge, with an emphasis on suicide prevention, employment, housing, family support, reintegration, comprehensive healthcare, and legal assistance.
- We support measures to provide stronger support for survivors of military sexual assault, including independent legal counsel, protection from harassment, and continuing comprehensive healthcare needs.
- We believe any person, regardless of immigration status, who served and was honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces should receive citizenship upon completion of service.
- We support closing loopholes in the for-profit school industry that exploits veterans, and support strengthening programs that help veterans choose the best educational programs possible.
- We believe all service members, veterans, and their families must be treated equally under the law.
- We support the open and unrestricted service of transgendered persons in the armed services.

NATIVE AMERICANS

- We recognize and strive to protect tribal sovereignty, self-determination, and economic development of tribal lands.
- We support the collaboration of state and county government on issues of importance to Native Americans.

PUBLIC LANDS

- We support the protection, preservation, and traditional uses of our National and State Parks, World Heritage Sites, Native American sacred sites, and state monuments.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- We believe that all New Mexicans deserve to be safe from toxic substances and violence, whether at home, at school, at work, in a public or private place, or while traveling.
- We support a balance between responsible gun ownership and policy that maximizes public safety, and ensures respect for our fundamental freedoms.
- We support our right to know what is in our air, food, and water.
- We support issuing driver's licenses for all persons who operate motor vehicles in New Mexico.
- We oppose the use of excessive force by law enforcement.

TAXATION

- We believe all persons and corporations must pay their fair share of taxes, and loopholes exempting corporations from paying taxes be closed.
- We support uniform tax exemptions for Veterans and retirees on fixed incomes.
- We support childcare tax exemptions for working families.
- We support the elimination of gross receipt taxes on the purchase of food, healthcare, and medicine.
- We oppose the privatization of Social Security.

WATER

- We encourage reduction of residential and industrial water usage and science-based, sustainable water policies.
- We support protecting the safety and sustainability of our water, and we respect the cultural heritage and historical use of acequias and other traditional irrigation practices.