

1 **■ PREAMBLE**

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2 The United States Government, especially the President, has two major responsibilities – the economy and national security. The  
3 Republicans have mishandled both, and Democrats are committed to making this country stronger in both areas.

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5 In 2004 Californians must make crucial choices about the path our state and country will take in the 21st Century. Californians have a  
6 shared vision for the future. We believe that quality public education for all children, from pre-school to college, is a fundamental right. We  
7 want to maintain laws to keep assault weapons off our streets and out of our schools. We want affordable health care for working families.  
8 We will continue to fight for seniors to have the decent quality of life that they deserve. California's "Greatest Generation" deserves to enjoy  
9 their lives without worrying that Social Security and Medicare are going to be cut. We will build smarter, sustainable communities, and  
10 Californians will never, ever accept leaders who threaten to take away a woman's right to choose.

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12 We, Members of the California Democratic Party, unequivocally support the United States' efforts to bring the terrorists responsible for the  
13 destruction and loss of lives at the Pentagon and World Trade Center, September 11, 2001 to justice. To win the war against terrorism,  
14 Democrats will bear all reasonable burdens to effectively marshal our financial and human resources to achieve this goal. We must  
15 safeguard the constitutional rights of all Americans while fighting terrorism. We will defend our American beliefs, values and traditions. We  
16 will preserve our inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

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18 While our lives have been forever altered by that horror-filled day, we remember that the Democratic Party put America and California on a  
19 new course of peace and prosperity. As we enter the new millennium, Democrats will reinvigorate the economy. We will fight for real tax  
20 relief for families and individuals. We will work to reduce unemployment and create new jobs. We will fight for the enactment, continuance  
21 and enforcement of civil rights, equal justice, equal opportunity and voting rights legislation. We are committed to policies to stabilize energy  
22 costs and maximize availability and conservation. We will strengthen existing Patients Bills of Rights. We will preserve the environment for  
23 future generations.

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25 The Democratic Party is the ONLY political party that represents these core principles. The working families of California deserve a  
26 government that shares their vision for the future. Democrats strive to make California's schools the best in the nation, expand Medicare  
27 benefits to working Americans, shield every Californian against the terrible forces of discrimination and hate, and vigorously support full  
28 access for people with disabilities. Democrats will protect family leave and health care benefits. We will protect the well being of our  
29 families. We will help children say, "Yes" to a college education and "No" to drugs and tobacco. Democrats will always stand for the  
30 American right for working people to organize and unionize. We will stand by these principals and we expect our affiliates to live by all of  
31 them in the course of their business and political activities.

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33 This is the blueprint for the Golden State in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This platform represents the Democratic vision for our State, embracing and  
34 implementing the dreams of California's working families. Every plank in this platform touches the lives of each Californian, thus reflecting  
35 the Democratic Party's aim of including each Californian in the American Dream.

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37 **■ BUSINESS & THE ECONOMY**

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39 Californians have always counted on Democrats to promote business and agriculture, which in turn continues to create good jobs for all  
40 Californians. California Democrats support initiatives to revitalize our inner cities and rural communities, promote trade, support training for  
41 employees, rebuild and expand the infrastructure of our great state, expand economic equality, and encourage effective government  
42 involvement in job creation. California Democrats believe in business and the marketplace, knowing that economic growth is the best job-  
43 creating program that Californians will ever have. Small businesses create most of the new jobs in our state, and when they flourish, all  
44 Californians prosper. California Democrats support the values that make America great: providing opportunity, taking responsibility, and  
45 rewarding hard work.

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47 California Democrats are determined to ensure that California's business and economy continues to lead the nation -- and the world.  
48 California's high-technology businesses help change the world while California agriculture helps feed it. California Democrats believe that  
49 fiscally responsible government must work to help California businesses create and keep good paying jobs to make sure our economy  
50 continues to gain vitality. We want small businesses to flourish, creating opportunities and benefiting consumers, shareholders, communities  
51 and employees alike.

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53 Democrats put people first. They work for a fair balance between business and labor, view workforce diversity as a strength in a global  
54 economy, seek a level playing field and equal opportunity for businesses, and support trade agreements that include labor and  
55 environmental protections. (See the section entitled "Restore America's Economic Leadership" in the World Peace and International  
56 Relations Plank.) Democrats believe that economic growth and opportunities can benefit everyone, not just a select few. Businesses do not  
57 need to sacrifice labor or ruin the environment for the sake of higher and higher short-term profits; responsible businesses help protect our  
58 great state, and everyone profits in the long run.

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60 To achieve goals consistent with the values and beliefs listed above, California Democrats believe that we must:

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**Support Incentives For Small Businesses.** California Democrats foster the creation of good paying jobs. Two of the best ways to accomplish this critical task are to offer economic incentives and to expand opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Economic incentives should include new enterprise tax credits that provide significant tax exclusions for those who take risks by making long-term investments in small businesses, and targeted investment tax credits to encourage investment in new plants and production equipment in California. We support expanded opportunities by granting government contracts to women and minority-owned small businesses, which provide critical opportunities for people in our inner cities and throughout our state. We support small business incubation programs and government loans to sustain small businesses after the incubation period where those businesses show competent management and demand for the product.

**Promote Responsible Economic Development and Maintain a Competitive Advantage for California Businesses.** We must foster economic development and job growth to improve California's business climate. As Democrats we support policies that will promote socially and environmentally responsible job creation. We believe California workers are not just a disposable product to artificially bolster profit projections and quarterly stock reports. We support forward-looking business investments in California's people: efficient public transportation, infrastructure, renewable energy sources, pollution abatement technology, affordable healthcare, ecologically sound housing for all income levels, public education and public safety.

We oppose state contracting with or providing incentives to companies that have been convicted of crimes that reflect a lack of integrity that could negatively impact or reflect upon the State. We believe that state contracting should be conducted in an open and honest fashion, that citizens should receive the best goods and services at the best price, and that the integrity of the contracting process should be upheld.

We support California businesses that achieve commercial success in ways that honor ethical values and that address legal, ethical, environmental, commercial and other expectations society has for business and that take responsibility for current and past actions and future impacts. We also support reasonable efforts by the state to facilitate, promote and endorse sustainable business practices and corporate, social and environmental responsibility.

California Democrats endorse our legislative leadership in supporting responsible businesses that choose to incorporate in California. Likewise, we believe any company choosing to re-incorporate in a tax-haven country to avoid their fair share of taxes and evade the laws protecting the rights of California shareholders should be denied the opportunity to do business with the State of California, and should be denied the opportunity to compete for those Federal contracts reserved for American-owned businesses.

**Streamline Regulatory Processes.** California Democrats favor aggressively streamlining regulatory processes in order to retain, attract and develop business in California. We support implementation of a "one-stop shopping" concept to facilitate a rapid response for business development and creation and to promote coordination between state agencies. Businesses should not have to fight the processes that are there to protect them; those processes should make sense and should be easy to understand and to follow.

**Protect California's Businesses and People.** California Democrats believe that rigorous enforcement of the laws that protect California's businesses and people ensures a level playing field in the marketplace, while protecting the most vulnerable members of our society. Predatory lenders who seek to make a quick killing in our growth driven real estate boom by violating the law to take advantage of California's seniors and its most economically disadvantaged citizens threaten our way of life. Those who skirt the rules that protect businesses, consumers and the environment in order to gain an unfair advantage in the marketplace and purposely do harm to all Californians must be prosecuted. We strongly support the pursuit and prosecution of all criminals with no special breaks for white-collar criminals. To ensure the safety and economic security of the people of California, it is absolutely necessary to vigorously protect businesses that create jobs and employ people, and those who share the prosperity and make California's economy great.

**Invest in Lifelong Learning.** California Democrats believe in putting people first by protecting and continuing to build a competitive, skilled and highly talented workforce capable of meeting the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century world marketplace. All Californians must demand a statewide re-dedication to lifelong learning and workforce development and make a concerted effort to invest in the collective talents of all Californians. This investment includes significant tax credit incentives for California businesses that commit to the continued education and training of all workers.

**Protect Personal and Financial Privacy.** New communication technologies have dramatically increased the challenge of ensuring that Californians' personal and financial information is kept private. Consumers today face a rising risk of identity theft and bear real costs in time and money by receiving billions of unsolicited and unwarranted commercial phone calls, faxes and email messages ("spam") each year. Moreover, the Attorney General has found that unsolicited ads result in lost productivity for California businesses and deprive companies of bandwidth needed for normal business activities. Consumers have a right to know exactly what personal information businesses and governments collect and how they use information such as social security numbers, financial data, phone numbers, addresses and email addresses. We believe that state government has a role to play to ensure consumers have all the tools that are necessary to prevent unauthorized information sharing and abuse.

**Support and Advance Energy Independence.** We have been dependent on oil and other fossil fuels for far too long. Domestic economic crises and foreign policy crises -- and the disruption and loss of life that both may bring -- all too often begin and end as a result of battles

1 over energy sources. California Democrats believe that the time to end our energy dependence is at hand: the same hard work and  
2 innovation that helped lead us into the Information Age and that took us to the moon should now be brought to bear on the problem of energy  
3 dependence. The time has come for us to reduce our reliance on limited fuel supplies and susceptibility to market manipulation by  
4 increasing the diversity of our energy sources and encouraging energy conservation programs. At the same time we can and must ensure  
5 that our energy is safe. California Democrats believe in doing more than just paying lip service to the idea of clean skies and clean water -  
6 we must make alternative clean sources of energy an affordable reality. We support increasing opportunities for communities to form  
7 customer owned, municipally owned, county owned and locally controlled energy service providers or fully integrated electric generation  
8 utilities. California Democrats believe that everyone can contribute to a 21st Century energy independence policy and achieve long-term  
9 savings by continuing campaigns for expanded energy conservation and by rewarding conservation by reducing energy rates. California  
10 should lead the current national drive for conservation by building and operating "Green Buildings."

11  
12 **Support Key Business Sectors.** California's leading business sectors (such as high technology, biotechnology and aerospace) should be  
13 nurtured in a responsible fashion. California high technology industries are a prime source of high-wage jobs and high-value-added  
14 economic activity. California's aerospace industry has been severely impacted by continued industry consolidation that has caused work  
15 transfers to other states, layoffs and plant closures resulting in a net loss of 50-70% of these vital high-tech California jobs since the end of  
16 the Cold War despite the Bush administration's defense spending spree. To re-energize these valuable sectors of our economy we advocate  
17 high-technology investments, innovative transportation programs (including high speed rail), tax incentives for high-technology companies  
18 that invest in low-income urban and rural areas, federal programs and contracts for companies that create well-paying jobs in California and  
19 targeted tax credits to neutralize the cost of competition from other states.

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21 **Support Indian Gaming.** We support the tribal right of California Indians to conduct gaming on reservations, and we support California  
22 Indians' efforts to achieve self-sufficiency through gaming. Revenue from the Indian gaming industry continues to replace welfare with  
23 employment, illiteracy with education, substance abuse with treatment, poverty with prosperity and despair with hope.

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25 **Oppose the Dilution of Consumer Rights.** We support protecting California consumer rights by opposing Republican-led efforts to  
26 federalize consumer rights, denying consumers the freedom to establish appropriate rules for litigation and to try cases in local courts (i.e.  
27 redress their injuries by using the class action in local courts).

## 28 29 ■ CHILDREN, YOUNG ADULTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

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31 Children are our most valuable natural resource. Tragically, too many of our children live in families whose income is below the poverty line;  
32 they are forced to go to bed hungry and wake up to an uncertain or unstable future. Today's children at risk will not break the cycle of  
33 poverty without serious advocacy and program reform. We must invest in our youth. Education, access to health care, adequate housing,  
34 nutrition and childcare are essential to help our children develop into responsible adults. We encourage youth participation in community  
35 and political activity, leadership and policymaking.

36 **Poverty and Children.** Our nation is the wealthiest nation in the world, yet many children live below the poverty level. Currently the rate of  
37 poverty among children under age 18 is about one-third higher than it was two decades ago. There are more than 12 million children (about  
38 17% of all children) under age 18 who live in families with incomes below poverty level. Continued living in poverty conditions has a  
39 devastating impact on a child's physical, emotional and cognitive development as well as their academic performance. One of our  
40 fundamental responsibilities is to protect the quality of life and ensure a bright future for our children in order to provide the belief that with  
41 hope and hard work they can accomplish anything they set their minds to. California Democrats strongly support programs designed to get  
42 our children out of the vicious cycle of poverty, including but not limited to: support of our community's police to end crime, the development  
43 of parks and recreational areas, in-school and after-school programs for educational development, access to reasonably priced childcare,  
44 early development centers, decent affordable housing and meaningful quality public education. In addition, we are deeply committed to  
45 support policies to protect the rights of our children.

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47 California Democrats support initiatives to:

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49 **End Violence Against Children, Young People and Their Families.** Support full wrap-around services to abused and neglected children,  
50 including their families. Lower county social workers' caseloads to the same level that the state requires of publicly funded private programs.  
51 Ensure that children receive the same legal protection as adults. Make counseling available to all children with emphasis on the prevention,  
52 detection and treatment of child abuse to stop the cycle of violence against children. Provide armed and unarmed patrolling of public schools  
53 and public meeting areas for the safety of minors. Provide effective community-based law enforcement with an emphasis on prevention  
54 programs. Expand school-based training in non-violent conflict resolution and problem solving. Support programs which help break down  
55 prejudice and improve relations between law enforcement officials and youth. Enforce strong gun control laws and ban the sale of  
56 ammunition to minors. Effectively prosecute perpetrators of sex crimes against minors. Fully fund alternative sentencing programs for  
57 juvenile offenders. Support community education programs on the danger of hate crimes.

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59 **Expand Education, Enrichment and Job Readiness Programs.** Fully fund education programs for early childhood, Head Start (with  
60 continued focus on early childhood development, not literacy), preschool children and IDEA testing. Improve quality of and access to  
61 affordable childcare and early child development centers. Establish direct funding of childcare and federal support for training childcare

workers. Provide incentives for private sector support of childcare. Establish family-leave provisions so parents may attend to the educational and health needs of their children. Fund community and enrichment oriented after-school programs, which reflect the new realities of today's family-focused workforce. Support funding for parks, recreation centers and other safe places for children and young people to play. Support programs and initiatives that promote youth political awareness and encourage young people to vote and become active participants in civic life. Encourage political volunteerism among young people. Increase funding for mentoring and outreach programs for at-risk and high-risk youth, as well as fostering civic engagement through apprentice programs in both the public and private sector areas. Support programs designed to enhance the career opportunities of girls in all areas of the workforce. Establish and support programs designed to enhance education, economic development, cultural preservation, housing, health care and career opportunities in rural communities -- including tribal communities -- throughout California. Create accessible educational counseling, job training and apprentice programs for youth, leading to meaningful careers in both the public and private sectors. Provide practical work experiences through paid internship programs to high school, vocational and college students.

**Maintain the Safety Net for Children, Young People and Families Most in Need.** Preserve current protection for children with disabilities on Social Security Insurance (SSI). Reinstatement benefits for children and families of documented immigrants. Protect school lunch and food stamp funding. Strictly enforce child support payments. Provide transitional shelter for domestic violence survivors and their families. Encourage public and private support for halfway houses, homeless shelters and community support groups as well as other programs to build self-sufficiency. Include increased flexibility in the consent and confidentiality laws for young people seeking emergency shelter. Support child and youth focused group homes, foster care and kinship care. Expand non-traditional adoption programs. Enhance programs to assist young people transitioning to independence in locating shelter, transportation and employment.

**Welfare Reform.** The poorest single parent families are poorer after welfare reform. Children most in need are less likely to receive benefits. The goal of welfare reform should be economic self-sufficiency, not caseload reduction. With positive intentions welfare reform encourages two parent families, but marriage promotion policies can force women to stay in unsafe relationships and stigmatize single parents and divorce. California Democrats recognize the need to support both single and dual parents in creating and maintaining strong, stable families that are key to a child's sense of security and well-being.

**Ensure That All Children and Young Adults Have Access to Comprehensive Health Care and Health Education.** Restore eligibility for Medi-Cal to well beyond the 1989-90 level of 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level for families with children from 1 to 19 years of age. Facilitate Medi-Cal enrollment by allowing for a presumptive eligibility process for children, providing children with twelve-month continuous coverage and allowing a waiver for the purchase of family coverage. Support local government options that help build capacity and infrastructure for community-based urban and rural health delivery systems. Require health plans to assist and utilize traditional safety-net providers, ensuring continuity of care and speedy expansion of services. Protect preventive and acute health services for all California's children, young people and families. Increase funding for mental health treatment programs for young people. Continue to expand nutrition and immunization programs to reach every child. Expand prenatal and perinatal care services to assure that infants and toddlers have a healthy start in life. Provide meaningful sex-education to junior and senior high school students, support youth who choose abstinence and ensure the availability of contraceptives.

**Support Positive Media Messages.** Increase funding for televised public service messages to educate children on environmental issues, equality and alternatives to violence. Highlight California's multi-cultural experience positively in the media. Continue public service messages to educate children on the dangers of drugs, including tobacco and alcohol abuse. Promote wholesome television and other electronic programming for children.

## ■ CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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Democrats address the problem of crime in multi-faceted ways. We encourage law enforcement professionals and community activists to work together to mitigate crime and to eradicate the root causes of all crime. California Democrats endorse the following:

**Protect the Rights of Crime Victims.** Crime victims must not be treated as part of the problem. We must strengthen our state's victim-witness advocacy, assistance and therapeutic programs. We favor financial compensation to victims and increasing penalties where appropriate for all violent crimes. We support funding to provide emergency response, counseling and transitional housing for victims of family violence. We also support funding programs to help protect our most vulnerable citizens -- children, seniors and persons with disabilities when they become victims of crime.

**Support Community-Based Law Enforcement.** We support sensitivity training and community-based policing to break down barriers between law enforcement officers and the people they serve and to curtail police misconduct. We encourage civilian participation in police review boards to improve the quality of service to constituents. In multi-agency or collaborative law enforcement operations, we believe that the best, specially trained officers for the job should conduct such activity.

**Modernize Law Enforcement Agencies.** In addition to using state of the art equipment, law enforcement professionals must be trained or retrained in the latest crime fighting techniques. We support funding for computers in all police vehicles upgrading emergency 911 centers and improving nationwide criminal information sharing among federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

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**Support Responsible Gun Possession.** We support efforts to require reasonable controls on weapons that are not used for legitimate hunting, sporting and self defense purposes. California must take the lead in continuing to support the federal ban on deadly assault weapons and eliminating the sale and manufacture of easily procured and hidden handguns. We support the prohibition of gun dealers operating from residential dwellings and strongly urge that all sales at gun show and sales between private parties in California conform to the same requirements as any licensed gun dealer. When a weapon used in a criminal act is obtained through a “straw buyer” (one who illegally provides a weapon to another), that provider should be found culpable as an accessory to the crime. We support maintaining the 10-day waiting period currently required for delivery of guns, the background checks for anyone who wants to purchase guns, the ban on flea market gun shows and internet gun sales. We support fighting all efforts to overturn the Brady Bill and the Assault Weapons Ban. We further support continued adequate funding at the national level for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF).

**Support Handgun Safety.** We must protect public safety by supporting reasonable laws that provide training for handgun owners, make handguns safer and keep guns out of the hands of our children. All guns stored where minors reside or visit should be locked up or have effective trigger locks properly maintained and installed.

**Suppress White Collar Crime.** White-collar crimes not only destroy individuals and their life savings (especially senior citizens), but also are the biggest detriment to our major financial institutions such as banking and insurance industries. We support the investigation and full prosecution of white-collar criminals, increased penalties that will make these types of crimes unprofitable and methods to improve the means for recovering these losses.

**Reduce Drug Abuse and Addiction.** Eliminating the demand for drugs must be a diligent two-pronged crusade that stops the continued sale and distribution of drugs and increases funding for medical and psychological treatment for drug-users and addicts. We support expanding drug diversion opportunities for non-violent drug offenders.

**DNA Testing Where Appropriate.** We support the use of DNA testing whenever such testing would serve to better ensure that an innocent person is not convicted, and a guilty person is not set free.

**Continue to Reduce the Roots of Crime.** To cure the crime problem our society must recognize that its roots are deep. We must address intergenerational family violence and gang activity, drug and alcohol addiction, unemployment, poverty, racism and substandard education. We must continue to allocate resources that create livable-wage jobs and improve education for the jobs of the future that eliminate poverty, particularly in low-income inner cities and rural areas. We need enterprise and empowerment zones so that businesses will invest in depressed communities and provide jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities for these residents.

**Promote Equal Justice.** The criminal justice system is extremely overburdened with an influx of criminals and is without commensurate resources needed to provide equal justice. We must ensure equitable treatment for all in the criminal justice system by funding prosecution, victim-witness, legal service and public defender programs to provide the best quality trial and appellate assistance for all Californians.

**End Racial and Ethnic Profiling.** Racial and ethnic profiling (commonly known in the traffic stop context as “Driving while Black or Brown”) is all-too-often used as a pretext for racist harassment. The profiling of groups and individuals at ports of entry and debarkation unjustifiably targets ethnic and racial groups and should be eliminated. Authorities must not profile or otherwise discriminate on the basis of race or ethnic origin.

**Excluding Secret Evidence.** Prohibit the use of secret evidence/testimony in asylum and immigration status hearings and in all criminal trials regardless of the court or tribunal.

**Securing the Right to Counsel in All Cases.** Anyone who commits an act of terrorism against the United States or truly assists in any such act must be brought to justice. However, in every case in which an accused is charged with a capital crime or any other crime that could result in imprisonment or a significant fine by any branch of the United States government, military or civilian, that accused should not be denied the right to legal counsel. If any such accused cannot afford to procure a lawyer, an attorney should be provided to that accused by and at the expense of the United States government. The right to counsel should commence from the moment the accused is taken into custody and last until the final disposition of the case.

**Stop Hate Crimes.** Safeguard the rights of all persons to be protected against any type of hate crime. Vigorously support legislation that adds violence committed against people because of their sexual orientation, gender or disability to the list of Federal hate crimes and expand coverage beyond “federally protected” activities. Ensure protection from the violence and harassment directed at family planning and/or abortion clinics. Support Democratic hate crime initiative(s) to expand involvement of FBI and other Justice Department personnel to combat hate crimes. Hate crimes must be aggressively prosecuted and criminal penalties need to be increased. Support financial relief for victims of hate crimes. Encourage intensified educational efforts early in school to promote acceptance of diversity.

**Treatment and Accountability Programs.** California now has one of the highest rates among states and nations for the incarceration of its citizens. Jail and prison cells are expensive and should be reserved for the violent offenders who threaten law-abiding citizens. We

1 encourage greater resources for probation supervision services, treatment and rehabilitation programs and juvenile community supervision  
2 services in order to restore offenders to a productive capacity in society.  
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4 **Juvenile Justice.** Treating juvenile offenders as adults may condemn many young people to a future without constructive options. The  
5 juvenile justice system, as much as is practical, should strive for rehabilitation, education and counseling necessary to help young people  
6 transition back into the community.  
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8 **Prison Reform.** Reform California's correctional systems to better prepare inmates to be paroled into our communities safer, more  
9 productive and less likely to re-offend. Our corrections system must be built on three foundations: prevention, punishment and rehabilitation.  
10 While never reducing our commitment to punish the guilty for their crimes, we must prevent new crimes by giving inmates the skills,  
11 treatment (especially for substance abuse) and education necessary to successfully reintegrate into our society. People in our state's  
12 prisons should be free from violence. The Department of Corrections should make every effort to make sure that no one incarcerated in our  
13 state prison system is in jeopardy of physical violence. Also society will benefit if there is diagnosis and treatment of mental illness among  
14 those incarcerated.  
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## 16 ■ CULTURE AND THE ARTS

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18 "In the long history of man, countless empires and nations have come and gone. Those who created no lasting works of art were reduced to  
19 short footnotes in history's catalog. Art is a nation's most precious heritage, for it is in our works of art that we reveal to ourselves and to  
20 others the inner vision that guides us as a Nation. And where there is no vision, the people perish." These words, spoken by former  
21 President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965, are a mandate to preserve and protect our past while providing vision for a future unlimited in its  
22 artistic resources and creativity. We must not allow our "nation's most precious heritage" to become impoverished through reactionary  
23 legislation or lack of funding.  
24

25 California Democrats believe that art is an intrinsic part of our heritage, one that delights, enlightens and sustains us throughout our lives.  
26 Art provides avenues for expressing the joy of good times and the sorrow of hard times. We are committed to public support of the arts and  
27 the extensions of that commitment especially during the unstable economic times in which we live. In budget cuts we support across-the-  
28 board cuts rather than the usual "arts first."  
29

30 **NEA and NEH.** Fully fund the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities free from partisan political  
31 influence and with guaranteed freedom of speech. National support for the arts enriches our country, promotes individual expression and  
32 stimulates cultural growth. Our government agencies should involve artists and cultural workers in planning processes, programs and  
33 activities.  
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35 **Education.** Support efforts to return fine arts and humanities programs to teaching curriculums at all educational levels. Actively support  
36 legislation to fund and staff these programs. The arts tend to be the last curriculum funded and the first to be cut in an economic downturn.  
37 The cuts hinder growth and outreach to underserved communities, especially children and the poor. Special attention should be focused on  
38 integrating disability art and culture into the artistic and cultural mainstream. Introduce culture and arts to our diverse communities.  
39 Reinstate the humanizing influence of the "Arts in Corrections" programs in California prisons, and teach appreciation and tolerance for the  
40 values, beliefs and artistic expression of all heritages and cultures.  
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42 **Public Broadcasting.** Affirm our strong commitment to multi-media public broadcasting – an invaluable artistic and educational forum for  
43 all. Promote licensing of low-power FM radio to allow low-income and other marginalized populations the right to participate on the public  
44 airways. Community-based public radio should encourage free speech, reflect the diverse points of view of its listeners and be accountable  
45 to that community. Support continued vigilance against those who advocate changes in FCC rules to merge large media corporations.  
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47 **Funding.** Art funding is a sound investment in our economy and our culture. The non-profit arts in California are a \$16 billion industry. We  
48 must broaden the existing funding base by encouraging individual and corporate private sector grants to augment public monies. We should  
49 support the California Association of Museums with its emphasis on education and reinstate the drastically reduced California Arts Council  
50 budget, now less than one three-hundredth of one percent of the state budget. The California Arts Council provides fine community-based  
51 programs. We should utilize the clearinghouse capacity of the Council to improve the infrastructure of California with major facility grants to  
52 the Council and technical assistance throughout the state. Support increased grants for underfunded arts programs, independent artisans  
53 and performers statewide.  
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55 **Artists' Rights.** Support freedom of expression without compromise. Each artist's creative endeavors must be protected from unauthorized  
56 duplication and appropriation. Include labor representatives from the arts community in state and federal arts funding agencies.  
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58 **Native Culture.** California is a dynamic and culturally diverse state with a rich history of people of various racial, ethnic and religious  
59 backgrounds, whose history is our heritage. The cultural awareness and education of the diversity of its citizens, past and present, must be  
60 recognized and celebrated. As Democrats we support the pride, strength and spirit of the Indian people who have refused to give up their  
61 ancestral roots. Their cultural and artistic history must be included in the recognition and education process. California Indians, Native

1 Americans and indigenous people continue to revere the core cultural principles of freedom, justice, patriotism and representative  
2 government. They are eager to share their rich cultural and historical knowledge with others. Encourage the honest portrayal of the culture  
3 and history of the California Indian, Native American and other indigenous people. Improved public knowledge about the California Native  
4 Indian culture will aid in the appreciation and tolerance for the values, beliefs and artistic expression of all heritages and cultures. Cultural  
5 diversity is the core of our nation's strength and is what helped build this state and the Democratic Party.  
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## 7 ■ DISABILITIES (New Plank for 2004)

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9 Individuals with disabilities are valuable members of our society. The goals of the disabled community and such laws and regulations  
10 impacting them are to foster and support the ability of people with disabilities to be self-sufficient members of our society. The California  
11 Democratic Party advocates the strict enforcement of all Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Federal Disability laws and regulations as  
12 well as state regulations and access laws. Enforcement and implementation funding is prerequisite to ensuring access to every person in  
13 need. We strongly oppose any reduction in Social Security Disability Income, Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Programs  
14 or Federal Social Security Disability Income. As such we express continuing support for the following:  
15

16 **Accessibility.** Enforce all Federal and State laws, building and access codes pertaining to persons with disabilities. Promote legislation for  
17 programs guaranteeing full participation in academia. Require and support full enforcement of reasonable accommodations for persons with  
18 disabilities.  
19

20 **Children.** Support early diagnosis and access to treatment, and adequate homecare support for children with disabilities.  
21

22 **Communication/Outreach.** To ensure greater participation of persons with disabilities, fund and improve existing means of  
23 communications by increasing the use of audio and video teleconferences, Braille and multi-accessible formats, including meetings in  
24 accessible buildings and facilities. Participate in and enforce the Help America Vote Act. Support and promote the development of Young  
25 Democrats with disabilities within clubs and on college campuses.  
26

27 **Education/Training.** Restore funding for interpreters, note-takers, adaptive technology and other classroom aids assisting persons with  
28 disabilities. Support enforcement guaranteeing adequate funding to assure ADA compliant access to all adaptive equipment and accessible  
29 infrastructure, services and programs within all schools and colleges. Promote specialized training, including education in communications  
30 skills, for vocational rehabilitation counselors providing services to individuals with disabilities. Fully restore the Individuals with Disabilities  
31 Education Act.  
32

33 **Employment.** Enact economic reforms for persons with disabilities including work incentives to improve employment opportunities. Support  
34 programs that will increase employment of disabled persons to a rate explicitly comparable to the employment ratio of the broader adult  
35 population. Eliminate work disincentives that penalize beneficiaries of Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability  
36 Insurance who return to work. Promote alternative forms of employment for persons with disabilities who cannot work standard 8-hour  
37 workdays or 5-day workweeks due to health limitations or insufficient transportation. Affirm the rights of persons with disabilities to develop  
38 independent entrepreneurial, professional and related employment goals without fear of loss or reprisal. Ensure security for employed  
39 persons with disabilities against penalties by state-funded/county-administered programs when striving toward gainful employment.  
40

41 **Equality of Opportunity.** Guarantee that persons with disabilities have full access to all aspects of public and private sectors by  
42 aggressively implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act and related Federal and State laws. Contest all challenges, legislative and  
43 judicial, to State and Federal disability rights laws. Enact a California Sovereign Immunity Waiver and a California ADA. Challenge all 90-day  
44 notification laws. Champion certification legislation supporting programs for ADA experts and enforcement authorities. Promote alternative  
45 processes of participation within community committees, legislative and government boards. Include participative opportunities on  
46 committees for persons with disabilities regardless of access and transportation limitations. Eliminate marriage penalties imposed upon SSI  
47 and SSDI recipients, including discrimination based over and upon marriage/income parameters. Promote programs providing financial aide  
48 or loans for accessible housing and durable medical equipment and accessible vehicle purchases. Vigorously oppose the confirmation of  
49 Federal judicial appointees whose records show they are philosophically committed to the effective dismantling of the ADA and other civil  
50 rights laws.  
51

52 **Healthcare.** End discriminatory policies and practices in the health care field, including those for socio-economic reasons. Discrimination  
53 prevents equality of opportunity for disabled persons. Allow individuals with disabilities to continue to receive SSI/SSDI-based medical  
54 benefits when their employers do not provide health insurance. Eliminate limitations or denial of medical insurance coverage contingent  
55 upon pre-existing conditions. Change the current standards to provide durable medical equipment, improving the integration of disabled  
56 persons into wider society. Eliminate reliance on low bidder approach to guarantee equipment meeting the needs of the person. Abolish  
57 "Homebound" Medicaid rules. Enhance access to new medical equipment and technology. End denial of physical therapy to those with  
58 disabilities by lifting the maintenance restrictions. Provide full disclosure of the care a person with disabilities may or may not receive.  
59 Guarantee palliative care notwithstanding cost of insurance or lack thereof. Provide prescription drug Medicare benefits. Support and  
60 promote legislation to impart medical and prescription drug coverage to all Americans. Expand medical and mental health services to meet  
61 the needs of rural communities. Guarantee continuity of care through affordable, permanent, quality-based transferable health care benefits.

1 Include choice of providers, dental care, full reproductive health services, long-term care (such as palliative care) for the chronically ill,  
2 preventive services, prescription drugs and mental health counseling and treatment. Amplify and enforce the principle of informed choice.  
3

4 **Housing / Independent Living.** Eliminate housing discrimination that penalizes or denies persons with disabilities the right to  
5 interdependence through shared housing with a spouse or significant other. Support legislation that ensures cost of living increases are  
6 adjusted matching HUD increases and void of stricture. Fully implement requirements for low income and accessible housing required by  
7 law and develop penalties for non-compliant municipalities.  
8

9 **In-Home Support Services.** Expand and strengthen services including provisions for respite care and for in-home support services.  
10 Increase state funding to provide adequate reimbursement to health care providers at a living wage level that is appropriate to a specific  
11 region served. Provide for adequate background checks of in-home support service providers of care prior to licensure. Support federal  
12 legislation for development of a national in-home support services system.  
13

14 **Transportation.** Persons with disabilities work non standard times, holidays and weekends, attend night school, civic and government  
15 meetings and participate in society. We endorse equality of opportunity legislation to assure transportation availability providing for the full  
16 integration of individuals with disabilities independent of the restriction of matching public transit schedules. Enhancement of mobility and full  
17 integration by enforcement of transit laws and regulations that expand access, including adequate public funding to support effective and  
18 efficient para-transit services, encourage the design and development of added user-friendly vehicles for the disabled. Enforce laws and  
19 regulations pertaining to para-transit, public transit and taxis. Promote legislation to require para-transit to provide services that cross county  
20 lines. Penalize companies that deny services to persons using mobility devices.  
21

## 22 ■ EDUCATION

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23  
24 Education is the key to acquiring economic security, developing individual freedom and restoring community hope. The California  
25 Democratic Party believes that all people are entitled to a free/affordable, quality public education that enables them to achieve their highest  
26 potential. We must strengthen the public education system from pre-school through post-secondary levels in order to prepare future  
27 generations to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Federally mandated educational standards and programs, i.e. "No Child Left  
28 Behind," must be fully funded.  
29

30 California public schoolchildren speak over 100 languages and are the products of as many cultures including indigenous cultures. Our  
31 schools must provide academic settings that enhance and preserve culture, diversity and language. Though each child should be proficient  
32 in English, no one should deny the right of a child to have linkage to his/her culture of origin. Our schools must be in full compliance with  
33 federal and state laws that guarantee all children and young adults the right to equal opportunities in education.  
34

35 California was once unsurpassed in the quality and quantity of educational opportunities because of its commitment to the goals, access,  
36 affordability and quality of the Master Plan for Education. By re-ordering our educational priorities and by increasing funding for education,  
37 our state education system can rise from its current low ranking to its former leadership role in the nation. Community Colleges and  
38 California State Universities that offer educational opportunities to Californian's underserved population should receive a higher priority in  
39 funding to meet the educational needs of students who attend.  
40

41 California Democrats specifically endorse the following:  
42

43 **Educational Opportunity.** Diversity must remain a vital criterion in the selection of students for admission to the University of California and  
44 the California State Colleges and Universities. To increase educational opportunities we must enact progressive and creative programs that  
45 assist in the development of broad and inclusive admission policies through which our publicly supported colleges and universities reflect the  
46 economic, ethnic, gender and social diversity of California. We should offer students from varied racial and socio-economic backgrounds  
47 from all of our state's high schools the opportunity to be admitted to California's State Colleges and Universities and to the University of  
48 California.  
49

50 **Faculty.** As the cornerstone of the educational process, we must pay faculty competitive wages that reflect their true value to society and  
51 empower them to maintain a safe and disciplined teaching environment without fear of retaliation. Encourage faculty to strengthen their  
52 knowledge and skills through staff development programs and internships. Implement mentoring, recruitment, tuition support and/or  
53 incentive programs to attract students into the teaching profession. Provide in-service programs to educate all school employees in the skills  
54 they need to enhance the education of every student.  
55

56 **College Affordability.** Education is the key to success and prosperity. It is the wisest investment we can make in the future of our nation  
57 and generations to come. Access to adequate financial aid and affordable quality public college education is essential in order to provide  
58 equal educational opportunities for students. We strongly support increasing higher education funding in the forms of Cal Grants and other  
59 state-level financial aid programs to help ensure that no one is denied the opportunity to attend college because of the inability to afford. We  
60 strongly support all efforts to keep tuition fees of higher education institutions at an affordable level, provide greater funding for community  
61 colleges to allow everyone who wants an education the opportunity to have one, and to allow these institutions of learning to better meet the

1 needs for training/re-training people for the work place. We support maintaining local control of community colleges to ensure quality and  
2 diversity and expanding public-private partnerships to increase learning and employment opportunities as well as to enhance scholarship  
3 and loan programs to enable all Californians the opportunity to learn.  
4

5 **Funding.** We support adequate, long-term funding to accommodate California's accelerating student enrollment, especially students from  
6 disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. Vouchers are not the answer. Rather, we must invest in all segments of our educational  
7 system to improve educational opportunities in pre-school, elementary schools, community colleges, vocational institutions, state colleges  
8 and universities and the University of California. Establish fully funded universal pre-school programs to enhance future learning capabilities  
9 of children. Establish a long-term system of funding for desperately needed remodeling and replacing of current structures in all school  
10 districts across California.  
11

12 **Parental Responsibility.** We must engage all segments of the community in the dynamic process of education: encourage parents to take  
13 active roles in their children's education and assist the schools by teaching through example, supervising homework, attending  
14 parent/teacher conferences, encouraging children to read and providing a good learning environment; provide information to parents to  
15 heighten their awareness of their public education options, including bilingual academic programs, magnet schools, immersion schools and  
16 school district charter schools, in order to best accommodate the learning skills of their children; establish community-wide parenting  
17 education.  
18

19 **Quality of Education.** While meeting social challenges we support comprehensive educational programs that indicate a commitment to  
20 high educational standards for all students: design curriculum to encourage students to become "citizens of the world;" craft programs to  
21 enhance language ability; support full access for students with disabilities, including financial support for the use of assistants in the  
22 classroom (as further discussed in the Disabilities plank); design educational programs that indicate a commitment to high educational  
23 standards for all students while involving all constituents in the design and implementation; encourage the use of community service within  
24 the curriculum to enhance character-building skills; establish relevant academic and vocational curricula that allow student options and that  
25 reflect current technological advances; give conflict-resolution, critical-thinking and problem-solving lessons to all students; expand programs  
26 that teach cultural awareness, respect for diversity and tolerance; preserve the diversity of cultures represented by students; incorporate  
27 courses that accurately reflect the contributions of California Indians; promote mentoring and peer education programs to assure student  
28 success; provide all middle and high school students with access to honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses; replace and modernize  
29 outdated equipment and facilities by computerizing and linking schools with the Internet; teach foreign languages beginning in elementary  
30 school so young people can meet the challenges of the international community; emphasize awareness of language and cultures of the  
31 world's populations; provide full funding for art, drama, music, and other cultural activities; expand efforts to assist new immigrant students  
32 with limited English abilities in schools; support the education of civic responsibility in schools that stress the importance of individual  
33 participation in a democratic society; and expand programs that enhance civic conscience and encourage political involvement by supporting  
34 political internship and volunteer programs sponsored by government offices, political campaigns and the California Young Democrats that  
35 aim to increase political and civic engagement opportunities for students.  
36

37 **School Safety.** All students, faculty, and staff members must be safe from drugs, violence, weapons and environmental hazards. Drugs  
38 and weapons have no place in our schools. We must enforce the California Occupational Safety and Health Act (Cal-OSHA) safety  
39 standards. Guarantee a secure environment that leads to more productive learning, including the physical campus environment as part of a  
40 comprehensive safety program, and develop or rebuild new school facilities that will comply with accessibility, health and safety standards as  
41 well as enhance the learning environment.  
42

43 **Student Well-Being.** Successfully accomplished in grades K-3, class size reduction must be eventually expanded and fully funded to  
44 include all grades K-12. Early warning programs should be established as well as on-site supportive services to successfully address the  
45 various causes that place children at risk and ultimately lead to dropouts. When students are emotionally and mentally healthy and have  
46 reached their highest possible well being, learning is best accomplished. Regardless of gender, national origin, race, religious preference or  
47 sexual orientation, each student must have access to adequate health care, including psychological counseling and other social services in  
48 order to enhance their learning capabilities. Fully fund programs for the profoundly mentally-handicapped, and special education programs  
49 for the teachable mentally-handicapped.  
50

## 51 ■ ENVIRONMENT

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52  
53 Environmental justice, restoration and enhancement must be integral components of our environmental policy. We believe that government  
54 must do more than maintain the status quo. Although much has been done to restore and enhance the environment under Democratic  
55 leadership in Sacramento, significant environmental degradation continues to occur locally and with the advent of a Republican  
56 administration the environment is further threatened. Environmental degradation jeopardizes the beauty of our landscape, the health of our  
57 people, the vitality and even the safety and security of our nation. We must leave our children a better heritage than polluted air and waters,  
58 misused and damaged land and threatened coasts. We must revamp tax policies that provide direct and indirect subsidies to the most  
59 polluting and extractive industries. Instead we must use tax incentives to help create a sustainable and non-polluting future for California and  
60 the world. We must further encourage governmental and industrial support for environmental education programs at all academic levels,  
61 including urban, low-income schools.

1  
2 A model for successful environmental protection and enhancement exists today in California. Under the administration of Governor Gray  
3 Davis and the Democratic leadership in the State Senate and State Assembly, we achieved significant progress in the areas of coastal  
4 protection, improving air and water quality, saving old growth forests, improving the state's effective Bottle Bill and establishing a recycling  
5 program for toxic electronic waste and many other issues that had remained dormant during 16 years of Republican administrations.  
6

7 Now, despite the new Republican administration, we must protect all our hard-won victories and closely monitor all appointments to state  
8 agencies and departments where environmental protection regulations can be altered or even ignored. This is especially true for  
9 appointments to boards and commissions such as the Coastal Commission, the Integrated Waste Management Board and the Board of  
10 Forestry.  
11

12 We must not allow the tragic events of September 11<sup>th</sup> to be used to weaken environmental laws under the guise of "national security." For  
13 example, we strongly oppose drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (or any area set aside for protection) and we reconfirm our  
14 commitment to prevent any new drilling off our coasts. The way to support and advance energy independence is through alternative, non-  
15 polluting renewable energy sources. We support policies that protect California's environmental laws from the Bush administration's efforts  
16 to weaken national environmental protections.  
17

18 We reject radical Republican attempts to weaken or relax hard-won environmental and regulatory reform. We also oppose Congressional  
19 riders that exempt resource extraction projects from federal and state environmental laws. We have a commitment to increased  
20 conservation and environmental restoration for the preservation of California's invaluable natural resources, wildlife, plants and animals.  
21

22 **A Healthy Environment Creates Jobs.** California Democrats believe in:

- 23 1) adoption of a sound and progressive energy policy that will create jobs now and into the future through research and industrial  
24 development of non-fossil fuels;
- 25 2) adoption of sustained yield approaches to the development of natural and agricultural resources;
- 26 3) regulation of the environment to protect the health of workers, thus reducing employee health care costs, medical expenses and  
27 absenteeism;
- 28 4) recycling materials to preserve resources while providing jobs in the recycling and remanufacturing industries; and
- 29 5) protection of California's environment and cultural resources, thus enhancing tourism, a major provider of jobs.  
30

31  
32 **Natural Resources.** The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is the major legal tool for protecting California's environment. We  
33 support full implementation and enforcement of CEQA principles in order to protect the state's natural and cultural resources, including  
34 historical and archaeological sites and strongly oppose efforts to undermine it through legislation or regulation.  
35

36 **California Coast.** Support strengthening California's pioneering coastal protection program by revising outdated local coastal programs,  
37 implementing the State's polluted runoff protection plan and preserving the integrity of the coastal act by defending the California Coastal  
38 Commission and the process for appointment of coastal commissioners. Permanently ban all offshore oil and gas drilling along the  
39 California Coast. Establish and enforce marine protected areas to restore and protect coastal fish species. Expand coastal public access  
40 and recreational opportunities by additional funding to develop, open, operate and maintain new coastal public access, the acquisition of  
41 coastal parklands and development of the California Coastal trail. Protect and restore coastal wetlands and other environmentally sensitive  
42 habitat areas. Implement a comprehensive shoreline erosion program that encourages beach sand replenishment and the avoidance of  
43 hard structures. Clean up toxic hot spots. Support the establishment of a Northern California Coast Wild Heritage Wilderness region and  
44 explore the idea of establishing other ocean wilderness areas.  
45

46 **Forests.** Support extensive reforestation efforts throughout our state. Reforestation must include planting diverse species to maintain  
47 habitats for birds and wildlife. End the cutting of ancient coastal redwood and Douglas-Fir and inland sequoia, fir, pine and cedar trees and  
48 allow only select cutting of second-growth trees. Require true sustained yield in our forests to ensure future employment while guaranteeing  
49 environmental protection. Require that trees taken from national forests by logging companies be paid for at no less than current market  
50 rates. Enforce and expand, where necessary, timber harvest buffer zones along watersheds. Export only finished lumber to ensure a stable  
51 forest and wood-products industry and to protect jobs. Oppose the Bush administration's court settlement that forbids the Department of  
52 Interior from considering any of their lands for wilderness designation, including in the Headwaters Preserve. Oppose bills that would  
53 change existing forestry laws to allow issuance of long-term harvesting permits of unlimited size for long periods of time. Continue to oppose  
54 the abuse of the salvage logging definition, which currently includes all trees that may become diseased or die. In order to prevent wildfires  
55 require clearing of brush and removal of debris after the cutting of all trees that may become diseased or die. Fine those logging companies  
56 that do not provide clearing of brush and removal of debris after the cutting of trees in order to provide for such clearing and removal of  
57 debris. Oppose herbicide use in forests in order to protect biodiversity and water systems and support manual conifer release or other non-  
58 toxic alternative control methods to clear competing vegetation. Oppose attempts by the Bush administration and the timber industry to  
59 overturn or severely weaken the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, including their attempts to exempt national forests in Alaska from this  
60 rule. Support the scientifically based Sierra Nevada Forest Plan to guide management of 11 national forests and jurisdictions in the Sierra  
61 region, and oppose the Bush administration's amendments which would increase logging and pose serious threats to the quality of our

1 forests, wildlife habitat and watersheds. Because we have lost over 700,000 acres of our state's unprotected wilderness in the past 20  
2 years, it is imperative to further protect wilderness areas in the national forest service lands of California.  
3

4 **Mining, Drilling and Grazing.** Reform and enforce laws governing mining, drilling and grazing practices to ensure that such operations are  
5 carried out in accordance with sound environmental principles. Mining, drilling and grazing fees should fully compensate for all  
6 environmental degradation and never be less than market value. Mining regulatory reform should prohibit private purchase of public land for  
7 mineral extraction and give land managers discretion to deny mining permits where other uses are deemed to be of higher priority, and  
8 provide for funding of abandoned mine reclamation from royalty revenues.  
9

10 **Desert.** Enforce and adequately fund laws that protect the fragile desert ecosystem, including desert tortoise habitat, from use as a dumping  
11 ground and from other exploitation. We oppose nuclear waste storage and disposal in the desert. Military bases that are closed but are not  
12 converted to civilian uses must have nuclear waste containment and cleanup. All nuclear waste threatens California water tables with  
13 nuclear contamination.  
14

15 **Water Resources and Habitats.** California fisheries provide wholesome food and contribute significantly to our state's economy. Preserve  
16 and rehabilitate streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and estuaries so that they can again produce an abundance of healthy fish. End untreated  
17 wastewater discharge. Encourage tertiary treatment and the use of reclaimed water for irrigation and groundwater recharge uses. Release  
18 adequate water supplies from dams at appropriate times to provide the necessary temperatures for salmon and other aquatic life  
19 propagation including native fish populations in the Klamath River. Prohibit commercialization and experimentation with genetically modified  
20 fish in California since accidental releases are possible, which could decimate native fish populations. While long-term environmental  
21 rehabilitation is underway, employ the fishing community to restore habitat. Protect and restore wetlands -- they provide wildlife habitat,  
22 contribute to flood and erosion controls and replenish groundwater. Support sustainability of groundwater resources; empower the State  
23 Water Resources Control Board with groundwater preservation authority. Continue to provide adequate funding to achieve the goals of  
24 President Clinton's Lake Tahoe Summit. Oppose the building of a dam on the American River and support the building of reservoirs in areas  
25 receiving the water for use in homes, businesses and agriculture. Support other effective flood control methods for the Sacramento region.  
26 Require the cleanup of leakage of MTBE from service station tanks and equipment. Require oil companies to achieve the elimination of  
27 MTBE with great urgency. California Democrats support the ongoing CalFed process and urge all parties to continue to work together to  
28 achieve a fair solution that protects the environment, agricultural, residential and industrial needs for water.  
29

30 Another environmental concern is the continuing battle among interest groups over water rights. As a population-rich state California must  
31 secure, via equitable and fair bilateral treaty with Mexico or regional agreements with Arizona, Nevada, and Oregon, an adequate supply of  
32 water to meet the needs of its people. We encourage water conservation and recycling and accurate pricing of water, given our limited  
33 supply.  
34

35 **Safe, Breathable Air.** Support laws that fairly and effectively regulate, eliminate and minimize air pollution in California. Air pollution causes  
36 damage to people's health, damage to agricultural crops and native ecosystems upon which we depend for our survival and results in a  
37 decline of our quality of life. Urge Air Quality Management Districts, especially in the most polluted areas in the state, to strictly enforce all  
38 federal and state air quality standards and end open burning in agricultural areas. Rapidly retrofit or phase out diesel trucks. Support zoning  
39 choices that encourage the location of schools and housing away from direct exposure to freeway air pollution.  
40

41 **Agriculture.** Support agriculture that conserves land and water, provides decent jobs and work environment for farm workers, sustains a  
42 healthy food supply for the nation and provides an economically viable way to preserve open space. Support California's organic food  
43 standards. Require labeling for all genetically altered food products. Develop incentives that encourage farmers to use conservation farming  
44 techniques and alternatives to toxic pesticides such as integrated pest management. Oppose aerial spraying of herbicides and insecticides.  
45 Fertilizers used on crops for human consumption should not contain toxic wastes.  
46

47 **Solid Waste & Recycling.** Design comprehensive recycling programs to reduce pollution. Reuse, conserve and reserve for future use  
48 existing natural resources in order to reduce the demand for landfills. Insist that local governments provide adequate buffer zones around  
49 landfills, as now required around hazardous waste disposal facilities. Hold federal, state and local governments accountable for source  
50 reduction and the responsible handling of waste; no government should be exempt from regulations designed to reduce waste streams from  
51 landfills or sewage treatment plants. Require local governments to offer comprehensive curbside recycling. Expand California's successful  
52 beverage recycling program to include wine and other alcohol containers. Impose advance disposal fees on packaged products. Create and  
53 expand markets for recycled products by providing revenue-neutral tax incentives that favor the use of recycled materials wherever possible.  
54 Require the state, local governments and school districts to purchase recycled paper and other products and to match, if not exceed, current  
55 federal government guidelines. Encourage the public to follow the same guidelines. Ensure toxic electronic waste in high-tech products  
56 such as computers and television sets is recycled, not exported to developing nations where workers and their families are exposed to  
57 dangerous environmental and public health risks. Support efforts to reduce plastic packaging and keep it out of the marine environment.  
58 Enforce laws and regulations for auto dismantlers to prevent oil and fluid runoff into waterways and the coastal environment.  
59

1 **Protect Endangered Animals and Plants.** Support the preservation and expansion of the Endangered Species Act. Species diversity is  
2 essential for maintaining whole ecosystems, and may well lead to a variety of presently unknown, but greatly beneficial future uses, such as  
3 medicines and food crops.  
4

5 **Parks.** Protect, expand and fully fund the national and state parks systems, including funds for bicycles and pedestrian trails. Support  
6 access and tax incentives to developers of land in outlying areas of cities and towns bordering city, county and state parks and recreation  
7 areas in order to encourage creation of greenbelts defensible against wildfires. Oppose inappropriate or excessive user fees that limit public  
8 access. Oppose situating dumps in or near county, state or federal parks. Support free day-use of state beaches to ensure compliance with  
9 the Coastal Act.  
10

## 11 **GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT**

12  
13 **Global Warming.** Support efforts to initiate, develop and undertake an international plan to set specific carbon dioxide reduction goals  
14 designed to stabilize the climate through soil, forest and energy programs that protect against global climate change. Impose an immediate  
15 ban on the manufacture, distribution or sale of all ozone-depleting chemicals and their related products, other than those absolutely essential  
16 for pharmaceutical uses. In light of the Bush administration's inappropriate response to its own EPA's global warming study, expand  
17 California's efforts to reduce greenhouse gasses and fully support California's groundbreaking legislation to reduce auto emissions.  
18

19 **Trade.** Enforce the health, safety and environmental protection mechanisms in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the  
20 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and in other applicable trade agreements. Include and enforce such mechanisms in all  
21 future trade agreements and support appropriate amendment to existing trade agreements to prevent the weakening of federal, state or local  
22 environmental protections, or the use of trade agreements as an excuse for environmental degradation. (See the section entitled "Restore  
23 America's Economic Leadership" in the World Peace and International Relations Plank.) Use trade agreements to encourage our trading  
24 partners to improve environmental conditions in their own countries. In NAFTA appoint persons who are committed to environmental  
25 conservation and restoration practices to the Environmental Commissions created by the "side agreements" and demand that our treaty  
26 partners do the same. Establish and maintain a wildlife corridor from Mexico to Canada for wildlife migration. Require that international  
27 development projects undergo the equivalent of the CEQA process before expending U.S. financial aid. NAFTA Chapter 11 currently gives  
28 foreign corporations more rights than U.S. citizens by allowing them to claim that a state has expropriated or "taken" their property, including  
29 all expected future profits, simply by passing laws or rendering unfavorable court decisions. Chapter 11 should be renegotiated and should  
30 not be considered a model for any future treaties.  
31

32 **World Trade Organization.** Use our membership in the World Trade Organization to espouse strong environmental protections and strong  
33 labor standards.  
34

## 35 **ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION**

36 California Democrats oppose any and all legislation that allows a degradation of our environment in exchange for the promise of cheap  
37 energy, including exemptions from CEQA standards. Energy is vital to our economy and our quality of life. The State of California should  
38 adopt a holistic approach to energy under which its generation and consumption are considered in all decisions, whether regarding  
39 transportation of people and goods, or in design and construction and maintenance of our communities and of our industrial and service  
40 sector capabilities, from software to heavy industry. Clean energy, co-generation and distributed generation are all achievable and offer  
41 significant benefits. Criteria for "Green Buildings" have been developed. Home designs that exceed the requirements of Title 24 by 10% and  
42 even 20% have been achieved economically.  
43

44 Our thirst for energy has resulted in almost total reliance upon imported oil and gas -- a situation which leaves us vulnerable to crippling  
45 shortages and escalating, uncontrolled costs. These dependencies distort our foreign policies and result in dependence upon unstable and  
46 undemocratic regimes and even major commitments of military forces. We unnecessarily become a part of conflicts instead of assuming our  
47 proper role of respected mediators.  
48

49 Our refusal to abide by the Kyoto protocol or even to provide a (promised) equivalent methodology to reduce production of greenhouse  
50 gases has aroused worldwide resentment and prevented us from participating fully in the emerging markets for clean technologies. Joining  
51 the Kyoto community of nations will result in long-range economic benefits.  
52

53 California has often led the nation in achievements and this is an area which cries out for our leadership. We already lead the nation in  
54 energy production by renewable methods and efforts are underway to accelerate that effort. The State has defined and is implementing an  
55 Energy Action Plan which should be aggressively pursued. Its goals are to:  
56

- 57 • Meet California's energy growth needs while optimizing energy conservation and resource efficiency and reducing per capita  
58 electricity demand;
- 59 • Ensure reliable, affordable and high quality power supply for all who need it in all regions of the state by building sufficient new  
60 generation;  
61

- Upgrade and expand the electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure and reduce the time before needed facilities are brought on line;
- Promote customer and utility owned distributed generation;
- Ensure a reliable supply of reasonably priced natural gas;
- Demand that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission assess fair and just reparations from energy companies that manipulated and gamed California's spot market during the energy crisis, resulting in losses to California energy consumers of billions of dollars.

Our policies should include incentives for renewable and non-polluting energy sources, expanded use of mass transit and removal of direct and indirect federal government subsidies and special immunities for the fossil fuel and nuclear power industries. Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by using renewable, non-polluting resources.

**Fuels.** Support implementation of upgraded energy standards for new automobiles, establishment of comparable fuel efficiency standards for new light trucks, SUV's and vans and reinstatement of mandatory energy efficiency standards for new construction. Transition to non-carbon fuels should be encouraged. Natural gas is a first step but shortages and dependence upon imports is predicted. Support price regulation of propane in household use. Domestic biofuels should be encouraged. Hydrogen is the world's most abundant fuel and the transition to a hydrogen infrastructure using the European Union model of renewable energy can be achieved in approximately ten years.

Whereas hydrogen fuel cell power for transportation and co-generation is a long-term goal, high fuel-cell costs are currently a roadblock. However, internal combustion engines can easily be modified to burn hydrogen or even both hydrogen and gasoline, and extremely low-emission hydrogen-hybrid autos, SUV's, trucks and buses can be procured within a very few years. The State should buy more very-low emission vehicles and establish a policy of having at least 10% of its automobile fleet as hydrogen-hybrid vehicles within five years. Gasoline-hybrid vehicles are popular now and more will be available each year; they should be encouraged.

Focus public spending for transportation on repair, maintenance and safety upgrades to the existing transportation infrastructure. Community planning should support the expansion and efficient interconnection of public rail and bus systems and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. In long range planning consider innovative technologies such as personal rapid transit systems which are now in demonstration trials.

**Community & Regional Planning.** Support comprehensive planning to more effectively manage the pressing issues of air quality, solid waste, transportation and land use as a necessary step to protect open spaces, agricultural lands, park lands, watersheds and other environmental areas that cross city, county, state and national boundaries. Support sustainable development practices and improved plans that acknowledge the link between transportation and land use patterns. Prevent suburban sprawl from invading agricultural lands and encroaching on cultural resources. Encourage commercial development in existing downtown areas. Decrease the dependence of local governments on sales tax revenue, a leading cause of sprawl inducing regional mall development, by providing a stable source of revenue for local governments.

**Nuclear Waste.** Existing nuclear waste should be disposed of only with the express approval of the residents of the area where the dumping would take place. Support the enforcement of the prohibition against the dumping of nuclear waste at municipal dumps.

## **POPULATION, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**Family Planning.** Support federal funding for family planning and education here and abroad in recognition of the impact the individual has upon the environment and natural resources.

**Regulations.** Adopt an environmental policy that favors protection over remediation; simplify, but do not weaken, environmental regulations. Consistently oppose any transfer of liability from polluters to taxpayers.

**Toxins.** Eliminate the use of pesticides, herbicides and other agricultural chemicals harmful to farm workers, the environment or food production. Assess the risks of toxins on the basis of the most vulnerable - children - and work to reduce those risks. Support increased funding for the development of non-toxic alternatives. Advocate aggressively for responsible toxic waste disposal practices. Support the goals of Proposition 65 (Toxic Chemical Labeling Initiative). Urge corporations to assume responsibility for cleanup of their toxic wastes and the immediate cleanup of toxins in ground water. In those cases where military bases have been designated for conversion to civilian use, the military should pay the cost of clean up.

**Ecology and Industry.** Encourage industry to develop life enhancing, rather than life destroying, products that do not deplete our resources. To reduce the use of water, land and fertilizers, develop alternative methods for producing paper, clothing, food and building supplies. Support alternative non-wood fibers for manufacturing paper, such as all annual bast fiber crops. Encourage the replacement of

1 environmentally and occupationally harmful technologies with clean production systems. Situate transformers and high voltage power lines  
2 far away from schools, libraries, public playgrounds and residential neighborhoods.

3  
4 **Smoking.** Permit and encourage local governments to enact greater limits on smoking than are required by state or federal laws, especially  
5 to discourage teen smoking.

## 6 **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

7  
8  
9 **Protect Disadvantaged Populations.** Adopt a national and international framework to address industrial practices and governmental  
10 policies that disproportionately and unfairly cause environmental harm to disadvantaged populations. All individuals have the right to be  
11 protected from environmental degradation, and at no time should low-income populations be forced to pay an unfair share of the cost of  
12 pollution. Incinerators, disposal facilities and waste treatment sites should not be placed among any people without their consent. Federal,  
13 state and local government agencies should ensure effective and thorough communication and education regarding existing and proposed  
14 toxic sites and dumps and development that could impact minority and poor communities.

15  
16 **Lead Poisoning.** Enact legislation to resolve the problem of lead poisoning in the inner cities. Fund lead poisoning remediation and  
17 medical assistance programs.

## 18 **■ EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY**

---

19  
20  
21 The California Democratic Party believes that all persons deserve the opportunity to fully participate in the economic, cultural, political and  
22 social facets of society. We take pride in and celebrate our diversity and work to foster the common values, visions and commitments that  
23 unite all people regardless of their age, cultural heritage, national origin, disability, socio-economic status, gender, race, sexual orientation or  
24 views on religion.

25  
26 Every issue in this platform is of concern to each one of us. Solutions to the following challenges depend on every one of us; we do not have  
27 an American to waste. The future of California and the United States is dependent upon our ability as people of diverse backgrounds to work  
28 together to build a future in which each of us, individually and collectively, has a vested interest. California Democrats unequivocally support  
29 diversity on all levels and an end to all discrimination in the public and private sectors. We adamantly oppose discrimination or harassment  
30 in the workplace in any form. We emphasize here only a few areas of concern with the understanding and reaffirmation that every segment  
31 of our population is included in every plank of this platform.

32  
33 California Democrats commit to the following:

34  
35 **Minority Groups.** Democrats find the display of symbols that promote hate and are demeaning towards any minority group (i.e. swastikas,  
36 Confederate flags, burning crosses) to be contrary to the goal of eliminating prejudice from our society. To the extent consistent with the  
37 First Amendment right of free expression, we encourage confining the presence of these symbols to history museums, a willing person's  
38 private property, art and public pageants or media.

39  
40 **Freedom of Conscience.** Recognize that the decision to accept or reject any religious belief is and should always remain a matter of  
41 individual conscience. Government should not bestow favoritism upon or withhold benefits from any person on the basis of their views on  
42 religion, nor contract benefits or services through any organization that predicates receipt of these benefits or services upon proselytization.

43  
44 **Immigrants.** The Democratic Party values every human labor endeavor and supports people's effort to improve their lives. We oppose  
45 many of the recent laws passed in the Republican Congress that unfavorably target immigrants and immigrant groups by abridging their legal  
46 rights and support restoring the cuts in Social Security, Medi-Care and Medi-Cal.

47  
48 **Native Americans.** Support tribal sovereignty and the rights and jurisdictions of California Native/Indian nations. Protect the Constitutional  
49 rights of Native Americans and the sovereign rights of Indian nations. Recognize the well-established rights of California Indian tribes to self-  
50 governance and to self-determination. Urge the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the federal government to recognize tribal nations not yet  
51 recognized in California. These are fundamental tribal and human rights that need no new interpretation by any Republican-inspired  
52 compact.

53  
54 **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People.** Affirm the right of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people to equal, dignified,  
55 respectful treatment and privacy, and the right to freedom from laws that criminalize private sexual conduct between consenting adults.  
56 Enact legislation prohibiting education, employment and housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Ensure  
57 the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people to serve in the armed forces without restriction. Affirm their right to equal legal  
58 recognition of their committed relationships, their right to become adoptive parents and their right to protection of their family units, and  
59 oppose any federal or state constitutional amendments that would abridge these rights.

1 **Socio-economic Opportunities.** Support the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well being, including food, clothing,  
2 housing and medical care. CalWORKS should support the concept of a living wage job with benefits for all workers, including CalWORKS  
3 (Welfare-to-Work) workers. Promote and support legislation on programs that will guarantee inclusive and adequate transportation systems  
4 for the poor and disabled. Promote and support legislation for affordable health care for all Californians.  
5

## 6 ■ HEALTH

---

7  
8 California Democrats believe that all persons should have unrestricted access to health care. We oppose all discrimination in access to  
9 health care coverage. We believe that health care issues should be determined by individual need, not by profit margins. We steadfastly  
10 oppose the movement to privatize Medi-Cal and Medicare.

11  
12 We must strengthen and expand programs to protect the health of all Californians. To address numerous warranted concerns about the  
13 quality and rising costs of health care and to ensure that all persons, regardless of status, have full economic and physical access to  
14 multilingual health care services, California Democrats support the following:  
15

16 **Access.** Curtail excessive documentation demands and paperwork. Eliminate “pre-existing conditions” rules. Grant tax relief for persons  
17 and families who seek to take care of their loved ones at home as-opposed to institutionalization. Take legal action against those who would  
18 compromise the privacy of medical records, including all persons with disabilities. Monitor the managed care system. Oppose mandated  
19 consent or notification for a minor’s pregnancy-related health care. Provide affordable, cost effective, long-term care health insurance.  
20

21 **AIDS/HIV.** Build successful congressional coalitions to provide adequate funding for AIDS/HIV legislation. Continue funding of AIDS/HIV  
22 management, prevention, research and treatment programs. Enhance outreach to persons of color and to women. Expand clinical drug  
23 trials and access to innovative treatments, such as protease inhibitors. Increase funding for research to effectuate a successful cure.  
24 Increase multicultural and multilingual educational programs to combat AIDS/HIV through prevention and treatment. Promote  
25 compassionate distribution of all AIDS/HIV medications. Provide confidential reproductive health care services and meaningful sex  
26 education in public schools as part of an all-out effort to halt and reverse the alarming increase of AIDS/HIV among teenagers.  
27

28 **Alzheimer’s Disease.** Allow more flexible use of Medicaid funding to pay for assisted living or board and care facilities. Guarantee  
29 comprehensive treatment, including mental health services for both the patient and close family members. Provide care in assisted  
30 community living or a safe hospital setting treatment program.  
31

32 **Clean Needle Exchange.** Lift the federal ban on clean needle exchanges. Provide a bridge through clean needle exchange to enhance  
33 substance abuse treatments and prevent the spread of HIV.  
34

35 **Comprehensive Care.** Develop a quality, patient-centered health care system that is defined by a person’s health care needs, not by a  
36 profit margin. Enact comprehensive universal health coverage. Expand medical and mental health services to meet the needs of all rural  
37 communities. Guarantee an affordable, comprehensive, continuous, permanent, quality-based, and transferable health care benefits  
38 package. Include choice of providers, dental care, full reproductive health services, long-term care (such as palliative care) for the  
39 chronically ill, preventive services, prescription drugs and mental health counseling and treatment. Increase funding for outpatient physical  
40 therapy and durable medical equipment for persons with disabilities. Make available options for alternative or traditional treatment.  
41 California Democrats support our legislative leadership in establishing a voluntary program for the issuance of medical marijuana  
42 identification cards to qualified patients in accordance with Proposition 215. Strengthen Medi-Cal and Medicare to ensure that at risk groups  
43 receive needed care such as doctors’ visits.  
44

45 **Curtailling Substance Abuse.** Coordinate and fund early intervention, education, follow-up services, improved access to rehabilitation  
46 programs, outreach, prevention and research for all persons.  
47

48 **Disease Research.** Develop an awareness campaign to reduce preventable diseases. Increase funding for federal and state disease  
49 research, including stem cell research. Expand prevention, research and treatment for cancer, heart disease and other diseases.  
50

51 **Emergency Medical and Mental Health Services.** Provide funding for necessary emergency medical and mental health services to  
52 effectively assist victims of human-made and natural disasters.  
53

54 **Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs).** Grant patients and their families the right to outside review of denials of care. Guarantee the  
55 right to a second opinion in the event decisions made by the HMO cause adverse health consequences. Provide effective incentives to  
56 HMOs to encourage them to continue to render services and/or re-establish medical and mental health services in rural areas. Regulate  
57 HMOs to the extent necessary to prevent abuses such as depriving patients of medically necessary care.  
58

59 **Hospital Repairs.** Support a statewide bond measure to raise money to ensure that each county has the hospital buildings and facilities  
60 needed to survive a major disaster.  
61

1 **Immunization Programs.** Fund vaccines for communicable diseases such as smallpox and anthrax. Support legislation to make  
2 immunization for all communicable diseases available and free of cost for those seeking immunizations.  
3

4 **Independent Living.** Affirm the rights of consumers to manage their attendant care and to serve as majority members of advisory boards or  
5 public authorities tasked with overseeing in-home support services. Develop and implement a consumer-directed, comprehensive health  
6 system dedicated to preserving independent living of persons with chronic and/or terminal illness, disabilities and in frail health. Provide  
7 adequate funding for appropriate, quality and safe neighborhood housing for those with mental health problems.  
8

9 **In-Home Support Services.** Include provisions for respite care and for in-home support services where needed. Increase state funding to  
10 provide better wages and benefits for minimum wage workers. Provide for adequate background checks of in-home support service  
11 professionals at time of licensure. Support federal legislation for development of a national in-home support services system.  
12

13 **Men's Health Services.** Promote importance of early discovery and treatment of heart disease, stroke and prostate cancer. Provide equal  
14 funds to research men's diseases and associated health risk factors.  
15

16 **Mental Health.** Affirm our commitment to educate the public about mental illness. Dispel through education the stigma associated with  
17 mental illness. Ensure that people with emotional and/or physical problems are not unnecessarily institutionalized. Increase funding for  
18 mental health programs and treatment. Professional intervention must prepare people to survive and thrive in the least restrictive setting.  
19

20 **Neurobiological Brain Disorders.** Affirm the human right to timely, appropriate, safe and compassionate medical care for persons with  
21 neurobiological brain disorders such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and Alzheimer's disease. Provide care in community assisted  
22 treatment programs and safe hospital settings. Affirm the right to support services for patients and their families, including respite support for  
23 caregivers.  
24

25 **Organ Donations.** Establish new, fair and innovative approaches to promote organ and tissue donations.  
26

27 **Prescription Drugs.** Fund an affordable prescription drug program guaranteed under Medicare.  
28

29 **Prosecution of Fraud.** Increase oversight and on-site inspections of health facilities. Vigorously prosecute public health care fraud,  
30 including Medicare fraud, with funding from recaptured taxpayer dollars that are in the Health Insurance Trust Fund.  
31

32 **Quality Care.** Oppose further monopolization of the health care industry. Provide adequate staffing ratios and public accountability.  
33 Strengthen the Patients' Bill of Rights. Strive to control costs, minimize inefficiency and waste without increasing current per capita total  
34 health care expenditures within the state. Value the continued existence of non-profit charitable hospitals.  
35

36 **Reducing Tobacco Usage.** Establish and provide economic assistance and development funds to encourage tobacco farmers, industry  
37 workers and their communities to develop viable alternatives to tobacco farming.  
38

39 **Rural Medical and Mental Health Services.** Expand programs to provide adequate medical and mental health services to Californians who  
40 reside in rural areas.  
41

42 **Skilled Nursing Homes.** Skilled nursing homes must provide cost-effective, individualized and quality-centered health care. Upgrade the  
43 quality of skilled nursing home care by providing educated and well-compensated personnel, increase staff-to-patient ratios, improving  
44 working conditions and imposing fines that render infractions unprofitable when facilities are cited for poor care.  
45

46 **Women's Health Services.** Democrats support city, county, state and federal funding to provide services for women, including: 1) a fair  
47 allocation of resources to women's health services; 2) early screening for breast cancer, heart disease, stroke; and 3) comprehensive  
48 reproductive health services, including birth control, abortion services, prenatal and well-baby care.  
49

#### 50 ■ **HOMELAND SECURITY (New Plank for 2004)**

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51 We must protect Americans by investing in homeland security and fighting terrorism, while making sure that civil rights and human rights are  
52 not compromised in the process. When engaging in international relations promote homeland security by being the standard bearers for  
53 international and domestic human rights, by promoting community and neighborhood understanding and unity and by speaking in a unified  
54 voice against hatred, racism and violence directed against ethnic and religious groups.  
55  
56

57 **Respond to the 9/11 Attacks.** Even after 2½ years since the horrific events of September 11, 2001, the nation still lacks a comprehensive  
58 National Homeland Security strategy to protect and prevent further terrorist attacks. Democrats proposed creating the Homeland Security  
59 Department and after many months, the Bush administration acquiesced; however, the job is not yet done. Democrats continue to strongly  
60 support the reform of entities responsible for homeland defense while continuing to review thoroughly the incidents that led to the tragic  
61 events of 9/11. We must review the findings and recommendations of the 9/11 Inquiry regarding what could have been done to prevent 9/11

1 and craft a comprehensive assessment to address all threats to American homeland security. We still owe the families truthful answers as to  
2 what led to 9/11, and we owe future generations the security of a safe and open society.  
3

4 **Promote Intelligence Reform.** Our intelligence community must become well organized to fight global terror and its domestic implications.  
5 Intelligence agencies must expand communications so that the 13 federal intelligence agencies share information related to terrorism with  
6 each other and appropriate law enforcement within Constitutionally appropriate limits. Intelligence activity must be separated from policy  
7 making. Secrecy classifications must be disciplined, based on sound procedures to protect sources and methods. The abuse of intelligence  
8 and the deceptions that were used to justify the war with Iraq must never happen again.  
9

10 **Aid First Responders.** We must provide full funding for front-line emergency responders: police, fire, public health and emergency  
11 workers. This includes major equipment needs, communications, training and personnel. Law enforcement agencies must have and be  
12 properly trained in the latest crime fighting technology. 911 centers must be upgraded and resources must be devoted to protecting our  
13 communities from biological, chemical and nuclear attacks, paying special attention to air and sea protection, customs, borders and ports. A  
14 secure system should be developed, in coordination with other nations, for profiling, inspecting, sealing, labeling and tracking all containers  
15 which will enter the US. In addition, sensitive gamma ray detectors should be deployed for use in ports and border crossings. This integrated  
16 approach must come in the form of public-private partnerships because 90% of our critical infrastructure is owned by the private sector,  
17 which has the technologies and systems needed for homeland security.  
18

19 **Protect Civil Liberties.** We must not allow intelligence failures to result in more government spying on the American people. As we protect  
20 and defend our country, we must also protect and defend the Bill of Rights, the Constitution and our cherished civil liberties therein.  
21

## 22 ■ IMMIGRATION

---

23 California is the most diverse state in the nation. California Democrats advocate an immigration policy that recognizes cultural diversity as  
24 the core of our nation's strength and promotes inclusion as a principal component in an effort to achieve individual excellence and national  
25 unity. We recognize and value the dignity of each person. We will fight to protect and to uphold the human rights of those who come across  
26 our borders and to our shores seeking freedom. As such we are committed to:  
27

28 **Access.** Support unrestricted access to immigrants' legal rights to education, food stamps, health care services, outreach and other  
29 assistance programs that allow upward mobility in our society.  
30

31 **BCIS Special Registrations.** Oppose the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services Special Registrations that target any immigrant  
32 community and threaten due process. Family separation, financial crisis and legal hardship, including deportation are inappropriate. Call for  
33 BCIS reform in processing applications for citizenship that are more than two years in arrears. Oppose increasing the fees for processing  
34 immigration forms until the backlog is completed. Oppose penalization of immigrants with BCIS citizenship applications caught in a backlog  
35 in the event they have had to move during the two-year wait or that their application check was written on a bank account that has changed.  
36 Condemn BCIS actions such as the beatings and high-speed chases that occur while patrolling the U.S.-Mexico border. Fully fund fees for  
37 processing application forms until the backlog is completed instead of funding nightly U.S.-Mexico border patrols.  
38  
39

40 **Civil Rights.** Protect America by promoting peace and international relations and human understanding. Safeguard freedom by defending  
41 and respecting the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans, including immigrants and permanent residents. Ensure culturally sensitive  
42 intervention for female and male victims and perpetrators of domestic violence as some of the violence is culturally learned, and some of the  
43 apprehension to report the problem stems from fear of deportation.  
44

45 **Empowerment.** Ensure that all Americans are fully empowered to participate in the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, including the  
46 right to make legal contributions, as guaranteed by the Constitution. Support the renewal of the Voting Rights Act. Support new citizen  
47 outreach programs that promote civic conscience and encourage civic participation in the political process.  
48

49 **Family Reunification.** Call upon the BCIS to increase the processing of citizenship applications and to expedite the application and review  
50 process when a permanent resident petitions for their adult unmarried children.  
51

52 **Health Care for Immigrant Employees.** Advocate employers to provide paid health care for immigrants who work as hourly employees in  
53 all industries.  
54

55 **Naturalization.** Ensure that all regional admission applications are treated equally. Increase funding for the processing of applications for  
56 citizenship, family reunification and naturalization.  
57

58 **Oppose Scapegoating.** Halt the scapegoating of immigrants by the Republican Party and others as these xenophobic actions polarize our  
59 communities and are not based upon an understanding of the positive contributions made by immigrants. Promote community and  
60 neighborhood understanding and unity by speaking in a unified voice against hatred, racist attacks and violence directed against ethnic and  
61 religious groups.

1 **Workers' Rights.** Protect Californians from being displaced by foreign guest worker programs. Ensure that all workers are free from  
2 harassment at workplaces.

### 3 4 ■ LABOR AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

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5  
6 We will fight those in the White House who have ignored California's needs and are trying to erode the gains working families earned under a  
7 democratic administration. Republicans in Washington have bestowed billions of dollars in government contracts to big businesses for the  
8 reconstruction of Iraq while California is left on its own.

9  
10 For years we have warned that health care is the most important issue facing this country and now it has become the lynchpin in many labor  
11 negotiations. The burden of the rising costs of health care should not be placed entirely on the American worker. We will continue to fight  
12 for equitable health care for working families just as we fought for health care benefits for children and the elderly.

13  
14 The California Democratic Party is committed to economic security for working families and affirms its support for:  
15 **Healthcare Benefits.** Providing quality healthcare to all Americans is a major problem in this country, and now it is becoming a major factor  
16 in negotiating fair and equitable labor contracts. We support a "reasonable" sharing of healthcare costs by both employers and employees  
17 for co-payments, deductibles, prescription drugs, medical procedures and other medical benefits.

18  
19 **Runaway Film Production.** Protect California's entertainment industry workers by keeping film production and jobs within California.

20  
21 **Union Organizing.** Employers must recognize the union when a majority of the employees sign union cards. Employers should remain  
22 neutral in organizing campaigns. We condemn union-busting tactics and support tough labor law reforms to protect the rights of workers  
23 who choose to organize or strike. Support any AFL-CIO sanctioned boycott of employers who have permanently replaced strikers.

24  
25 **Workers' Rights.** Promote "workers' rights" boards in our communities, involving both civic and religious leaders, to investigate and speak  
26 out against violations of workers' rights. Build coalitions to mobilize communities to support organizing efforts.

27  
28 **Contingent and Temporary Workers.** Provide portable health benefits and pensions for contingent and temporary workers in order to  
29 allow them to ensure their families' well being and adequately prepare themselves for retirement. Oppose the use of "perma-temp" positions  
30 by employers. Ensure that workers who are vital to the economic health of an enterprise are given the benefits and recognition they  
31 deserve.

32  
33 **Protection of Low-Income and Middle-Income Families.** Low-income and middle-income families must be offered the following  
34 protections to ensure that the economy does not force people back to a safety net that can no longer support them: a living wage, health and  
35 childcare, transportation benefits, job-skills training and affordable and transit-accessible housing.

36  
37 **Union Activism.** Fight anti-worker initiatives that seek to undermine the ability of democratically elected leaders of unions to carry out the  
38 will of their members. Protect the privacy rights of workers seeking to engage in political activities.

39  
40 **Collective Bargaining.** Reinstate and protect the collective bargaining rights of workers in both the public and private sectors free from anti-  
41 union tactics that undermine the process of free and fair negotiations. Employees must have the right to secure agency shop protections.

42  
43 **Workplace Fairness Legislation.** Outlaw the practice of hiring "permanent" replacements during a strike and enact statutory protection  
44 against wrongful discharge with provisions for meaningful arbitration of claims of discharge without cause. Close loopholes in the definition  
45 of an "independent contractor" in order to ensure that this status is not abused and that individuals who function as employees for a business  
46 are given the benefits and job security they deserve.

47  
48 **Unemployment Insurance.** Adopt a meaningful state-funded extended benefits program to protect the unemployed during periods when  
49 federal law does not provide extended or supplemental benefits.

50  
51 **Daily Overtime.** Support the 8-hour workday and daily overtime as the law in California and fight any efforts to repeal the 40-hour  
52 workweek.

53  
54 **Preferences for California Workers.** Encourage preference for firms that employ California workers where public funds finance bridge,  
55 highway and other public works construction. Vigorously enforce prevailing wage and apprenticeship provisions of existing state laws.

56  
57 **Workers' Compensation.** To protect working families set benefits at a higher percentage of the state's average weekly wage with an  
58 automatic annual adjustment.

1 **Privatization and Outsourcing.** Oppose privatization and outsourcing of government jobs. Ensure that contracting out is done at no less  
2 than prevailing wages and that a full package of benefits is included and monitored to ensure in fact the service is provided and is cost-  
3 effective.  
4

5 **Civil Service.** Protect the independence of the civil system for public employees. Support the effort to get legislation passed to allow  
6 federal retirees to pay FEHBP insurance premiums with pre-tax dollars.  
7

8 **Affirmative Action.** Support affirmative action programs as part of equal opportunity employment practices; encourage hiring a work force  
9 that is diverse in age, cultural heritage, disability, economic status, gender, race, views on religion and sexual orientation.  
10

11 **Safe Workplaces.** Develop a strong workers' safety program with adequate and appropriate penalties for injurious and unsafe working  
12 conditions. Fully fund OSHA inspections.  
13

14 **Enforcement.** Mandate collective bargaining agreements for farm workers and public sector employees through funding and support for the  
15 Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) and the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB). Expand the jurisdiction of the PERB to  
16 include those public entities currently without an enforcement arm or employee/employer relations.  
17

18 **Glass Ceiling.** Shatter the "glass ceiling" for women and minorities and demand equal pay for equal or comparable work.  
19

20 **Project Labor Agreements.** Recognize Project Labor Agreements as provided for in the National Labor Relations Act as an effective tool  
21 for increasing efficiency and reducing costs on public construction projects as well as addressing social justice issues and providing for  
22 greater opportunities for women and minorities.  
23

24 **Prevailing Wage** Our party believes that public works projects are built to serve the public and should seek to positively impact the  
25 communities in which they reside. We believe the payment of prevailing wages is essential to protect the wage base of the community  
26 where government builds, and that the government should never contribute to lowering a community's standard of living.  
27

28 **Homecare Workers.** Provide more funding and higher wages for homecare workers as further discussed in the Disabilities plank.  
29

30 **Trade.** Support trade agreements that include labor and environmental protections. (See the section entitled "Restore America's Economic  
31 Leadership" in the World Peace and International Relations plank.)  
32

### 33 ■ POLITICAL REFORM

---

34  
35 The California Democratic Party has continually stood at the forefront of ensuring effective and fair political reform. We have nominated  
36 more women and ethnic minorities than any other political organization; California gains when we elect people from under-represented  
37 communities. We are committed to leading the way to more democratic reforms of the political process and to open up government to all the  
38 people as we have done with the passage of the voluntary permanent absentee ballot requests for California voters. We will work to  
39 guarantee that citizens serving in the armed forces are assured their right of franchise. None of these reforms are meaningful unless every  
40 vote cast in any election is a vote that is counted. To ensure that this is the case we will fight to update and upgrade voting equipment,  
41 provide that all upgraded equipment and software is secure and protect access to polling sites.  
42

43 The California Democratic Party will continue its efforts to "open up" the political process. To accomplish that, we will:  
44

45 **Reform California's Budget Process.** Too often, California's budget is held hostage by a tiny minority of lawmakers intent on wreaking  
46 economic havoc for partisan political gain. California Democrats believe that the unscrupulous annual activities of the minority party have left  
47 California's process for adopting an annual budget broken. It must be fixed now through meaningful structural reform. California Democrats  
48 favor reducing the number of votes in the legislature necessary to adopt a budget from the two-thirds majority now required to a super-  
49 majority. Congress and 47 states require only a simple majority.  
50

51 **Public Financing.** Support the public financing of major political campaigns and some public funding for recognized political parties.  
52 Encourage small donors as well as the participation of organizations that rely upon small donors.  
53

54 **Campaign Reform.** We have struggled for years to pass laws that bring about effective political reform; we must continue to push more  
55 meaningful campaign finance reform with limits on funding for political TV, radio, newspaper and magazine ads.  
56

57 **Increase Voter Participation.** Support efforts to increase voter participation through extended voting hours and/or voting days. Establish a  
58 vote-by-mail project in every election with an emphasis on turning out the under-represented voters. Strongly oppose any and all voter  
59 intimidation tactics, including unnecessary requests for documentation. Explore ways to increase voter registration by making the  
60 registration process easier and more accessible to all.  
61

1 **Ballot Security.** We believe the right to vote is sacrosanct to our democracy. All electronic voting systems must produce a voter-verified  
2 paper record (VVPR) for use in manual audits and recounts. The VVPR feature must be fully accessible and allow every voter including  
3 individuals with disabilities and those who benefit from having alternative language access and alternative forms to vote privately and  
4 independently. All components and procedures of any voting system must be open source, non-proprietary, secure from malicious  
5 tampering and no voting system may use undisclosed software and wireless communications devices. All certifications of such systems shall  
6 likewise be open to public review.

7  
8 **Alternative Voting Systems.** Explore alternative voting systems including the use of instant runoff in special elections to fill vacancies to  
9 reduce both campaign and election expenses and in general elections to prevent well-meaning but misguided third-party voters from spoiling  
10 the election of Democrats.

11  
12 **Youth Primary and Municipal Voter Participation.** Voter turnout for 18-24 year olds in California is amongst the lowest in the nation. The  
13 best way to make sure the interests of young people are protected is to make sure they vote. California Democrats support reforms that  
14 follow the lead of other states such as Arizona, Maryland, Virginia and Ohio by changing California law so that any U.S. citizen who turns 18  
15 years of age by the date of the general election can vote in any intervening primary, municipal or special election even if they are still 17  
16 years old.

17  
18 **Assure Voting Rights for Members of the Military.** Urge the Secretary of Defense to comply with all requirements of the Uniformed and  
19 Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act and the Department of Defense's Voting Assistance Program; poll all military units responsible for  
20 collection and shipping mail to determine if voting materials are awaiting shipment and to expedite such shipment and appoint voting  
21 assistance officers to facilitate access to voting information and materials.

22  
23 **Increase Voter Education.** Endorse free media for candidates in major races so candidates can deliver their messages to the voters  
24 without reliance on massive campaign fundraising.

25  
26 **New Voter Participation.** Support the expansion of the education of civic responsibility in all levels of educational institutions that stress  
27 the importance of civic and political participation in a democratic society as a means to increase youth involvement in the political process.  
28 Support outreach efforts designed to reach out to young eligible voters to increase voter registration, voter turnout and political involvement  
29 of young people. Support voter education and outreach efforts designed to encourage new citizens to become civically engaged and take  
30 full advantage of their citizenship.

31  
32 **Recall Reform.** Reform and update the recall procedures so that recall campaigns are used to give voters control over incompetent and  
33 dishonest public officials rather than be used as a tool for political maneuvering.

34  
35 **Restore Property Tax Revenues to Local Governments.** Stop the diversion of property tax revenues from local government to our state's  
36 general fund so quality-of-life services (police, fire, water, sewer, libraries, parks, and streets) are properly financed. Establish a simple  
37 majority (50% + 1) vote for tax measures. Allow all citizens, not just property owners, to vote on all issues.

## 38 ■ SENIORS

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39  
40  
41 Our country's seniors enrich our everyday lives, connect us with our past and portend our collective future. We can learn much from their  
42 experience and wisdom. Seniors enrich our society, and we can learn from them by promoting interaction and respect among different  
43 generations. Many of today's seniors are active participants in their communities and their families by pursuing second careers, performing  
44 community service and where necessary raising grandchildren. California Democrats devote this plank to the concerns, issues and needs of  
45 our seniors -- the fastest growing age group in the nation. The following are our top priorities for California seniors: preserving the integrity of  
46 the Social Security system, improving senior health care, promoting independent living, fighting white-collar crimes that target seniors and  
47 ending elder abuse.

48  
49 **Support Our Seniors.** We support the re-authorization of the Older Americans Act, including the National Council on Aging.

50 **Save Social Security.** Since its inception, the Social Security Administration has provided retirement benefits to an aging population, to  
51 survivors of deceased workers and to the disabled. Congress and the President should act now to address the future solvency of Social  
52 Security. The California Democratic Party endorses the use of any budget surplus and/or dedication of an appropriate portion of the ongoing  
53 budget to extend the solvency of the Social Security System. Both the retirement and insurance features of Social Security must be  
54 preserved. We oppose speculation in the stock market with Social Security trust fund monies other than for the purchase of U.S. Treasury  
55 bills and government-insured mortgages. We oppose diversion of any part of the Social Security tax for the establishment of individual  
56 accounts. California Democrats oppose means testing of Social Security benefits and support the continuation of guaranteed cost of living  
57 adjustments and we urge the President and Congress to correct the inequity in Social Security coverage suffered by seniors born in the so-  
58 called "notch" years.

59  
60 **Preserve Senior Health Care.** Many of California's seniors live on fixed incomes and have difficulty affording basic necessities, including  
61 health care. Thus, we must maintain and strengthen Medi-Cal and Medicare without the continuously threatened Republican cutbacks and

1 support efforts to enact legislation to provide retired federal workers FEHBP premiums to be paid from pre-tax income, as are currently  
2 employed federal workers' premiums. Thanks to Democratic legislation California covers prescription medications under Medi-Cal;  
3 Congress should follow our example and similarly expand Medicare. We must address the spiraling cost of medications so seniors are not  
4 forced to purchase medications outside of the country due to greater availability and lower cost. California Democrats strongly support: 1) the  
5 creation of an optional prescription drug benefit program under Medicare with comprehensive and affordable coverage; 2) the continuation of  
6 Medicare as the original Defined Benefit Plan; and 3) the passage of a Patients' Bill of Rights that gives patients a choice of doctors, assures  
7 that medical decisions are made by doctors rather than administrators, ends the rationing of services, requires adequate skilled nursing  
8 home staffing, provides affordable long-term care coverage and grants an unrestricted right to sue if denial of service or treatment results in  
9 injury or death to the patient.

10  
11 **Promote Independent Living.** We affirm the rights of seniors to live with dignity and to live in their own homes and communities. We  
12 advocate a consumer-directed, comprehensive health system dedicated to preserving independent living for frail seniors, persons with  
13 disabilities and persons with chronic and/or terminal illness. We support providing in-home support services as well as long-term care. We  
14 support living wages for attendants and include provisions for worker benefits and respite care. We strive to uphold the rights of seniors to  
15 manage their attendant care and to serve as the majority members of advisory boards of public authorities that oversee in-home support  
16 services.

17  
18 **Fight White Collar Crime.** Seniors are particularly vulnerable to white-collar crimes such as telemarketing fraud and investment scams that  
19 destroy individuals and steal their life savings. Unscrupulous individuals often single out and prey on seniors, stealing their financial  
20 resources. White-collar crimes are also a tremendous detriment to our banking, insurance and other financial institutions. We support full  
21 investigation and prosecution of white-collar criminals -- including stiffer administrative and legal penalties as well as improved loss recovery  
22 and restitution methods -- to prevent the loss of seniors' assets and homes through fraudulent activities.

23  
24 **End Elder Abuse.** We must educate society as to the cycle of abuse directed toward seniors. We will not tolerate abuse in any form,  
25 especially when directed towards one of the most vulnerable groups, our seniors. Victims of physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse should  
26 not be treated as part of the problem. Instead we should impose stiffer sentences for rape and domestic violence crimes and increase  
27 funding for counseling, emergency housing and law-enforcement response.

28  
29 **Fund Senior Centers.** We support funding for senior centers that provide services for active and frail seniors including day programs that  
30 help seniors with Alzheimer's and other age-related conditions and provide support for their families. California Democrats support the  
31 creation of a program to provide respite relief to family caregivers.

32  
33 **Improve Accessible Transportation.** Accessible transportation is important to all persons. This is especially true of seniors on fixed  
34 incomes. Many seniors require additional, supportive transit services to effectively deal with their health concerns. Seniors benefit from  
35 "livable" communities that include employment, greenbelts, housing, public services and transit within walking distance of one another. As for  
36 those in frail health, we support public funding for low-cost para-transit and transportation services to and from grocery stores, hospitals,  
37 medical offices and any other venues deemed as basic necessities for seniors to enjoy a quality life.

## 38 39 ■ SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

---

40  
41 The four cornerstones of a sustainable community are the 4-E's: Energy, Environment, Economy, and Equality. All of these are inter-related  
42 and essential to the livability and health of a sustainable community.  
43 California Democrats affirm that cultural diversity, sensitivity and tolerance are essential social building blocks for the achievement of  
44 individual choice and freedom. We support community-based programs and emphasize "common ground" rather than wedging differences  
45 between our people. Sustainable communities provide a quality-centered lifestyle such as affordable housing, barrier-free neighborhoods,  
46 healthy environmental and land-use planning, neighborhood revitalization, public schools and comprehensive workforce development and  
47 training. Evaluate the ability of the existing community communications, law enforcement, public utilities, schools and transportation to  
48 support proposed land-use development and encourage zoning that promotes urban densification. State elected officials should reward local  
49 governments and regions for completing voluntary, sub-regional planning processes that stem the tide of urban and suburban sprawl, traffic  
50 gridlock, environmental degradation and further erosion of our quality of life and encourage the study of regional tax revenue sharing.  
51 Preserving and protecting our valuable environmental resources such as clean air, clean water and open space and safeguarding sensitive  
52 habitats is a responsibility shared by all Californians.

## 53 54 **ENERGY**

55 Our communities are not truly sustainable until we are energy independent. The solution to our country's energy needs, now and in the  
56 future, lies in renewable energy sources such as solar, hydrogen and wind, which are abundant and not harmful to the environment.  
57 Buildings are a major source of the pollution that causes air quality problems, and the pollutants that cause climate change. Through the  
58 design of "Green Buildings," we can use a minimum of nonrenewable fuels, produce a minimum of pollution and spend a minimum of energy  
59 dollars; increasing our comfort, health and safety. We must reduce dependence upon the automobile as a primary means of transportation,  
60 continue the Zero Emission Vehicle mandate and increase commitment to the California Fuel Cell Partnership to lead the drive for  
61 development and marketing of motor vehicles that do not cause air pollution. Hence we must increase the availability of funding for public

1 transit and encourage development near transit hubs while promoting bicycle and pedestrian-friendly policy and funding. We encourage  
2 regional transportation planning and zoning that supports sustainable transportation and land use. A sustainable community that produces  
3 its own energy keeps more of its energy dollars in the local economy.  
4

## 5 **THE ENVIRONMENT**

6 Planning for sustainable communities involves conserving our natural resources for an environmentally healthy community. California's  
7 bountiful environmental resources contribute to its economic prosperity. Our economy will surely decline if our environment is abused. The  
8 present rate of our natural resources consumption is unsustainable. The issues of global warming, continued urban/suburban sprawl and  
9 environmental injustice demand that we move to a more sensible lifestyle.  
10

11 **Smart Growth.** Promote efficient land use and restoration of contaminated land rather than permit urban and suburban sprawl to spread to  
12 agricultural lands. Craft an appropriate balance between commercial and residential development and protected greenbelts around our urban  
13 areas. Preserve farmland, open space, natural resources areas and sensitive habitats. We encourage incentives for environmentally  
14 sensitive, energy-efficient building designs, reducing dependence upon automobiles and increasing the availability of public transit. Fully  
15 fund wildfire prevention and urban protection and programs that prevent and defend against wildfires in our state and federal forests. .  
16

## 17 **ECONOMY**

18 Building and maintaining the infrastructure needed for economic health is essential to a sustainable community. Affordable housing,  
19 educational resources, public transportation, parks and open space are the elements that attract investment in a community. Centralize  
20 businesses and housing, enhance existing infrastructures, reclaim and redevelop old abandoned buildings and brown fields.  
21

22 **Affordable Housing.** Support increased housing production so that all Californians enjoy safe, decent, sanitary, affordable housing of  
23 appropriate size available in a non-discriminatory manner. Promote and encourage housing solutions and adherence to voluntary guidelines  
24 for rental owners and managers. Strengthen and standardize code enforcement laws. Restore the renter's tax credit. Substantially  
25 increase public funding to construct affordable housing. Integrate affordable housing in mixed-income neighborhoods. Regional  
26 collaborative groups should be engaged between manufacturing groups, chambers of commerce, transportation agencies and officials from  
27 county and city governments sharing common problem areas that require interface solutions. Provide economic incentives to businesses to  
28 relocate and develop in our urban centers. Develop hiring programs that attract local citizens and establish the necessary infrastructure  
29 crucial to the economic vitality of our communities. Provide an alternative to the current dependence of local government on sales tax  
30 revenue.  
31

## 32 **EQUALITY**

33 Sustainable communities improve the quality of life for all of their residents. We seek to be inclusive of all people and to remove physical  
34 barriers that keep Californians apart. We value diverse family configurations as well as the traditional nuclear family. We support local and  
35 regional planning based upon diversity and sustainability and job development, seeking an appropriate balance among our concerns for  
36 environment, energy, equality, economic and human needs for a quality-based lifestyle. We believe all Californians have the right to  
37 affordable housing, quality public schools, health care and a secure and healthy environment. We support community-based" common  
38 ground" programs that promote social understanding and stop the stigmatization and alienation of all homeless persons by treating them with  
39 dignity and assisting them to regain their self-confidence and integration into the community. Encourage public participation at the local and  
40 regional levels. We would generously fund community performing and visual arts programs, which add quality-of-life to sustainable  
41 communities.  
42

## 43 **■ VETERANS**

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44  
45 All veterans, including those of any peacekeeping action undertaken by the United States (such as post-Vietnam service in the Persian Gulf  
46 War, Somalia, Bosnia, and Afghanistan), should be honored and provided all the entitlements given to veterans of earlier service, including  
47 education and training benefits, health benefits, home loans and other financial assistance. All veterans should be treated with respect and  
48 be provided their earned entitlements rendered to them by a grateful nation for their services as members of the peacekeeping forces.  
49

50 **Citizenship for Veterans.** All non-citizen veterans who served honorably in the military of the United States should be granted citizenship in  
51 return for the service they have provided for the country.  
52

53 **Transitional Services.** While we recognize the reality of dramatic force reductions in the wake of the post-cold-war restructuring of the  
54 military, we support a continuous and effective effort to assist the former members of our peacekeeping forces in rejoining civilian society.  
55 We must build state-operated veterans homes where they are needed most, thereby providing assistance to eligible homeless veterans. We  
56 must oppose any further leasing of Veterans' Administration (V.A.) land for non-veteran use.  
57

58 **Support Services.** We must expand and fund support services, as well as medical and psychological services for all eligible veterans:  
59 support and fund drug and alcohol abuse treatment programs that cater to Veterans; provide incentives to produce more low cost housing for  
60 veterans, encourage support for programs that assist homeless Veterans; continue to provide benefits to all eligible Army, Navy, Marines,  
61 and Air Force veterans of any military or peacekeeping action undertaken by the United States, and provide the same rights and benefits as

1 other enlisted soldiers to Reserve and National Guard, including education and training benefits, health benefits, home loan and other  
2 financial assistance to which they are entitled. We would also expand Cal-Vet home loans to eligible veterans of other conflicts since the  
3 Vietnam War.  
4

5 **Increasing Benefit Access.** When a veteran becomes disabled as a result of a service-connected injury, they have the right to obtain  
6 adequate and expedient financial compensation. We would improve the system whereby requests for V.A. benefits are processed. We must  
7 strive to make the V.A. benefits system user-responsive and friendly.  
8

9 **World War II Benefits For Filipino-Americans.** The California Democratic Party fully supports the demands by Filipino-American W.W.II  
10 veterans for the benefits promised by President Roosevelt. The contributions of Filipino-American members of the U.S. peacekeeping during  
11 W.W. II were crucial for American success. Unfortunately, Congress later enacted a Rescission Act, which stated that service performed by  
12 some Filipino-American veterans was not deemed "active service," thus making them ineligible for veterans' benefits. We must recognize  
13 them as having been active members and give them all the benefits any other American veterans would receive.  
14

## 15 **■ WOMEN (New Plank for 2004)**

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16  
17 Women represent 51% of the population, 52% of the vote and 80% of all consumer purchasing decisions, particularly in the areas of health  
18 care, durable goods, insurance and real estate, yet over one in four female family households are living in poverty. And while women  
19 contribute greatly to the economy, their social and economic contributions continue to be undervalued. Even though "equal pay" is the law,  
20 women earn only 72 to 76 cents on the dollar of what men earn in the same or comparable job (African-American women and Latinas earn  
21 even less). Wage discrimination results in the loss of more than half a million dollars to a family's earnings and pension plans over the course  
22 of a woman's work life. Women's issues don't affect just women -- when women don't receive equal pay for equal work, their families and  
23 partners suffer too. This plank focuses on issues that value women's social and economic contributions and sustain economic autonomy.  
24 Opportunity leads to equality. We must ensure opportunities for young women to pursue non-traditional careers. To accomplish this we  
25 must end policies of punishment and budget cutting.  
26

27 **Economic Security and Autonomy.** California Democrats strongly support pay equity and stronger enforcement of the Equal Pay Act and  
28 Title VII. Additionally, we support programs and legislation that:  
29

- 30 • Ensure access to programs that provide and promote equal opportunity, including education, training, promotion, capital, and  
31 government contracts and mentoring for public office;  
32
- 33 • Protect programs essential to health, public safety, equality of opportunity and opportunity that leads to economic equality;  
34
- 35 • Ensure an economic safety net – social security, unemployment insurance, health benefits, and that all working women earn, at  
36 least, a living wage;  
37
- 38 • Recognize the significant social and economic value of traditional female occupations;  
39
- 40 • Assist and educate women with dependent children, especially teenage mothers, to improve parenting skills, train for living wage  
41 jobs and become self-sufficient;  
42
- 43 • Ensure accessible, affordable childcare, education and Head Start programs, as well as continuation and expansion of school-  
44 lunch and other nutrition programs.  
45

46 **Health Services and Reproductive Rights.** Institute Universal Health Coverage. Preserve the freedom to choose and vigorously defend a  
47 woman's right to so choose. Ensure confidential, unrestricted access to affordable, quality and culturally appropriate health and reproductive  
48 services for women of all ages without guardian, judicial, parental and spousal consent or guardian/ parental notification in all communities.  
49 We support contraceptive equity and emergency contraception education legislation; public funding for abortions, contraceptive services'  
50 non- directive counseling with no gag rule on the dissemination of family planning information; including research on trials of non-surgical  
51 abortion alternatives such as RU-486; prompt emergency and after-care services for women who are physically and/ or sexually assaulted;  
52 insurance coverage for pre-natal and well-baby care; and support removing barriers to breast cancer detection, treatment and services.  
53

54 **Civil Rights.** Ensure adequate legal enforcement and protection by promoting programs that assist women through the legal system. End  
55 discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation by defending and supporting: CEDAW  
56 (U.N. General Assembly Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women), The Equal Rights Amendment, Affirmative Action,  
57 Equal Pay for Equal Work, Title VII and Title IX.  
58  
59  
60

## 1 ■ WORLD PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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2  
3 American Foreign Policy following World War II, forged during the Truman administration and supported by administrations of both parties,  
4 was built on a foundation of engagement in the world, the creation and support of multilateral institutions such as the United Nations and  
5 NATO, using our economic might to repair the world such as the Marshall Plan and a host of foreign aid programs.

6  
7 The current administration entered office on a campaign against nation building and a plan for unilateral military action. It has misused  
8 intelligence information to deceive our own people. It has failed to understand the notion that winning “the peace” requires more effort and  
9 resources than winning “the war.” The administration has squandered opportunities to build on the goodwill following September 11 by  
10 ignoring allies, international institutions and by ignoring or withdrawing from the:

- 11
- 12 • Anti-ballistic Missile Treaty
- 13 • Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
- 14 • Kyoto Protocol (climate change)
- 15 • Small Arms Control Pact and other bilateral and multilateral agreements
- 16

17 The events of September 11 forever changed the lives of all Americans. Those heinous acts have reinforced what Democrats have long  
18 believed – the interests of the United States are woven into the very fabric of the world’s economic and political structures. Isolationism is  
19 not a viable option in the global marketplace and the global community. The current administration has failed to talk straight to the American  
20 people and to the World.

21  
22 An effective United States foreign policy will assist the world in controlling population growth, increase literacy and child survival rates, defeat  
23 poverty, disease and malnutrition, eliminate the cultivation of illicit drug cash crops and bolster existing and new democracies and developing  
24 nations. In its relationships with other nations, our country must continue to give primary consideration to human rights.

25  
26 Unfortunately, there are still millions of people living in countries whose governments have not ratified and even when they have, do not  
27 comply with international human rights conventions such as the Covenant on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of all  
28 Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant  
29 on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Even worse many of these governments persist in  
30 discriminating against women and children in the name of religion. The United States should lead in promoting adherence to international  
31 human rights standards.

32  
33 The United States continues to face five serious challenges to its security: 1) proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including  
34 biological and chemical arms; 2) global terrorism; 3) global economic battles that may have far greater impact in America than any military  
35 battle; 4) population explosion, a problem that underlies almost every environmental and national security problem facing the world today,  
36 especially in those areas without the resources necessary to support an expanded population; and 5) the rise of extreme nationalism.  
37 California Democrats believe that the United States must meet these challenges with the following approach:

38  
39 **Fight Terrorism.** Take strong focused action to counter global terrorism, including sanctions against suppliers of nuclear, biological and  
40 chemical technology to terrorist states or organizations and negotiate and implement sanctions against countries that engage in terrorism or  
41 give aid and comfort to terrorists. Adopt a policy of using improved law enforcement and intelligence methods against terrorists as the  
42 primary counter-terrorism mode, with military action being held in abeyance unless there is no other recourse. Significantly increase the  
43 funding and training of public safety personnel in the United States, and make a major increase in our support of international police and  
44 intelligence methods and organizations in the fight against terrorism. In particular adopt a counter-terrorist policy that recognizes that any  
45 fight against terrorism must not impinge on our sacred rights under the Constitution of the United States and recognize that the protection of  
46 our constitutional rights must be the preeminent factor in any decision involving counter-terrorism. Any usurpation of these rights in the fight  
47 against terrorism must be conditioned upon the imminent threat of the destruction of the United States, i.e. we will have no civil rights if our  
48 land is destroyed. By setting the example to the world of honoring these rights, the United States precisely shows the benefits of  
49 democratization over other competing forms of government.

50  
51 **Improved Intelligence.** Our intelligence community must become well organized around global terror and its domestic implications. All  
52 terrorism related data must be coordinated and shared. Intelligence activity must be separated from policy making. Secrecy classifications  
53 must be disciplined based on sound procedures to protect sources and methods and not based on policy considerations. The abuse of  
54 intelligence and the deceptions that were used to justify the war with Iraq must never happen again.

55  
56 **Nuclear Weapons Reduction.** Intensify our efforts for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty to be signed and ratified by all nuclear  
57 powers that would stop development of new nuclear weapons, provide for responsible disposal of nuclear waste, and deter proliferation to  
58 other countries. Continue our commitment to eliminate all tactical nuclear weapons in the world and negotiate immediately to reduce the  
59 number of strategic nuclear weapons held by the United States and the former Soviet Union to absolute minimums related to the real threat.  
60 We must make every effort to stop nations from acquiring new advanced weapons delivery systems and weapons of mass destruction. We  
61 support continued work toward the goal of strategic nuclear stability.

1 **Missile Defense.** We reject plans to construct unproven expensive and ill-conceived missile defense systems that would plunge us into a  
2 new arms race. We support technological exploration of missile defense systems. We support the fielding of anti-tactical ballistic missile  
3 systems such as the proven PAC-3 and Arrow systems. We support the deployment of the THAAD system and the continued development  
4 of the Airborne Laser to enhance our tactical missile defense capabilities.  
5

6 **Chemical Weapons.** Strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention and the inspection regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention  
7 while accelerating the disposal of chemical weapons stockpiles in a manner protective of public and environmental health.  
8

9 **Restructure the Military.** Continue to restructure the military to produce a more flexible and ultimately a more effective military while  
10 maintaining our commitment to military readiness. Our military should always have the best technology. In particular our military must be  
11 restructured and trained to fight against the scourge of international terrorism, currently the greatest worldwide threat to our lives and basic  
12 values. Promote the rapid adaptation of commercial technologies to military use by streamlining the technology-insertion process. As the  
13 emphasis of the military evolves from the Cold War to the global war on terror, convert excess military properties and the research,  
14 development and production capabilities to civilian uses while providing job retraining for workers whose jobs will be lost.  
15

16 **Burden Sharing.** Insist that our allies contribute more, both to their own defense and to our collective security alliances; reject a foreign  
17 policy where the U.S. ignores its friends because it's easier to act alone.  
18

19 **Restore America's Global Economic Leadership.** Globalization has brought many benefits, shrinking our global village and expanding the  
20 global economy. International trade agreements have significant beneficial impacts on the U.S. economy. The development of new markets  
21 abroad stimulates export industries at home, and provides high-quality jobs for millions of Americans. Sustaining foreign direct investment in  
22 our country can create jobs and revenues that benefit local communities, our state and country. Likewise the growth of trade has provided  
23 employment opportunities and better wages for foreign workers. We seek an increase in trade and mutually beneficial commercial ventures  
24 with other nations and to open previously closed markets to American products abroad.  
25

26 Globalization also may have negative consequences. American companies have moved offshore and many American workers either have  
27 lost their jobs or feel increasing job insecurity. The United States cannot stop globalization, but government leaders can and should design  
28 policies that maximize the benefits of globalization and minimize its negative consequences. Government should use some of the benefits  
29 gained from expanded trade to pay for income support, healthcare and extensive job retraining for workers who lose their jobs due to  
30 globalization. The U.S. must take steps to reduce its huge trade deficit. Future success depends on having the best-trained workforce in the  
31 world. We must have an educational system second to none.  
32

33 Global competition also may lead to pressure on countries to relax labor or environmental standards. Trade agreements should be  
34 structured to ensure that expanded trade and investment do not lead to a "race to the bottom," particularly in the areas of labor and the  
35 environment. We should use our membership and leadership in the World Trade Organization to fight this trend. Trade agreements should  
36 require countries to adopt and enforce core, internationally-recognized labor standards, rights to associate and bargain collectively, and  
37 prohibitions on the worst forms of child labor, discrimination in employment, and forced labor. Trade agreements should also be structured  
38 to ensure that countries may maintain strong laws to protect the environment and to advance other legitimate policy objectives. This is  
39 particularly true for the investment provisions in any agreement. Early cases brought under NAFTA's chapter 11 suggest that the agreement  
40 provided foreign investors greater rights than U.S. law would allow to challenge regulations in the public interest. Future agreements should  
41 correct this imbalance.  
42

43 **Promote Population Control.** Promote population planning throughout the world through education and support to family planning  
44 organizations. Emphasize family health and well being as pillars of the development of democratic societies. Promote women's control of  
45 their bodies as a fundamental human right. Restore funding to United Nations' Family Planning.  
46

47 **Promote Democracy and Freedom.** Support leading the worldwide movement toward democracy with clear example. Advance dialogue  
48 and cultural exchanges with democratic reform movements. Take aggressive action to counter global terrorism, including sanctions against  
49 suppliers of nuclear and missile technology to terrorist states and sanctions against countries that engage in terrorism or harbor terrorist  
50 organizations. Reform and strengthen the United Nations and its regional organizations to achieve global security and pay off the American  
51 debt to the United Nations. Agree to multilateral elimination of military assistance to autocratic and totalitarian governments that blatantly  
52 violate basic human rights. Bring war criminals to justice at the World Court in The Hague. Support the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. Urge the  
53 administration to take as many steps as possible to reduce the quantity of land mines. Continue the moratorium on land mine exports and  
54 continue to support the Demining Assistance Program that provides training, equipment and funds to various foreign countries. Refuse to  
55 provide diplomatic, economic or military aid to any government or organization that systematically violates human rights including the rights  
56 of women and children. Reaffirm our support for continued efforts to actively promote inclusive dialogue, power sharing and peaceful means  
57 as the way forward in Northern Ireland, including reform of Northern Ireland policing to gain support from the whole Northern Ireland  
58 community. We support the continuing peace initiative in the Balkans and Northern Ireland. Urge the administration to officially recognize  
59 the Armenian genocide.  
60

1 **Iran and North Korea.** Due to the increased dangers from these two regimes, Iran and North Korea must become the highest diplomatic  
2 priority of this administration.  
3

4 **Peace in the Middle East.** Champion human rights and democracy for all people as the pillars of our policy in the Middle East. Maintain  
5 our commitment to ensuring the security and well being of the State of Israel and to maintaining America's special relationship with Israel.  
6 Support the Palestinian goals of peace, justice, security and a viable independent state, which includes aid for economic development.  
7 Promote efforts to root out terrorism without endangering civilians. Encourage direct negotiations for peace that build on the "Road Map" as  
8 proposed by the "Quartet" (United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations).  
9

10 **Peace in Asia.** Continue to support democratic reform movements and encourage improvements in human rights, due process for all  
11 prisoners, family visitation rights, a ban on hard labor by prisoners of conscience and access for international human rights organizations in  
12 Asian countries such as China, Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong, Indonesia, East Timor, Myanmar (Burma), Vietnam, and Malaysia. Urge China to  
13 enter into direct dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives to stop its genocidal population transfers, destruction of over 90% of  
14 Tibet's monasteries and torture of peaceful dissenters. Encourage California corporations with factories in China to adhere to local and  
15 internationally recognized labor, workers rights and health and safety laws, regulations and norms. Support democratic rights, including free  
16 speech and an independent judiciary, in Hong Kong. Strong support for the Vietnamese people's aspirations for human rights, freedom and  
17 democracy, and continue the human rights dialogue with Vietnam. Condition the granting of most-favored-nation status to Vietnam on  
18 further improvements in the human rights situation and greater cooperation by Hanoi in the POW/MIA issue. Cultural exchanges should be  
19 promoted and encouraged. In conjunction with South Korea and Japan, negotiate with North Korea to end the nuclear threat from that  
20 country and to improve human rights there; support the exchange visits for family members and other travelers between the two Koreas;  
21 assist North Korea in reviving its agricultural base to stave off future famine.  
22

23 **Peace in the Americas.** California Democrats believe that all nations of the Western Hemisphere are interconnected and interdependent.  
24 We believe that what affects one nation affects all other nations. Specifically California Democrats believe in:  
25

26 **An Effective Economic Assistance Policy.** We encourage diplomatic, economic and humanitarian engagement. We discourage use of  
27 military aid or the threat of military intervention as the initial and/or principal vehicle of our foreign relations with the Americas. As a first step  
28 in this process, we will permanently close down the "School of the Americas," not merely change the name of this facility. We will seek to  
29 permanently halt the proliferation of military weapons (sometimes cleverly disguised in the form of economic aid) from our country to our  
30 hemispheric neighbors. We will offer economic assistance that is unfettered with conditions of use, imposing one important caveat: the  
31 economic aid must not be used to fund projects abusive of human rights nor to support para-military groups that abuse and cower the civilian  
32 population.  
33

34 **An Effective Foreign Policy.** We recognize our common heritage and the importance of our bilateral relationships with Mexico. We will  
35 strengthen our cultural and economic bonds with our Mexican neighbors while respecting Mexico's right to self-determination. We seek a  
36 foreign policy that respects the sovereignty of all nations. We support all governments democratically elected in free and fair elections where  
37 every voted ballot should be counted. We aim to lift the economic embargo on Cuba. We will work toward the re-establishment of normal  
38 diplomatic relations while deploring Cuba's human rights abuses.  
39

40 **An Effective War on Drugs.** We will assist democratic opposition to drug trafficking and narco-terrorism throughout the Americas. We will  
41 wage a more effective and efficient "War on Drugs." As a means to successfully ending this struggle, we will fund results-oriented  
42 educational and rehabilitative alternatives rather than use of military force. We encourage the use of alternative cash crops in areas where  
43 coca has been a clandestine and traditional moneymaker.  
44

45 **An Effective Human Rights Policy.** We will work toward improving living conditions in all countries throughout our hemisphere. We  
46 support indigenous civil rights, equal rights, justice and voting rights movements throughout the Americas.  
47

48 **Peace in Africa.** Support fledgling democracies and promote human rights principles in Africa. Support regional organizations such as the  
49 organization of African Unity in its efforts to bring peace and economic stability to conflict torn countries. Advocate debt relief, so nations can  
50 take care of social services, health care and education programs for the population. Make every effort to end the mass killings and  
51 enslavement of black Christians and animists in southern Sudan by the Sudanese government. Work to oppose systematic gender-based  
52 discrimination.  
53

54 **Promote World Peace.** Reject the new forms of isolationism. America must remain engaged in the world. The isolation that preceded  
55 World War II must not be repeated. We must confront and diffuse threats to world stability in order to avoid devastating military conflicts and  
56 the terrible human suffering that accompanies them. Above all we must continue the efforts to end international terrorism. After the  
57 elimination of bin Laden and the Taliban, we must ensure that all other nations officially registered by the State Department as sponsors of  
58 terror cease state sponsorship of terrorist organizations. We can only do this with international cooperation. Serious conflicts remain in  
59 many parts of the world. To address them and prevent them from escalating to another mass war, America, as the sole remaining  
60 superpower, must continue to take a leadership role in achieving international peace and order. This essential role cannot be exercised  
61 through military might or a doctrine of unilateral preemptive war but must be exercised multilaterally through the strength of ideas, through

1 economic support and in a spirit of equality and tolerance. International conflicts should be resolved peacefully through direct negotiations  
2 with war always being the last resort when all else has failed. Restore the Constitutional basis for the declaration of war as being the  
3 province of Congress alone. Continue as an active member in democratic supranational organizations despite their imperfections and work  
4 actively for their improvement. Work with other nations to develop a collective regional and worldwide security organization and ultimately to  
5 eliminate war as an instrument of foreign policy.

