



2018 PLATFORM

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2017-2019 California Democratic Party Platform Committee

Thank you to the California Democratic Party Platform Committee Members for all their hard work and efforts in putting together the 2018 California Democratic Party Platform.

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Preamble

The California Democratic Party envisions an economically strong California that can continue to lead the world with values that respect and protect all California residents.

We support: excellence in education from pre-school through college; universal, affordable health care; gun violence prevention; protecting California's natural resources, air, and water through the use of renewable sources of energy; and continually developing innovative measures to counter global warming and pollution.

We draw strength from our diversity, and we believe that peace, justice, and security for all requires strong civil justice protections and an open and transparent government.

This Platform resolutely defends these values that support all people's hopes and dreams for a vibrant future.

Business and Economy

A robust economy and business climate that creates jobs and economic opportunity for all is fundamental to the promise of the American Dream and the spirit of California. Work provides a sense of dignity as we contribute to both our individual and collective growth. We also contribute to the tax base for the programs and policies we champion as Democrats that support economic justice and the redistribution of wealth. We must also continue to encourage the explosive creativity and innovative intellectual property growth that have come to typify all parts of California and draw people from around the country and the world.

To grow jobs and assure a prosperous future for all Californians, California Democrats will:

- Continue to encourage the sustainable growth of small businesses, which serve as the backbone of California's economy, with special consideration of the challenges faced by rural small businesses;
- Promote and guarantee low-interest small business loans to provide the seed capital to launch and expand job-creating small businesses and provide for the growth of already successful businesses;
- Expect all California businesses to provide services in a fully accessible manner;
- Facilitate improved banking services for small businesses and consumers by supporting legislation that offers community banks, public and municipal banks, and credit unions incentives for implementing new technologies;
- Defend consumer banking free choice by supporting legislation to eliminate out-of-network ATM fees and bank fees for use of debit cards;
- Support a legislative initiative to provide foreclosure relief to borrowers who were the victims of unscrupulous loan brokers or unethical financial services practices, along with investigating the perpetrators of illegal and abusive financial services businesses;
- Support the separation of retail and investment banking in order to safeguard Californians with current deposits in such banks from speculative investment activities and to free capital for loans to businesses and individuals;
- Support legislation to convert the California Infrastructure and Development Bank into a depository bank that will allow a 100-fold increase of both infrastructure loans and loan guarantees for small business and concomitantly provide better returns on municipal and pension fund deposits by avoiding high charges and risks of commercial banks;
- Support strengthening the state agencies that provide regulatory oversight of banks and financial services;
- Continue to support the rights of all employees to organize, select a bargaining representative of their choice through card check recognition, work in a safe environment, and be free from intimidation and retaliation;
- Oppose privatization of essential government services and outsourcing of public sector jobs, promote the development and purchase of goods that are made in America, and support the modification of the U.S. tax code so that corporations are incented to hire workers in the U.S. instead of abroad;
- Encourage an investment in California's transportation infrastructure in a way that will support the state's growth through the 21st century and beyond, including maintaining and improving California's rural roads and highways and supporting the efforts to bring high-speed rail to the state, thereby facilitating the movement of Californians around the state and promoting commerce;
- Reward employers that choose to remain in California by giving the California Treasurer/Board of Equalization the mandate to negotiate a competitive package of discounted state-based fees and/or taxes to offset some of the employer's anticipated cost savings from moving the business out of California;
- Encourage businesses to adhere to the United Nations Global Compact's Ten Principles that are derived from the following guidance: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labor Organization's

Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption;

- Support the implementation of tax policies that provide a higher degree of equity, including a fair self-employment tax rate to support small businesses;
- Continue to support and fund job retraining and vocational rehabilitation programs to meet the manpower needs of California's changing economy;
- Support job-creating businesses and cooperative member/worker-owned small businesses and provide opportunities for growth of already successful businesses;
- Support the regulation of "payday" lenders and encourage the creation of community-based, micro-lenders and municipal lending alternatives to assist people and businesses needing short-term financial assistance to meet critical needs;
- Phase out unwarranted corporate farm subsidies to create a more equitable and local food market system;
- Support uniform criteria for determining a "small business" and eliminate loopholes that allow large corporations to benefit from preferences intended for small businesses;
- Encourage a pro-employment re-industrialization policy that promotes incentives favoring creation of new employment, industries, and small business ownership specifically through support of environmentally sustainable local enterprises, with priority aid to transition depressed communities;
- Address the crisis of long-term unemployment by supporting efforts to extend federal unemployment benefits to those who have exhausted their benefits;
- Target resources to the communities of concern, including rural California, that have been most impacted by the economic recession;
- Advocate for increased public funding to advance science and technology with re-evaluation of intellectual property ownership rights for the greater good;
- Amend the California Constitution to remove the two-thirds vote threshold for the passage of new special taxes and or assessments and replace it with a 55% voter threshold;
- Require that all corporate-owned commercial properties with manufacturing plants and massive rental properties, malls, and retail sales properties be assessed at the current market value to ensure an equitable and fair tax system for the public;
- Work with the state legislature to increase in the minimum tax rate from 1% to a 2% tax rate on all commercial properties;
- Work with the state legislature to find a more equitable tax structure that will provide local governments with the proper funding for the services that are needed;
- Mitigate effects of decades-long corporate tax welfare and develop policies that have corporations share tax burdens with tax incentives that will enhance the middle class such as re-investing and growing corporations resulting in job growth with high salaries rather than using profits to buy back stock or pay dividends;
- Support a more progressive income tax so those in a position to reinvest in our society and who can lift vulnerable populations indeed fulfill moral and social obligations;
- Advocate for transparency in Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) arbitration proceedings; and,
- Encourage good corporate citizenship by supporting policies that hold irresponsible corporate decision-makers personally liable for corporate criminal conduct under their watch.

Children, Young Adults, and Their Families

California Democrats believe that we must invest in the well-being of children and young people in order for them to become thriving and productive members of society. To do so, we will work to provide them with a healthy start, a solid education, and a safe community.

To help children and young adults reach their full potential, California Democrats will:

- Work to ensure that children have access to timely health care services; expand pre-natal, peri-natal, and well-baby care; and, provide comprehensive immunization services;
- Work to ensure that all infants and toddlers have access to routine developmental and behavioral screenings;
- Advocate that health care providers assess, treat and coordinate early intervention systems that engage and support parents in their child's treatment;
- Support programs that prevent homelessness and lift at-risk families and working-poor families out of poverty so that they can become independent and lead self-sufficient lives;
- Support the passage and implementation of nutritionally-healthy school lunch and breakfast programs that provide for the average caloric intake needs of our children;

- Support agencies that are responsible for the health and well-being of families in need and promote policies to provide mental health services, domestic violence prevention, marriage/domestic partner counseling, gang prevention, anti-bullying programs, substance abuse prevention, parenting skills, and other social services without regard to the gender of the parent;
- Work to ensure that Child Protective Services and social workers utilize trauma-informed practices and have the resources needed to protect children and support foster youth; reunify families when possible; improve the foster care system to ensure that child abuse and neglect court proceedings that protect the welfare of children are accessible, swift, and unbiased; aggressively enforce child-support payment rulings; ensure child support payments are timely paid and urge enforcement in a manner that maintains a payor's ability to pay; and encourage foster youth to successfully complete high school;
- Support the fathers, mothers, children, and guardians who are involved in the Child Protective Services process and work to ensure that all parties are treated with fairness and equity under the law;
- Enhance education and development with free, community-based enrichment experiences; promote early childhood education by providing hands-on learning opportunities in enriching environments which engage parents, caregivers, and educators as partners in early learning and development, including language, math, social-emotional, and self-regulation skills;
- Work to ensure access to high-quality, affordable childcare, preschool and early development centers, and strong, proven school and community-based after school programs;
- Support the important work of childcare providers by supporting their right to choose a union representative and foster quality improvements that will benefit all of our state's children and their families;
- Work to expand parks, recreation, and mentoring centers for children and young people;
- Support the removal or ban of toxic substances from all toys, equipment, and furniture, and the removal, ban or remediation of toxic substances from buildings and building materials sold or used in California;
- Work to actively identify and remove toxic chemicals, particularly PCB's which have been banned by Congress, from California's schools to protect children and provide them a healthy learning environment; and,
- Protect the rights of parents and guardians, including those with disabilities, to be fully involved in rearing children and ensure that a parent's/guardian's disability is not used as a barrier to custody or full and equal involvement in the child's life.

Civil Justice

California Democrats support a strong and accessible civil justice system to defend public health, safety, and the environment, and to vindicate the rights of consumers, injured persons, employees, and all of our citizens equally. The Seventh Amendment right to trial by jury in civil cases was intended by the Framers to put a check on the potential abuse of power by the government and place control in the hands of "the common people."

In recent years, our civil justice system has come under concerted attack by corporations shielding themselves from civil liability for wrongful conduct by using their money and power to deny everyday people fair access to the courts. The attack on Seventh Amendment rights has come under the false and misleading cloak of "tort reform."

To reverse these attacks on the rights of our citizens to seek full and fair justice through the courts, California Democrats will:

- Oppose forced arbitration and support passage of the Arbitration Fairness Act that provides that "no predispute arbitration agreement shall be valid or enforceable if it requires arbitration of an employment dispute, consumer dispute, or civil rights dispute;"
- Advocate for the end of employment agreements that contain forced arbitration clauses and condition a worker's employment and fair protection on signing such agreements;
- Support of the right of the people to join together in class actions and condemn the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *AT&T Mobility v. Concepcion* and *American Express Co. v. Italian Colors Restaurant* that gave corporations the right to prohibit class actions against them by consumers and employees and force such individuals to arbitrate all claims;
- Trust juries to determine the appropriate level of compensation for a prevailing plaintiff in a lawsuit, oppose any arbitrary limits on damages that a jury may award, and support review of the impact on raising current limits on pain and suffering damages on victims and providers in medical malpractice; and,
- Seek to end the use of confidentiality clauses in settlements involving matters of public health and safety.

'Justice delayed is justice denied' is the reality that California's civic justice system will continually face without budget reforms and state budget reprioritization. Budget cuts to California's Judicial Branch means extended waits for civil lawsuits and legal issues that touch everyday lives – divorces, child custody hearings, conservatorships, probate, traffic hearings, and small claims – in extreme examples from several months to several years. Multilingual legal assistance for people who represent themselves as well as for family law centers which provide assistance in divorce, child custody, child support, and domestic violence cases have been cut, effectively eliminating access to the courts for immigrant communities.

California Democrats believe that fair and equal access to justice is a right in a democratic society. The undue delays in the current civil justice system mean that only the wealthy will be able to afford to utilize the civil justice system and families already in crisis will face insurmountable circumstances that are likely to place the most vulnerable family members in continuing volatile living conditions.

To restore fair and equal access to the civil justice system for all Californians, California Democrats will:

- Support restoration of full funding for the Courts;
- Support reforms to the Administrative Office of the Courts that will place more resources to helping individuals and reduce managerial operations;
- Support fair and reasonable alternatives to litigation, such as alternative dispute resolution, so long as such alternatives are fully voluntary and not coerced;
- Support expedited trial tracks; and,
- Support giving higher priority to cases involving individual and small business plaintiffs over cases involving corporate plaintiffs, including family law and probate cases, until full court funding is restored.

Criminal Justice

We are committed to keeping the public safe. Crime prevention and rehabilitation are essential to our families, our communities, and the state budget. We are dedicated to ensuring that our criminal justice system provides fair and equitable treatment for all. "Smart on crime" must include evidence-based prevention programs and investment in alternatives to incarceration and services as the best use of taxpayer funds.

We are committed to ending mass incarceration in California prisons and jails. We need to prioritize building schools, not jails. We must invest in proven strategies to prevent crime, including providing structured preschool and afterschool programs for youth, as well as programs and policies to promote school retention and graduation and effectively end the school to prison pipeline. We will work to end the practice of racial profiling, from surveillance through charging and sentencing;

To promote safe communities for all, California Democrats will:

- Provide drug treatment programs of high-quality that are easily accessible for every person with an alcohol or substance abuse disorder;
- Prevent criminalization of persons who commit low-level offenses or who create a "public nuisance" related to homelessness or mental illness by directing them to public health and housing services, rather than resorting to arrest;
- Support abolishing capital punishment;
- Call for constitutional amendments striking the slavery and involuntary servitude exceptions from the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 6 of the California Constitution;
- Oppose the use of prison labor by private companies;
- Enhance victim-witness advocacy that provides therapeutic assistance, financial compensation, and support for comprehensive services for victims of crime;
- Support the ongoing legalization, regulation, and taxation of cannabis in a manner similar to that of tobacco or alcohol, while prioritizing the health, education, and safety of California's communities and the country over revenue or profits;
- Support contact and communication between families and loved ones who are incarcerated because the strongest predictor of post-incarceration success is family support;
- Invest in programs that assist families in visitation, communication, and planning for re-entry;
- End the practice of housing Californians in out-of-state jails and prisons;
- Provide individuals on parole and probation with clear information about their rights and responsibilities in order to reduce parole and probation violations;

- Recruit and retain law enforcement officers who are trained to work effectively in cross-cultural situations;
- Support law enforcement officers with excellent pay and benefits and hold them accountable for misconduct;
- Dismiss any peace officer that does not uphold the high standards and trust afforded them by the community and government;
- Implement the policies and practices of de-escalation that enable law enforcement to work in a safe and productive manner rather than resorting to physical restraint, violence, arrest or the threat of restraint, or violence or arrest in the face of anger, disagreement or resistance that is not a threat to the peace officer or others;
- Insist on independent investigators in cases of police use of deadly force;
- Work to end police brutality by encouraging local governments to have peace officers personally liable to pay damage awards for excessive force and wrongful deaths that were out of policy;
- Support the universal use of police body cameras and dashboard and prisoner compartment cameras;
- Support rules requiring police officers to mitigate injuries by responding appropriately to requests for medical assistance or in situations where a suspect has been injured or killed during a police encounter;
- Support collection of demographic data in each county for all persons detained, fined, arrested, injured or killed during police encounters that includes ethnicity, language, gender identity, and age;
- Enforce laws and policies that protect women and men from sexual assault and rape;
- Prioritize funding for labs to complete all rape kits in a timely manner;
- Support the use of DNA testing when appropriate to protect those wrongfully accused and set free those wrongfully convicted;
- Challenge the implementation of "stop and frisk" policies that are disproportionately applied to persons of color;
- Reform the bail system so that persons awaiting trial do not languish in jails solely because they and their families are too poor to pay for bail;
- Remove barriers to accessing public benefits for people with felony convictions, including victim services;
- Work to restore full civil rights, including the right to serve on juries, of persons convicted of felonies who have served their term of incarceration and probation;
- Support the establishment of a non-partisan sentencing commission that is mandated to review sentencing laws;
- Provide balanced funding for public defender and district attorney agencies so that the promise of a constitutionally adequate defense is realized;
- Reduce prison overcrowding by decreasing penalties and decriminalizing certain drug and other non-violent offenses, implementing state law provisions for compassionate release and release for older, long-term prisoners, and support community service as an alternative sentence for low-risk individuals;
- Oppose using prisons and jails as *de facto* mental health facilities and fight to adequately fund community mental health and substance abuse programs;
- Ensure that law enforcement and prison workers are trained on how to properly interact with mentally ill people;
- Support programs to reduce recidivism to stop the expansion of public prisons, call for the closure of private prisons and jails, and ultimately close at least one public prison;
- Advocate that the state adopt concrete measures to eliminate the use of solitary confinement;
- Oppose youth being held in adult prisons and jails; end the practice of trying juveniles as adults;
- Support youth parole by providing review for all sentences committed before the age of 23, including sentences of Life, Life Without the Possibility of Parole (LWOP), and determinate sentences;
- Increase oversight of juvenile justice agencies and implement trauma-responsive justice systems grounded in adolescent development to yield better outcomes for youth and reduce racial inequalities;
- Support the implementation of restorative justice practices that bring together those who have committed crimes with victims and community members in an effort to recognize and repair the damage caused by criminal activity through accountability and rehabilitation; and,
- Support partnerships with local building and construction trades councils to provide career training to incarcerated men and women through pre-apprenticeship programs that utilize the Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) for future career opportunities.

Culture and the Arts

California Democrats believe in freedom of expression without compromise, public support of the arts, and the principles promoted by the California Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the National

Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). We further commit to involve artists and cultural organization workers in the planning and implementation processes of artistic endeavors.

In support of the arts, California Democrats will:

- Celebrate and promote the cultural diversity of our residents, past and present, and encourage improved public knowledge through honest portrayal of our diverse cultures and histories;
- Encourage community-based works in the arts and cultural practices that explore the power to create positive images that reflect a peaceful future;
- Ensure that people of color have equal access to tax-funded cultural arts programs;
- Restore arts and humanities efforts at all educational levels;
- Encourage engagement in all types of public art and performance;
- Promote multi-media public broadcasting, including community-based public radio and public access television;
- Promote greater financial inclusion for all artists in Internet use of their intellectual property;
- Promote the arts as a major employer and industry by recognizing the importance of creative workers to the California economy and support efforts to sustain California's international status as a center of innovation, including the film and television industry, architecture, design, technology, and the many categories of fine and performing arts; and,
- Support increases in funding for the California Arts Council.

Death with Dignity

To ensure death with dignity, California Democrats support the right of any competent adult suffering intractable pain as a consequence of a terminal illness to obtain the assistance of medical doctors in painlessly ending one's own life with current and humane methods available. We support safeguards to ensure that this right of the patient self-determination will not be misused by either family members or health care personnel to precipitate the demise of any disabled person who desires to continue living.

We support reimbursement to doctors, including Medicare doctors and other healing professionals, who may utilize holistic treatment modalities when administering pain management protocols, including reimbursement when patients request voluntary consultation about end-of-life care.

Disabilities

People with disabilities have an inalienable right to participate as equals in all aspects of civic and political life through employment and equal opportunity for political expression. California Democrats support and uphold the enforcement and funding of all federal, state, and local civil rights legislation and regulations, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), and the Lanterman Act, and will actively oppose any effort to undermine their strength or impact. All Democrats must reject cuts to and promote increases in Supplemental Security Income (SSI), state supplementary programs, and federal Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). California Democrats believe in the equality of people with disabilities and oppose ableism – discrimination in favor of people without disabilities – in all forms.

To ensure equality for people with disabilities, California Democrats will:

- Register people with disabilities to vote and encourage all people with disabilities to exercise their right to independently cast a private ballot and work to abolish any physical, regulatory, or legislative barriers that inhibit the ability to exercise this right;
- Expect elected officials to have one staff person well-versed in disability civil rights issues;
- Encourage Party-endorsed candidates to access a person or organizations well-versed in disability civil rights issues;
- Actively support participation and employment of people with disabilities at all levels of the Party and ensure that all Party functions are fully accessible to all who wish to participate;
- Ensure that all Democratic Central Committees and affiliated organizations have the training and tools necessary to reach out to voters with disabilities and strongly support the formation and strengthening of Democratic organizations dedicated to advocating for the full inclusion of people with disabilities;
- Ensure that all Democratic Party and endorsed campaign headquarters are fully accessible;
- Encourage balanced participation of people with disabilities on state and local commissions as well as within Party leadership and standing committee positions;

- Encourage municipalities and local governments to establish disability advisory bodies;
- Support the development of strategies to achieve parity for people with disabilities in the workforce, promote the training of people with disabilities as entrepreneurs, and work with unions to promote and develop alternative forms of employment for people with disabilities;
- Work to eliminate marriage penalties imposed on SSI recipients, including income parameters;
- Work for guaranteed palliative care; support improvements to the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan by amending prohibitive costs; oppose detrimental budget cuts in Medicare/ Medi-Cal; and support the principle of informed choice;
- Encourage legislation to improve respite care and in-home support services and support higher pay and better training programs for home care workers;
- Work to broaden financial assistance for accessible housing, vehicles, and durable medical equipment to give much-needed monetary assistance for individuals to pay for improvements to their equipment beyond the Medicare/Medi-Cal rate;
- Fight to eliminate housing discrimination that penalizes or denies people with disabilities the right to interdependence through shared housing with a spouse or significant other;
- Promote parity of services for mental health and substance-related disorder benefits and medical and dental health for people with developmental and other disabilities under all public and private health care delivery plans, with the inclusion of long-term care as basic coverage in all private plans; and,
- Actively design and implement support services programs targeted toward isolated and rural communities.

Education

We believe in a universally well-educated population. To achieve this, California students must have access to world-class pre-K-12 public education that will prepare them to live, work, and thrive in a multi-cultural, multi-lingual, and highly connected world. We must fully fund public education to correct years of insufficient allocations.

We must prepare our students for postsecondary education, career technical education, and active citizenship in the 21st century. To assure access to modern jobs, all districts should be required to offer STEM subjects: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. All students, especially those underrepresented in STEM, should be encouraged to study, and be supported in, these subjects.

We must work to make California schools a sanctuary for all children, irrespective of documentation and/or protected class. We must provide a safe environment where students and staff do not feel threatened and are free from bullying and harassment and where restorative policies and practices eliminate the school-to-prison pipeline. We must end zero-tolerance policies that criminalize student behavior, and instead, develop school discipline reforms that encourage counseling, education, and positive behavior. Sworn peace officers in schools must be adequately trained to work with children and teenagers and understand that the use of force against students is only a last resort.

Those with the power to legislate, authorize or oversee charter schools must enforce policies that ensure the following: Charter schools should all be non-profit, democratically and transparently governed, offer consistently high-quality education and should not harm neighborhood public schools by siphoning public funds for privately operated schools. They should be subject to the same health, labor, safety, transparency and accountability standards as traditional public schools. They should offer reduced priced meals to low income students like neighborhood public schools, and should not push out special education students or English learners onto traditional neighborhood schools.

Charter schools should institute clear due process procedures for suspensions and expulsions, and should not unjustifiably expel challenging students that public schools then have a duty to educate; they should be held to similar standards as traditional public schools in this policy area. They should not add to the segregation of the highest performing students from the lowest performing students by cherry-picking enrollment. They should embrace their initial mission to partner with traditional public schools to share innovative strategies.

Charters school educators should be subject to the same credentialing requirements and qualification standards as those at neighborhood public schools. Local school district boards should have total authority to determine what public schools, including charter schools, will operate within their school district. Charter schools should be subject to the most rigorous oversight of public funds so that no tax dollars are used for personal gain and no public school

property is transferred to private ownership.

Because a college-educated workforce is vital to California's future, we must return to tuition-free public college and university for all Californians funded by progressive taxation. To restore top-quality education and ensure a place for all qualified in-state students, we must prioritize higher education dramatically to correct years of underfunding, which for UC and CSU exceeds \$1 billion each.

Expenses such as housing, food, and books force students to split time between work and studying, take on debt to survive, and lead to extra years in college. Very low-income students must have financial aid that covers the full cost of attendance to eliminate homelessness and food scarcity issues on campuses. Financial aid programs, including the Cal Grant and Pell Grant, must be funded to help cover these costs and make sure no student is overburdened by debt to earn a higher education. The Cal Grants program should be expanded within the community college system.

To help educate California's young leaders and to prepare them to compete for challenging jobs, California Democrats will:

- Ensure that all California four-year-old children have access to a high-quality preschool;
- Encourage stronger coordination between early learning programs and K-12 schools;
- Strive for full proficiency in English language arts and mathematics;
- Provide instruction in social studies, sciences, literature, art, music, foreign languages, civics, health, and physical education;
- Ensure that schoolchildren have current textbooks, including history books that are inclusive and historically accurate, and science books that fully reflect the strong scientific consensus on issues of science, such as climate change, evolution, and the Big Bang theory;
- Work to ensure that all graduating high school students are climate literate, to include knowing why we have anthropogenic climate change and its potential for harm;
- Advocate school policies that maximize instruction time and minimize chronic absenteeism;
- Work to make sure schools are leveraging the flexibility created by the Local Control Funding Formula by engaging parents, collaborate with their communities, and develop accountability plans that best serve their communities, especially low-income students, English learners, and foster children, in order to close the achievement gap;
- Provide foster youth with the targeted support and services they need to succeed in school and prepare for college and career;
- Ensure that the federal and state governments fully fund special education;
- Ensure every child graduates from high school ready for college or career and civic life by establishing a system of school accountability, including information for all stakeholders, rigorous and achievable expectations for students and educators, support to foster continuous improvement, and interventions when necessary – all with a focus on student success;
- Support learning environments that include robust Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and encourage partnerships between school districts and local building and construction trades councils through use of project labor agreements/community workforce agreements to create pathways to construction careers;
- Ensure that all students receive quality instruction by updating programs that prepare future teachers and providing new teachers with meaningful and objective feedback, with an eye to lift the state's most disadvantaged and struggling schools and students;
- Continue to build and sustain proven afterschool and summer programs in order to keep children safe and to close the achievement gap;
- Oppose voucher systems for schools;
- Promote factual age-appropriate sex education in school curriculum in California;
- Ensure all students have access to school counselors and nurses. Increase the capacity of school-based health centers to provide more children with access to physical, mental, vision, and dental health services. Take a comprehensive approach to childhood obesity by ensuring children have adequate time to exercise and offering nutrition education in schools;
- Support access to healthy food choices in and out of school that address food insecurity, such as food pantries, food bank partnerships, cooking classes, and healthy food choices that do not increase the risk of diabetes and obesity. Expand the CalFresh program for students;

- Ensure that educators and classified staff receive wages commensurate with their expertise and responsibility, have opportunities for professional growth, and have the right to organize and be represented by a union of their choice;
- Ensure that “adjunct faculty” at our colleges and universities who do the same work as full-time faculty and meet the same professional standards are paid a comparable wage;
- Encourage community colleges and other colleges and universities to use full-time faculty as practicable and to provide office-hour faculty support to ensure student access to all courses and to increase on-time graduation rates;
- Support Adult Education and Community College programs for life-long learning;
- Advocate for the ability to refinance of current student loans and to treat those loans as any other loans subject to bankruptcy; and,
- Oppose tax bill provisions that would eliminate the exemption of tuition waivers from taxable income or that would repeal the student loan interest deduction or the Lifetime Learning Credit. These would dissuade graduate students from entering critical STEM fields, thereby shutting the door on new opportunity for discovery, exploration and innovation.

Energy and Environment

Climate change is an existential threat to humanity, and we believe California and the United States must lead in forging a robust global solution to the climate crisis. All Californians, urban, suburban, and rural, hold a shared interest in preserving and protecting the environment that sustains us, especially our water. California Democrats have led the way toward effective bipartisan solutions to problems arising from our industrial society – resource extraction, waste disposal, and pollution – and their disparate impact on our forests, family farms, the poor, ethnic minorities, and indigenous people.

Climate change and other environmental issues present a clear and imminent threat to our planet and our public health, therefore California Democrats will:

Energy

- Urge Congress to pass comprehensive energy security and climate protection laws that include national requirements for renewable electricity generation, end reliance on dirty forms of energy such as coal, and establish a rigorous greenhouse gas emissions cap;
- Urge Congress, the California Legislature, the California Public Utilities Commission, and the California Energy Commission to reduce long-term reliance on nuclear power, ensure the safety and fully evaluate the full lifecycle costs of nuclear power. This includes the phasing-out of all reactors, the swift decommission and withhold of funds for license renewal for Mark I nuclear reactors (which cannot be made safe), and ensuring that operators provide emergency plans and adequate liability protection for populations within 50 miles of reactors;
- Support a comprehensive employment plan for workers displaced as nuclear and fossil fuel infrastructure is eliminated, including Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) for workers employed to tear down and remove such facilities, and work to ensure the clean-up and safe storage of nuclear waste and the cleanup of Superfund sites;
- Support price guarantees as a method of promoting domestic and entrepreneurial renewable energy production that increases the percentage of renewable energy in California's power mix. Support the right of individuals to generate their own energy, virtual net metering, expansion of solar energy production in disadvantaged communities and multi-unit developments, and encourage the growth of individual energy generation. Oppose attempts to remove incentives that increase the number of rooftop solar systems. Support government initiatives that allow property owners to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for their homes and commercial buildings. Incentivize utilities to provide on-bill financing to help Californians finance energy efficiency upgrades;
- Support energy democracy and community choice energy programs to transition our cities and counties, and ultimately all of California, to locally sourced clean power that will provide green jobs;
- Provide research grants that encourage conservation, sustainability of natural resources, and development of green technologies in transportation and alternative energy production;
- Support the implementation of a fossil fuels extraction tax; and,
- Develop comprehensive regional community conservation and sustainability plans to prevent depletion of natural resources.

Environment

- Create green collar jobs by providing incentives for the development, production, deployment, and purchase of environmentally friendly products, renewable energy systems, high-speed rail, energy efficient goods and services, and recycled materials through public-private partnerships;
- Extend the state's landmark Global Warming Solutions Act to 2050; return to the state's 1990 greenhouse gas emissions levels by 2025; produce 100 percent of California's electricity from renewable and sustainable energy sources by 2045; produce 50 percent of the state's transportation fuels from non-petroleum sources and support Low Carbon Fuel Standards that take into account long-term sustainability;
- Oppose new fossil fuel infrastructure projects;
- Reject any attempt at new offshore oil or gas development; preserve and ensure coastal access; protect the mandates of the California Coastal Act; and support the recovery and preservation of our ocean ecosystems;
- Restore the clarity of Lake Tahoe and preserve California's inland lakes by preventing the intrusion of new aquatic invasive species and by protecting watersheds and surrounding forest ecosystems;
- Work to improve and provide adequate funding for the federal and equivalent state regulations such as the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, or the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and oppose attempts to weaken such protections;
- Support policies to eliminate the costly scourge of plastic pollution from our state's neighborhoods, rivers, beaches, and marine ecosystems; promote sustainable utilization and conservation of natural resources and public lands through appropriate taxation for extraction of non-renewable natural resources and thoughtful land use planning to combat suburban sprawl; reject any sale of public forestry and park lands; support dedicated funding for state parks; and safeguard California's forests through sustained yield best practices forestry, the elimination of clear cutting (and subsidies for roads to enable clear cutting) to preserve natural habitat diversity and connectivity, soil conservation measures, the preservation of heritage trees, and carbon sequestration techniques;
- Support mandatory funding for Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to counties which have relinquished taxable land to the state for wildlife conservation;
- Encourage the goal of "Net Zero Energy Emissions" in new home construction by 2020 and in new commercial construction by 2030 and encourage the use of fire-resistant, termite-proof, and energy-efficient building materials in all new residential and light commercial construction;
- Support an immediate moratorium on fracking, acidizing, and other forms of oil/gas- well stimulation to remain in effect until legislation and regulations are put in place that repeal the exception in the Safe Drinking Water Act, guarantee public health and safety, mitigate the effects of climate change, protect the environment, and allow government access and testing of the chemicals used at all sites;
- Work to reduce California's dependence on natural gas without sacrificing energy system reliability by replacing it with renewable energy in order to eliminate the need for storage facilities, including the immediate shutdown of the natural gas facility in Aliso Canyon that had the largest methane leak in U.S. history;
- Affirm a commitment to environmental justice: no community should be subjected to environmental hazards due to race, economic standing, or immigration status;
- Support policies that protect the biological diversity of living organisms, dedicated funding to conduct basic research, monitoring, habitat protection, and conservation actions to ensure sustainable populations of wildlife and fisheries for future generations; and,
- Support the adoption of a new California wetland definition to protect the 2.9 million acres of wetlands in California that include seasonal streams and small isolated ponds.

Agriculture and Food Safety

- Provide innovative incentives that will encourage agricultural water conservation, the retention of lands for agricultural production, and low impact/sustainable agricultural practices; promote an agriculture and food sector that is economically viable, environmentally sound, and socially responsible; protect California's agricultural land as an irreplaceable resource;
- Curtail and phase out pesticides that pose threats to farm workers, consumers, and pollinators, such as bees;
- Promote food safety, eat local movements, small family farms, urban gardens, healthy food alternatives, safe working conditions for farm workers, appropriate food labeling to include those foods containing GMO products, the humane treatment of animals in food production, and support providing low-interest loans for local farms that can produce fresh locally-grown produce and provide local employment opportunities;
- Encourage small-scale farming, organic farming, community gardens, farmers' markets and other farm-to-table programs as a means of connecting consumers to food production and driving economic growth; and,

- Support policy and legislation that encourages and educates on the use of plant-based alternatives to reduce reliance on animal agriculture, a major contributor to climate change.

Transportation

- Support vehicle regulations to provide healthier air for all Californians, strong and workable low-emission and zero-emission vehicle standards that will continue to be a model for the country, and Clean Vehicle Incentive programs to include the installation of charging infrastructure, and provide assistance to small businesses to meet the low-emission standards;
- Demand Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) driving-reduction targets, shown by science to support climate stabilization;
- Work for equitable and environmentally-sound road and parking operations; support strategies to reduce driving, such creating smart growth and “complete streets,” teaching bicycling traffic skills, and improving transit, from local systems to high-speed rail;
- Work for shared, convenient, and value-priced parking, operated with a system that provides financial support to those paying higher costs or receiving a reduced wage due to the cost of providing the parking;
- Demand a state plan outlining how cars and light-duty trucks can hit climate-stabilizing targets by defining enforceable measures to achieve necessary fleet efficiency and per-capita driving limits;
- Support policies, including tax policies and the use of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) grants, that empower business owners, especially small business owners, to make investments in transportation infrastructure to ensure that freight moves by lower-emission local, short-line freight railroads, instead of adding to highway congestion and pollution;
- Support the design and implementation of a single, environmentally-sound technology system that will collect and distribute fees for the use of roads, parking, and transit that is both economically fair and convenient and protects user privacy and the interests of low-income users;
- Work for the electrification of all trucking and transit systems; and,
- Work to ensure that freeway expansion projects are subordinate to more sustainable alternatives that will result in more jobs and more economic growth.

Water

- Ensure clean, safe drinking water in schools, public buildings, and municipal water systems as a basic human right;
- Implement the mandate to ensure clean drinking water for all Californians by fully protecting all water sources, funding the treatment systems needed to clean up existing contamination, and assuring that small water systems, heavily concentrated in rural areas, have the resources to deliver reliable, safe drinking water;
- Motivate efficient and sustainable use of water; hold all users accountable to reasonable consumption levels; implement and enforce regulations for groundwater use that includes full usage documentation;
- Ensure allocation and management of water to sustain the economy, including needs of agriculture, ecosystems, fisheries, recreation, and endangered species;
- Protect the Delta by upgrading the levees, restoring the rivers, increasing floodplain habitat for fish and wildlife and groundwater recharge, mitigating saltwater intrusion and subsidence, and preserving agricultural land; invest in projects throughout the state that reduce reliance on the Delta and-promote water conservation as a way of life;
- Support measures that prohibit long-term depletion of California’s aquifers;
- Prioritize conservation, storm water capture/reclamation, and potable reuse/recycling over desalination and dam-building; and,
- Ensure that all stakeholders are consulted regarding proposals for new or expanded diversions of water from one watershed to another and that the environmental, economic, and social justice impact of these water diversions are fully addressed.

Equality of Opportunity

California Democrats recognize the growing disparity between the top two percent and the rest of Americans. We understand that institutionalized discrimination against protected classes, including racism, classism, sexism, ageism, and anti-LGBTQ bias contribute to that disparity, and we believe that all Americans deserve the opportunity to participate fully in the economic, cultural, political, religious, and social facets of society. We take pride in and celebrate our diversity and work to foster the common values and commitments that unite all people, regardless of

age, sexual orientation, cultural heritage, national origin, disability, physical attributes, socio-economic status, gender, race, or personal views on religion.

To fight for all people to live with dignity and equality, California Democrats will:

- Support a just and righteous society by speaking out with a public and unified voice against all forms of racism, discrimination, harassment, hatred, and violence directed at racial and ethnic minorities. Support movements that recognize disproportionate discrimination, including Black Lives Matter;
- Encourage, support and defend voluntary, and mandatory affirmative action measures aimed at enhancing equality in employment, education, and business opportunities;
- Affirm that the right to accept or reject any religious belief, to bind oneself to any religious creed, or to hold no religious creed whatsoever, is a private matter and should always remain a matter of individual conscience. We, therefore, oppose any government funding to organizations that fail or refuse to respect these rights;
- Protect the constitutional and sovereign rights of Native American Nations and well-established rights and jurisdictions of California Native American tribes, including a tribe's sovereign powers in protecting Native American sacred sites and grave sites. We support eliminating and preventing the use of mascots by public educational institutions that are discriminatory or offensive to the Native American community;
- Support nondiscrimination for the LGBTQ community in all aspects of their lives, including housing, employment, health care, and family/adoption; affirm support for their legal right to marry and support clergy of all religious denominations in their freedom to solemnize marriages in accordance with their respective beliefs;
- Encourage and support more women, LGBTQ, people with disabilities, and people of color to run for elected local, state, and federal offices;
- Protect the right of all people to use facilities and participate in all aspects of society consistent with their gender identity, regardless of the gender at birth;
- Support the use of gender-neutral language;
- Support wage equality, thus allowing individuals to achieve upward mobility and economic equality in our communities; and,
- Work to ensure that government (especially our legal system) works for all citizens, not just the privileged.

Health Care

California Democrats believe that health care is a human right not a privilege. The CDP recognizes that the health and well-being of Californians cannot continue to be based on arbitrary private and public financial decisions and therefore advocates legislation to create and implement a publicly-funded single-payer, privately delivered, fiscally tractable, affordable, comprehensive, secure, high quality, efficient, and sustainable health care system for all Californians.

To build a healthy future for all Californians, Democrats will:

- Support and implement universal comprehensive health care for all Californians that includes medical and dental care, full reproductive health services that respects a woman's right to choose, preventive services, prescription drugs, and mental health and substance abuse counseling and treatment;
- Support holistic healing practices and alternative medicine, particularly those areas licensed by the state such as acupuncture and medical cannabis and utilized to relieve intractable pain without the side effects of conventional controlled drugs;
- Monitor legislation enacted to address adequacy of health care networks that provides for better access to services and addresses cost disparities, particularly in our rural communities;
- Monitor legislation enacted to remedy any uncertainty concerning dispensing of medical cannabis with regard to state law that will provide for rights of medical cannabis patients and specify means and manner of dispensing to qualified patients, even in light of the passage of cannabis for recreational use;
- Lead the nation in providing comprehensive quality health care to all our people by enacting and funding SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program) coverage for all children in California;
- Work to enact legislation to provide for doctor-directed levels of rehabilitation for brain injuries in all private health care plans and public health care programs, including injuries sustained through repeated trauma as in sports that manifest at a much later date;
- Work to strengthen Medi-Cal and Medicare and oppose efforts to privatize such safety net programs;
- Simplify language and plan choices for ease of understanding to individuals making health coverage decisions;
- Support a requirement that all HMOs and health insurers obtain prior approval from the state before rates can be increased and when such time as all Californians are covered by publicly-funded health care, and support an

independent panel free of health care industry conflict to oversee rate increases, cost-effectiveness, and quality of care;

- Support the state in coordinating with the Federal government in regulating and controlling the cost of prescription drugs;
- Ensure that loss of employment does not cause a loss of health care;
- Fight to eliminate ostensible denial of coverage because excessive rating based on pre-existing conditions;
- Expand and strengthen respite care and in-home support services including adequate background checks prior to licensure, and promote an in-home support services system with a focus on quality and affordability;
- Review current “spend down requirements” to qualify for support programs so that clients and families do not have the added burden of living in poverty;
- Recognize the physical and financial burdens of family caregivers and support legislation and programs to provide adequate training, assistive interventions, and financial safety nets such as employer savings and tax credits;
- Ensure economic and physical access to multilingual health care services;
- Support addressing health care disparities and promote the goals of the Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health;
- Support the full funding of community clinics and health centers that serve low-income and homeless populations;
- Protect funding for health care services as mandated by voters from being transferred or redirected for any other purpose [e.g., Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63)];
- Enforce the Patient's Bill of Rights;
- Affirm that medical decisions must be made with respect for patients' rights to privacy and freedom to have control over their lives with fully informed consent;
- Invest in education, incentives, and other means to prevent disease and promote healthy living; and,
- Lead the fight against diseases by supporting and expanding stem cell and other groundbreaking research.

Immigration

California is the most diverse state in the nation and reflects the foundation of America's strength, emphasizing the fundamental principles of inclusion and national unity that respect rules of law and human dignity. California Democrats believe that the American immigration system should be inclusive, fair, and just. Immigration must be consistent with American values of freedom, opportunity, compassion, and respect for human rights.

As citizens of a state built upon the successes of immigrants, California Democrats will:

- Affirm that we can strengthen America's borders while upholding our values by honoring the tradition of providing a safe place for immigrants seeking a life of freedom and opportunity;
- Oppose travel and immigration bans that are based solely on ethnicity, race, religion, or national origin;
- Oppose detention centers that detain or incarcerate based solely on ethnicity, race, religion, or national origin;
- Ensure that the fundamental rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution are applied to every person within U.S. borders or held in U.S. custody;
- Fight unconstitutional treatment of undocumented individuals;
- Support efforts to safeguard America's security while respecting the principles of the American Dream;
- Oppose construction of an unnecessary border wall between the United States and Mexico;
- Support comprehensive, bipartisan immigration reform that addresses fairness, country of origin, family reunification, and family unity, including giving full faith and credit to families of same sex marriages and same sex couples;
- Support a path to earned legal residency for undocumented immigrants in our communities;
- Encourage increased and expedited processing of applications for family reunification and naturalization while supporting reasonable and fair application fees;
- Support our elected officials in seeking timely information with regard to status of immigration paperwork for constituents, particularly for those constituents who have suffered hardship from backlogs and undue delays;
- Support efforts to improve the naturalization process and make citizenship more accessible and affordable by increasing transparency on application fees, providing uniform administration of the naturalization exam, implementing accommodations for immigrants with disabilities, and assisting immigrants with citizenship requirements;
- Support efforts to provide undocumented immigrants with a transitional path to earned legalized residency and citizenship, including methods to pay back taxes, learn English, register with the federal government for work

permits, contribute to the U.S. through education, work, military service, or other community service, complete criminal and security background checks, and acquire driver licenses and insurance coverage, Work to ensure all counties have resources necessary to provide assistance to immigrants;

- Support efforts to provide an expedited path to citizenship for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) individuals and their families;
- Support efforts to provide assistance in learning English and educational opportunities for cultural immersion;
- Support efforts that maximize educational opportunities for all immigrant students, including access to public education and financial assistance as an investment for our common future;
- Affirm efforts to provide equal access to housing for all immigrants and condemn conduct that denies equal housing to all, including a landlord's inquiry into the citizenship or immigration status of a tenant or a prospective tenant;
- Support efforts to provide health care and access to insurance for all immigrants to ensure the well-being of our communities;
- Support efforts to promote available government services to immigrant communities;
- Support outreach efforts that promote civic engagement and participation in the political process among naturalized citizens that reflect the diversity of our communities, such as voter registration and voter education, and support effective legal safeguards and protections for access to voting and voting materials in letters, spirit, and practice;
- Oppose scapegoating, racial profiling, religious profiling, bigotry, vigilantism, exploitation, and any xenophobic conduct that polarize communities and denounce actions by the government or individuals that keep undocumented immigrants in the shadows of our society;
- Affirm immigration rights based on human rights and support the goals of the Violence Against Women Act, petitioners for U Visas for victims of crimes, and petitioners for T Visas for victims of human trafficking;
- Ensure intervention for abuse, discrimination, and crime among or against immigrants and removing the fear of arrest and deportation for reporting such abuse;
- Encourage cooperation of state and local law enforcement when serving immigrant communities in the interest of public safety for all;
- Oppose law enforcement agencies that unfairly target, threaten, intimidate, or otherwise harass immigrants because of immigration status; and,
- Oppose local law enforcement agencies acting as federal immigration law enforcement or cooperating with federal law enforcement absent a federal judicial warrant.

Internet and Free Speech

The fundamental human right of free speech requires robust communication technologies and the Internet has proven to be an essential part of preserving it. Unfettered speech depends upon equal and uncensored access to all forms of wired and wireless communication infrastructure and its many applications, including voice, video, and the Internet. Moreover, accessibility to reliable and factual information requires a free and unrestrained press. To protect and advance this fundamental human right, California Democrats support policies to preserve and encourage continued innovation of open, fast, accessible, and competitive communication and Internet services for all.

To promote and support free speech, communications, and the Internet, California Democrats will:

- Support reclassification of ISPs (Internet Service Providers) by the FCC as common carriers and urge the promulgation and enforcement of robust net neutrality regulations to create an Internet without any speed or content access preference;
- Work to establish publicly owned high-speed Internet infrastructure through cities, counties, and special districts and secure state government support for such projects;
- Advocate for greater privacy protection and the protection of personally identifiable information of law-abiding Internet consumers;
- Advocate for build-out of high speed wired and wireless networks to all homes and businesses, especially in underserved and rural areas, to ensure equal access to and ability to upload and download content at high speeds and full participation in e-commerce, education, and digital medicine;
- Support requiring redundant connections to the Internet throughout all parts of California to mitigate service disruption, especially in the event of natural disasters;
- Protect American creativity and jobs by combating online piracy and enhancing cybersecurity;
- Demand review of all communication operators transmitting over the radio spectrum to ensure that they meet

- their licensing obligations of serving the public interest;
- Fully defend freedom of the press and not tolerate any government-sponsored infringement;
- Advocate for the dismantling of communication and media conglomerates that distort balanced information to the public and create an anti-competitive market for Internet services;
- Ensure that all communications will be protected from warrantless search and seizure as guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution and the California Constitution; and,
- Support ongoing research and implementation of best practices that use the Internet to foster collaboration and give stronger voice to communities.

Labor, Economic Justice, Poverty Elimination, and Affordable Housing

California Democrats continue to be close partners with organized labor and strong supporters of workers' rights. The 'glass ceiling' for people of color and women must be shattered and there must be equal pay for equal or comparable work. California's strong workforce is among our nation's most valuable resources.

California's future prosperity will depend upon jobs that ensure a minimum standard of living and that improve the quality of life for all its residents. Food, shelter (including affordable housing), clothing, health care, and education are among the basic human rights of all individuals. We are committed to safeguarding these basic human rights and to strongly supporting public services designed to eliminate poverty, hunger and homelessness, help seniors and people with disabilities in order to strengthen all California communities. SEP

All Californians have a right to affordable housing in reasonable proximity to where they work, study, and hold community ties.

To meet the basic economic needs of all Californians, California Democrats will:

Labor

- Support a statewide minimum wage with a path to at least \$15 per hour, and then indexed for inflation, and living wages in areas where the increasingly high cost of living and rising inflation renders it impossible to afford the basic necessities of life;
- Support creating and maintaining public and private sector jobs that permanently lift the working poor out of poverty to achieve self-sufficiency and a secure retirement; support employer-provided defined benefit pensions as an essential part of retirement security; and, support the establishment of a Federal Interagency Working Group on Reducing Poverty to carry out a national plan to eliminate poverty in America;
- Encourage employers to "ban the box" and fight to ensure that hiring decisions are made on the basis of an individual's qualifications for a particular job instead of whether they are formerly convicted/incarcerated persons;
- Fight for meaningful tax reform which eliminates corporate welfare and achieves a more equitable tax system for working families;
- Work to guarantee Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) for CalWorks and Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program (SSI/SSP) recipients in state and federal budgets;
- Support the full funding of food stamp programs;
- Promote expansion of emergency food networks, senior, and school meal programs to end chronic hunger;
- Encourage business and preference for firms that employ California workers whenever public funds are used for public works construction;
- Pay prevailing wages to protect the economic base of the communities where government-funded projects are undertaken and where private developments get streamlined government approvals so that government is not lowering the standard of living;
- Promote Project Labor Agreements for private and public sector infrastructure projects that provide for local hire, that help assure our returning veterans a job on a project, and that partner with viable state-approved apprenticeship and other training programs for the community;
- Support the 8-hour workday and daily overtime and fight any efforts to repeal the 40-hour workweek; advocate for paid sick days and vacation days for all workers; and, protect California's Paid Family Leave law;
- Enhance workers' safety programs with adequate and appropriate penalties for unsafe working conditions;
- Advocate for full rights for workers toiling in subcontracted and temporary work, end the misclassification of employees, and ensure that companies that subcontract are held to high standards by making those companies jointly liable with subcontracting firms when workers' rights are violated;

- Support employee rights to organize and collective bargaining and support enforceable organizing agreements that include employer neutrality, card check recognition, and binding arbitration for first time contract disputes, particularly where industries request governmental approval and/or taxpayer subsidies to expand;
- Support “Fair Share” fees which cover the costs of union representation for bargaining and enforcing workers’ contracts with employers;
- Oppose so called “Right to Work” laws which deny workers the chance to have strong unions that give them a voice at work;
- Boycott employers who have permanently replaced strikers, protect the collective bargaining rights of workers in both the public and private sectors, and support binding arbitration for police and firefighters who cannot strike;
- Fight anti-worker initiatives that undermine the ability of union leaders to carry out the will of their members and engage in political activities; and,
- Advocate for the elimination of subminimum wages that are paid to workers with disabilities and fully fund integrated employment programs designed to transition people with disabilities into workplaces that do not segregate people based on disability. Democrats stand for the right of all workers to earn a living wage and reject wage-based discrimination rooted in an outdated view of disability.

Economic Justice

- Fight for public assistance programs that allow individuals to support themselves and their families;
- All people deserve the opportunity to pursue the American Dream and have the financial resources to live in economic security. We support efforts to enact programs, such as a guaranteed government jobs program and a universal basic income/rent or housing to eliminate poverty while improving prospects to secure good jobs that help people climb the economic ladder;
- Support funding for California’s mutual aid disaster response capabilities to ensure that state and local fire agencies have the resources necessary to effectively mitigate the public safety consequences brought about by changing climate patterns;
- Support the use of technology to improve the lives of workers and make workplaces safer and more efficient; oppose efforts by corporations to replace workers with machines as a means to pad their own bottom lines, and, as a consequence, undermine the economy and create economic instability in the lives of working people;
- Eliminate Food Deserts and encourage/incentivize the development of local grocery stores in underrepresented areas; and,
- Develop access to local banks and credit unions and limit the number of check cashing stores, pawn shops or other regressive financial institutions.

Affordable Housing

- Encourage policies that provide direct shelter, job placement, and mental health services to those in need, and oppose policies that harass and marginalize them. Individuals experiencing homelessness have the same right to dignity and respect as any Californian;
- Support the development of new affordable housing units for families and individuals with low incomes;
- Support the right of students to quality, affordable housing and accommodations within reasonable distance to their place of study, free from exploitation;
- Support exploring ways in which publicly funded, constructed, and owned housing can mitigate the housing crisis rather than depend solely upon private developers to construct new affordable housing;
- Support transit-friendly zoning and walkable, bikeable neighborhoods to encourage sustainability, affordability, and accessibility regardless of age, income, or physical limitations;
- Oppose arbitrary or burdensome conditions placed upon affordable housing construction that is affordable for our state’s working families and otherwise conforms to state and local zoning and environmental regulations and demand that such affordable housing be considered a by-right use in any zone that permits residential use with the protections of the prevailing wage for workers;
- Promote housing policies that provide for mixed income communities and that do not further exacerbate segregation by class and ethnicity; support inclusionary housing policies and oppose in-lieu development fees that exacerbate income divides, encourage sprawl, and marginalize poorer residents into less desirable areas that frequently have higher pollution levels and other health risks;
- Encourage tax and zoning policy that discourages speculation on housing and encourages local residency at affordable prices, including the elimination of the mortgage interest deduction on second homes and reasonable restrictions on short-term rentals;
- Encourage municipalities to provide reasonable accommodations to those forced into mobile residences by high cost of living;

- Support allowing local communities to create strong tenant and affordability protections against displacement, speculation, rent increases, and evictions without interference from state law; and,
- Work to preserve and protect buildings that are under Rent Control or Rent Stabilization Ordinances (RSO) to stem the loss of affordable housing units due to demolition, condo conversion, and exemption of rent-stabilized and rent-controlled units from jurisdictions that have rent control or RSO by opposing policies that allow any city, county, or state agency whose mission is to provide affordable housing to purchase rent-controlled / RSO buildings to circumvent that mission by purchasing such buildings for the purpose of exempting those buildings from rent control or RSO.

Anti-Human Trafficking

California Democrats believe every person is endowed with inalienable human rights, including the right to individual autonomy and to be free from violence and exploitation. California, as one of the most diverse states in the Union, is a magnet for domestic and global labor and sex trafficking. While predominantly affecting girls and women, human trafficking also includes boys and men.

The CDP is committed to working with state and federal lawmakers to enhance anti-human trafficking efforts that do not criminalize victims and survivors, to provide sex trafficking victims an affirmative defense against solicitation and related charges, and to provide a procedure for survivors to vacate any such prior convictions so that they can pursue a future livelihood with a clean record. We will also urge lawmakers to budget for direct services to aid such victims and survivors. We support decriminalization of sex acts committed by individuals forced into human trafficking.

National Security

California Democrats believe that keeping the United States of America and Americans safe is of the utmost importance. A strong national defense must include aspects that go beyond military might. Our national security also depends upon a strong domestic economy, a stable federal budget, a healthy environment, and an international regard as a responsible member of the world community. We are committed to a foreign policy that holds the use of military force as the last resort for national defense, used only when available diplomatic and preventive options have been exhausted and in conformity with the United Nations Charter. We recognize that current national security policies should take into consideration their downstream effects and unintended consequences. In that regard, we recognize that the current level of military spending hinders our government's ability to deal with domestic priorities, including unemployment, the national debt, and environmental degradation.

We will heed President Dwight Eisenhower's admonition that: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. The world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of laborers, the genius of its scientists, and the hopes of its children."

To preserve, protect and defend our country and the Constitution of the United States, California Democrats will:

- Support reallocating the defense budget on expenditures that protect the homeland against current threats such as terrorism, loose fissile materials, and the fight against extremist ideologies. Military spending should address today's threats, not yesterday's adversaries;
- Increase foreign non-military aid dedicated to improving anti-terrorism capabilities, law enforcement training, investigation, information exchange, and international cooperation. We believe that it is impossible to eradicate terrorism solely through a strategy of war and brute force. A robust foreign intelligence, an effective foreign aid program, and domestic policing should be better leveraged to support the nation's fight against terrorism;
- Support a gradual and responsible reduction in the DOD budget – in line with historic drawdowns after major conflicts – and reallocation of those cutbacks to state and local government needs;
- Rebalance our national security portfolio to place more emphasis on nonmilitary tools such as diplomacy and foreign aid;
- Support a foreign policy that promotes democratic reforms abroad and the promotion of human rights and the rule of law;
- Secure our ports of entry by enhancing the inspections at all airports, seaports, land crossings, and cargo containers;
- Increase federal funding to states and communities for equipment, training, and improving the capabilities of first-responders;

- Rebuild, strengthen, and reaffirm the primary role of the National Guard as the states' principal means of providing internal security under the command of the various governors;
- Support the establishment of clear and accountable chain of command for the use of unmanned devices, such as drones in countries with whom we are not at war and ensure that any use of drones in the context of military operations is fully consistent with U.S. obligations under international law;
- Recognize the supremacy of the United States Constitution in all matters. Gathering of intelligence must be balanced with the constitutional protection of Americans. All domestic surveillance must be in compliance with our laws and regulations and in particular, the Fourth Amendment that protects the right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure;
- Honor obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty framework and set a long-term policy to reduce and eventually eliminate weapons of mass destruction throughout the world;
- Support investments in infrastructure improvements and technology that promote domestic energy independence through renewable sources, that climate change and concomitant global warming pose a national security threat;
- Support a common-sense ban on deadly assault weapons and devices used to turn rifles into automatic weapons such as bump-stocks;
- Support the expansion of universal background checks;
- Support keeping firearms out of dangerous hands by expanding firearm prohibitions to those who, based on past behavior or condition, are deemed at risk of acts of violence; and promote policies and programs to limit access to firearms by children, suicidal persons, and those in crisis;
- Work to deter gun trafficking, "straw purchasing," and illegal guns by identifying, reforming, or shutting down "bad apple" gun dealers in California;
- Support California's strong gun laws by providing the necessary resources and funding for implementation, training, and enforcement of those laws, including the Armed Prohibited Persons System Program, the Gun Violence Restraining Order, the tracing of all crime guns, and the investigation of all denied firearm purchasers;
- Protect California's strong gun laws from court challenges and federal intrusion, including defeating forced concealed carry reciprocity and any removal of silencers from current regulations;
- Support enhancing federal and state law enforcement agency cybersecurity capabilities in order to protect Americans against the increase in identity theft;
- Protect American creativity and jobs by combating online piracy of intellectual property; and,
- Advocate for policies that reduce the demand for illicit drugs and thereby decrease the influence of international narco-traffickers.

Political Reform

California Democrats believe that a healthy democracy is based on free and fair elections, with all eligible voters able to participate. We oppose the culture of cronyism and corruption and support public financing of elections. We demand transparency and accountability from both our party and government.

To promote honest leadership and open government, California Democrats will:

- Actively work for an educated citizenry, equal opportunity for influence, honest public debate, competitive elections, and robust civic participation in order to enhance the democratic process;
- Support and encourage the implementation legislation for full public financing of election campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels;
- Support and encourage the implementation of full disclosure of all funding sources for political advertisements;
- Work for increased voter participation by advocating for extended voting hours and/or days, scheduling elections on weekends, and by declaring Election Day a holiday;
- Investigate and prosecute any and all forms of voter intimidation and election fraud, including misuse of social media to purposely mislead voters;
- Demand transparency in voting: transparent voting system software (encourage the use of open-source software or at least disclosed-source); national and California standards for electronic voting machine certification; external, non-partisan, NIST-level certifying groups that publicly disclose testing results; reliable voter-verifiable systems with a paper ballot as the ballot of record; robust auditing procedures, such as risk-limiting audits of all types of ballots cast, including vote-by-mail ballots and validated provisional ballots; and updated and thorough chain-of-custody and recount procedures;
- Encourage a ban on any and all forms of Internet or wireless voting, and prohibition of any connection between the Internet and any component of any election, vote-counting, or tabulating system;

- Demand accessibility and accountability from candidates and elected officials, including regular in-person reports to DSCC members and their home district constituents;
- Support the ability of local communities to choose alternative voting systems, such as ranked-choice voting and instant-runoff voting;
- Encourage no concessions by candidates until the majority of ballots are counted and the outcome of the election is statistically impossible to overcome;
- End the doctrine of corporate persons and the idea that money is speech by actively working to overturn the decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*;
- Demand transparency and implementation of accountability measures for all levels of the government and the Democratic Party; including federal, state, and local governments;
- Support and defend voter protection under the federal Voting Rights Act and the California Voting Rights Act, including supporting voter outreach and education efforts, especially for youth and underserved communities, and working to restore Voting Rights Act provisions requiring federal pre-clearance for changes to local and state voting laws and policies that were deemed outdated by the Supreme court in 2013 in *Shelby v. Holder*;
- Demand abolishing the Electoral College and support its replacement with a national popular vote;
- Encourage the placement of polling sites in tribal communities with large populations on reservations and surrounding areas including urban Native American Communities;
- Demand the end of “pay-to-play” politics by banning lobbyists from bundling sizable campaign donations, and work to close the “revolving door” of legislator to lobbyist politics; and,
- Encourage the replacement of at-large election methods with the adoption of by-district and/or alternative voting methods, such as ranked choice voting, cumulative voting, or limited voting for city, school, and special district elections to ensure that the votes of diverse communities are not diluted and to ensure that grassroots candidates can compete without needing to raise prohibitively large sums of money.

Rural

California draws strength from our diversity, both culturally and geographically. The economy of California is built on the combination of the robust commercial and industrial enterprise of our urban areas and the abundant natural resources of our rural areas.

In recognition of the special challenges in developing policies and programs that work in rural communities, California Democrats will:

- Encourage elected officials to consider the effect of any new policies or programs on rural California, by asking, “Is it fair and will it work in rural California communities?”;
- Support legislation that provides funding for equal services to all communities, in order to enhance the vibrant culture and economy of rural areas;
- Ensure that rural residents have reliable, clean, safe, and affordable water and waste disposal;
- Support equitable distribution of state resources, programs, and tax dollars based on need, not population;
- Support policies that allow lawful and responsible gun ownership for hunting and self-protection, compliant with California’s gun safety and background check laws and regulations;
- Maintain a lasting and respectful relationship with Tribal Nations and oppose all attempts to diminish tribal sovereignty, tribal culture, land and natural resources, and the general welfare of tribes;
- Build a stronger rural and agricultural economy, with sound conservation practices and environmentally sustainable business and agriculture;
- Support stronger agricultural worker protections, including regulation of work hours and worker safety, elimination of child labor, adequate housing for migrant workers, and sanitary facilities in the field;
- Promote collaborative stewardship of our finite natural resources, including land, water, wilderness, forests, and other resources, by providing assistance to producers who conserve and improve natural resources on their land;
- Support strengthening rural broadband infrastructure in order to make rural businesses more competitive;
- Create a rural economic development plan for all rural communities regardless of county population; and,
- Encourage rural business growth and development of infrastructure, such as water, sewer, power, Internet, and transportation, in order to retain and create jobs.

Seniors

California Democrats continue to recognize the importance and dignity of seniors and that they enrich our everyday

experiences. They connect us with our past and, as the fastest growing age group in the nation, are a strong driving force in our collective future. We affirm and embrace their continuing contributions and are committed to fostering a strong bond between all generations. Seniors deserve the highest standard of care from the health care industry and a prescription drug program that provides the medicine they need. We are committed to protecting senior homeownership and hard-earned pensions as well as the support services and assistance that help seniors maintain independence and a good quality of life. Seniors must be offered the opportunity to remain in jobs that they have so successfully performed for many years. We believe that a decent standard of living, adequate nutrition, health care, and other social and economic achievements are human rights.

Pre-seniors, ages 55 through 65, are among those hardest hit by the recent economic downturn and many in the Baby Boom generation have lost the ability to regain financial footing. They are experiencing salary reductions, but they don't qualify for the same benefits as their elders, such as low-income housing and Medicare. Forced retirement for those as young as 55 results in the loss of much needed income, future benefits, and additional financial burdens to the Social Security and Medicare systems.

To honor California seniors, California Democrats will:

- Oppose mandatory retirement;
- Work for additional retraining for the Baby Boom generation so they can remain in the workforce and extending unemployment, housing, and health care benefits to individuals 55 and older and their immediate families;
- Push to strengthen Social Security and preserve hard-earned pensions as the bedrock of a dignified retirement;
- Demand that Medicare continue as a guaranteed right;
- Work toward universal, comprehensive health care and until that is achieved, reform Medicare Part D to make it affordable and easily accessible to people of all income levels, specifically addressing eligibility problems and the confounding private drug plan choices;
- Affirm the right of all seniors to manage their attendant care so they may live with dignity in their own homes and communities;
- Continue to support the delivery of HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program) services to all counties in California;
- Support increased, stable funding, and expansion of service hours for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and residential care, giving consideration to the special challenges in isolated, rural communities;
- Demand greater focus on investigating and prosecuting financial crimes against seniors and other forms of elder abuse and that all existing penalties for crimes against seniors be strictly enforced;
- Advocate for stronger oversight of reverse mortgage programs;
- Fight to preserve and protect programs that serve low-income seniors such as: Adult Protective Services, Senior Community Employment, Multipurpose Senior Service Programs, Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers, Home-Delivered Meals, Long-Term Care Ombudsman, California Senior Legal Hotline, renter's assistance, homeowner property tax discount assistance, and property tax postponement;
- Work to expand public transportation and other transit services for seniors on limited incomes, with or without health concerns, to travel freely and enjoy a good quality of life; and,
- Work to guarantee quality living conditions for all seniors so that they live with dignity and are able to afford the necessities of life: housing, food, health care, and a respectable standard of living.

Sustainable Communities

California Democrats seek to build healthy, livable, and sustainable communities that conserve natural resources, promote smart growth, are economically prosperous, and are socially equitable. Unsustainable consumption reduces our energy independence, exacerbates both global warming and urban/suburban sprawl, and increases our trade deficit. We are committed to environmental justice, a sustainable lifestyle, and a healthy economy. We believe all Californians have a right to affordable housing in reasonable proximity to where they work, study, and hold community ties.

To promote sustainable communities, California Democrats will:

- Support local governments and regions in completing voluntary, sub-regional comprehensive planning processes that stem the tide of urban and suburban sprawl, and promote smart growth;
- Promote driving reduction targets shown to stabilize the climate and work for equitable and environmentally-sound roads and operations and reducing traffic gridlock;

- Promote efficient land use and create greenbelts around our urban areas to reduce traffic gridlock and minimize wildfires and erosion;
- Provide green spaces for all communities;
- Promote regional tax revenue sharing in order to decrease local governments' dependence upon sales tax revenue and minimize sprawl;
- Protect and promote the construction of affordable housing to alleviate and prevent homelessness, and develop supportive housing with continuum-of-care services to help homeless people reestablish themselves as self-sufficient contributors to society;
- Support tenant protection measures and anti-displacement ordinances such as eviction protections, rent control/rent stabilization, and oppose any statewide or local efforts and policies that undermine or weaken such measures that are currently in place;
- Protect existing homeowners' property rights by limiting eminent domain to reasonable public uses; oppose the abuse of eminent domain to take homes without the consent of the owner and convey property from one private person to another or to any corporation merely to increase tax revenues;
- Develop a sustainable rural strategy to stabilize and enhance rural communities affected by economic downturn, land use changes, loss of agricultural land, and reduction in resource extraction;
- Encourage policies and practices that enable communities to be resilient in the event of natural and human-made disasters;
- Encourage incentives to reclaim and redevelop old abandoned buildings and brownfields;
- Provide a homestead floor with absolute minimum protection for homeowners when they are forced into bankruptcy due to unanticipated health care costs or predatory lending schemes;
- Support better representation of unincorporated communities, including the right to incorporate as cities; support reforming the incorporation process and local tax allocations to facilitate such communities to attain self-governance through incorporation;
- Encourage zoning and housing policies that promote sustainability and affordability, including infill and mixed-use zoning, while still protecting the environment;
- Support inclusionary housing policies and oppose in lieu development fees that exacerbate income divides, encourage sprawl, and marginalize poorer residents into less desirable areas that frequently have higher pollution levels and other health risks;
- Encourage municipalities to work with non-profit developers, build publicly-owned housing, promote co-housing, and create housing trusts and other innovative measures for developing affordable housing;
- Oppose arbitrary or burdensome conditions placed upon affordable housing construction that otherwise meets zoning and environmental regulations; and,
- Oppose tax breaks that incentivize landlords to maintain extended vacancies in high-traffic commercial zones while holding out for excessive rents that have the detrimental effect of keeping out locally-owned establishments in favor of chain retailers.

Veterans and Military Families

All U.S. veterans are entitled to receive equal treatment and benefits, including education, training, health care, home loans, and other financial assistance.

No veteran should be discriminated against due to gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or political affiliation.

To honor the shared heritage and sacrifice of veterans and their families, California Democrats will:

- Insist that the military remove the chain of command from investigating and prosecuting claims of hazing, rape, and sexual harassment;
- Insist that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provide timely access to comprehensive, quality and cost-effective wrap-around health care and mental health services to all veterans and their families, with particular attention to veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in order to stem incidents of domestic violence and suicide;
- Oppose privatization of veterans' health care services;
- Insist that the VA fulfill its obligation to veterans by reducing the backlog of claims by accelerating claims processing and employing veterans to perform claims processing;
- Insist that veterans and military families have access to medically necessary treatment in the appropriate facility as recommended by the treating physician including the use of medicinal cannabis in states where it is legalized

and support the licensing of medical psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medications to treat veterans' mental health needs;

- Advocate that veterans in isolated rural areas have ready access to physical and mental health care services in reasonably close proximity;
- Advocate for veterans who were involuntarily discharged due solely to their sexual orientation, to have that discharge automatically upgraded from less-than-honorable discharges to honorable discharges without the requirement that service members request it;
- Advocate for veterans who received less than an honorable discharge due to mental health issues to be automatically reevaluated for honorable discharge;
- Insist that all leases and use of VA properties, facilities and land by for-profit, non-profit, and government agencies solely benefit veterans and/or their families by providing quality services including housing, clothing, food, education, and training;
- Support the elimination of homelessness among veterans by increasing funding levels for temporary, transitional, and permanent affordable housing, therapeutic facilities, using California's State Armories year-round, and providing resources to veterans including financial management, listing of available housing, and other supportive services;
- Insist that all veterans in need of housing services have access to services in the county in which they reside;
- Demand providing our troops with the latest protective equipment, technology, weaponry, and full training prior to deployment and support increased congressional oversight of overseas contingency operations;
- Demand that activated reservists and National Guard members can resume their jobs upon return and hold accountable employers for the removal of members from employment due to their drill or deployment obligations;
- Demand that service members and their families who are stationed outside the United States are provided a secure system of electronic balloting to ensure full and timely opportunity to vote;
- Insist that those who begin their service as documented or undocumented residents are afforded an immediate pathway to citizenship consistent with their service to the U.S.;
- Support tuition and fees waivers in state colleges and universities and state-funded vocational, technical, and trade schools for veterans of recent conflicts and support implementation of the G.I. Bill for the 21st century for those who have served on active duty since September 11, 2001;
- Support a Veterans Bill of Rights to provide for complete benefits to veterans;
- Insist that the same benefits given to the armed forces are provided to all National Guard and reserve members activated for federal service;
- Support the establishment and funding for Veterans' Courts accessible to all counties and encourage the establishment of Veterans' justice programs;
- Demand that the government provides assistance to individuals exposed to Agent Orange and other toxins, including contaminated soils, in the course of their military service or as a dependent residing at a former or current military installation;
- Demand that the government recognizes equality in the armed forces and veterans' groups by advocating for issues specific to women, LGBT, and transgender veterans and service members; and,
- Demand better services and support to veterans making the transition from active duty to appropriate and rewarding post-service civilian employment.

Women

California is the proud home of women who have blazed new trails in business, entrepreneurship, culture, and politics. We proudly and vigorously support a woman's right to choose how to use her mind, her body and her time. California Democrats respect women as full partners in family and society.

To demonstrate this respect, California Democrats will:

- Support equal access for women of all ages to training, jobs and promotions, and equal pay for equal work, and the right to sue for equal pay, capital, equity, and contracts;
- Support affirmative action, the rights accorded to women in Title IX, the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution;
- Recognize the decline in the number of Democratic Women serving in elected office, particularly women from ethnic minority, LGBTQ, and disability communities, and promote and emphasize the need for equal representation in public office from local levels to the highest state and federal levels;

- Preserve confidential, unrestricted access to affordable, high quality, culturally sensitive health care services, including the full range of reproductive services, contraception and abortion, without requiring guardian, parental, or spousal consent or notification, or judicial intervention;
- Support the programs of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), including educational and preventive initiatives, especially those that serve women at risk of sexual and domestic violence; and, recognize gun violence in domestic violence as a public health issue requiring mental and physical health treatment and intervention;
- Recognize that freedom and protection from violence or abuse, domestic and otherwise, is a fundamental human right;
- Promote age-appropriate sex education in school curriculum in California;
- Advocate for comprehensive coverage by health plans and insurance of mental health services and treatment for women, including early screening and intervention for postpartum depression;
- Work to increase availability of comprehensive educational and training programs for formerly incarcerated women to enhance parenting and job skills;
- Work to expand workplace rights for women including flextime, compensatory time, and pregnancy and family leave;
- Engage young women in our political process in order to develop a pipeline for new leadership; and,
- Support women's autonomous decision over reproductive rights by calling for reparations for all women who were sterilized without consent in California jails, prisons, and state institutions.

Combatting Sexual Harassment and Creating a Climate of Respect and Equity

California Democrats strongly support the rights of all individuals to live, study, and work in a safe and professional environment free from all forms of discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment and sexual violence. To create a climate of respect and equity, Democrats demand policies at the state and national level that provide: education about gender equity, starting with early childhood education, where discrimination and bullying begin; help for survivors; training and laws holding perpetrators personally accountable; an end to non-disclosure agreements that force survivors to bear the shame of silence; independent investigations; whistleblower protections; and will work toward public and constituent access of any allegations or findings on said allegations of public officials and their staff. Sexual harassment/sexual assault will not be tolerated as a condition of employment or career advancement in any form of employment.

World Peace and International Relations

The current Republican administration is aggressively demolishing success in American diplomacy achieved in recent years. It has rolled back the diplomatic advances that the Obama administration made with Cuba and Iran and abandoned the Paris Climate Accords. The Republican budget proposal demonstrates this administration's priorities. It drastically cuts the budget for the State Department while making dramatic and unnecessary increases in military spending. These are not Democratic priorities.

Democrats are committed to a properly staffed and funded foreign service that promotes democracy and human rights around the world. The Republican agenda takes the opposite approach and as a result, cedes America's leadership on the world stage to nations that are not committed to democratic values. Furthermore, the Republicans' attitude towards international relations places our nation and the world at risk.

Many places in the world remain closed to democracy and repressive of the most basic civil rights. Terrorism is a plague, but wars have demonstrated that even for the most powerful nation on earth, eradicating terrorism solely through a strategy of war, brute force and attempts at regime change is impossible. Foreign intelligence combined with an effective foreign aid program and domestic policing should be better leveraged to support our nation's fight against terrorism and also its commitment to democracy and human rights around the world.

We must believe that the American people will support truth over the fear mongering by our political adversaries. We must be truthful with our allies and also with ourselves. We must be firm with those who threaten the American people and our democratic ideals, whether at home or abroad. And we must take the moral path as we strive to promote world peace.

To create a more secure and peaceful world, California Democrats will:

- Take steps to reaffirm the position of the US as a leader in the international community;

- Reaffirm the War Powers Act by working to return the authority to declare war to Congress and specifically including a requirement that any first use of nuclear weapons be preceded by a formal declaration of war by Congress and a specific authorization to use nuclear weapons;
- Rejoin the majority of world nations in their commitment to the success of the Paris Agreement to Combat Climate Change;
- Call for a fully-funded State Department and affirm its mission of the promoting world peace and disarmament through diplomacy;
- Condition our policies and our aid to other governments upon respect for basic human rights;
- Support ending air strikes in Afghanistan, establish a timetable for the withdrawal of all American military forces and military contractors from that country, and oppose further appropriations for such operations except those necessary for safe and orderly withdrawal of our troops;
- Resist efforts to abuse basic rights, civil liberties, undermine democratic principles and freedom of expression throughout the world;
- Proactively seek durable peace in the Middle East including preserving the multilateral Iran Nuclear Deal of 2015 to discourage the further proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region, encourage democratic forces in Iran without undermining its government and continue to work toward a solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict negotiated by the parties that guarantees equality, security and democracy for all, recognizes Israel's future as a secure and democratic Jewish state with recognized borders and provides the Palestinians with independence, sovereignty and dignity. Jerusalem has served as the seat of Israel's government since 1949 and should remain the capital of Israel, a city accessible to peoples of all faiths and the decision to relocate the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem should not remove it from final status negotiations, nor should it be used to undermine the peace process. Furthermore, we acknowledge that as an outcome of the negotiations, the Palestinian capital could exist in East Jerusalem if the Palestinians desire. Israelis and Palestinians deserve security, recognition, and a normal life free from terror and incitement. Palestinians and Israelis should be free to govern themselves in their own viable state, in peace and dignity;
- End the teaching and use of Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in discourse throughout the Middle East and beyond and oppose efforts to undermine the equal rights of Israel and Palestine;
- Oppose the use of military drones for "targeted killings" in countries with which the United States is not at war;
- Combat external threats through increased participation in, support for and cooperation with the United Nations, other international agencies and regional organizations, greater participation in peacekeeping to help prevent mass atrocities, and renewed international collaborations to build government structures in states that are failing or emerging from conflict;
- Oppose regime change strategies as a pretext for war and occupation;
- End support for indiscriminate bombing of civilians in Yemen;
- Cooperate with other nations to eliminate terrorism, increase literacy and child survival rates, combat poverty disease and malnutrition, bolster existing and new democracies and developing nations, and reduce the support and demand for narcotics;
- Reaffirm our support for the capability of multilateral institutions such as the UN and NATO, and use our economic leadership to leverage the capacity of foreign aid institutions to foster international peace and decrease poverty;
- Condemn further incendiary rhetoric by the current Republican administration that reinforces North Korea's fear of a U.S. invasion and nuclear attack and undermines State Department diplomatic efforts with North Korea; we urge all members of Congress to stand with California Democratic Congressional representatives in pushing for direct talks with North Korean leaders;
- Combat external threats through increased participation in, support for, and cooperation with the UN, other international agencies and regional organizations, greater participation in peacekeeping to help prevent mass atrocities, and renewed international collaborations to build government structures in states that are failing or emerging from conflict;
- Ratify and abide by the terms of the key treaties that advance the causes of peace and human rights, such as the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention, the Landmine Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Negotiate toward full implementation of both the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and support the United Nations Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons;

- Support ratification of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, which the United States has signed;
- Support the advancement of programs that will end the cycle of violence to ultimately promote peace, rule of law, and human rights for increased security and prosperity at home;
- Promote establishing national institutions based on organizing principles of violence prevention and non-violent conflict resolution, using and developing a network of "best practice" peace-building policies and programs, among UN member states and nonmember nations;
- Follow the Geneva and Hague Conventions. No torture. No extraordinary renditions. No exceptions;
- Repeal the Authorization for the Use of Military Force ("AUMF") that granted the President the authority – without debate or Congressional approval – to use force in retaliation against those determined to have "planned, authorized, committed or aided" the September 11th attacks against the U.S.;
- Commit to the objectives of the UN Millennium Goals, including eradication of extreme hunger and poverty, achievement of universal primary education, and promotion and empowerment of women. Work to enhance the UN and regional organizations;
- Set as a long-term policy of the U.S. to elimination all nuclear weapons around the world. Continue to pursue the Obama Administration's "interagency discussions and international negotiations regarding the reduction and elimination of weapons of mass destruction throughout the world." Reallocate defense expenditures in a manner commensurate with actual threats. Enhance efforts to deprive terrorists of weapons of mass destruction by moving multilaterally to diminish weapons stockpiles;
- Tailor our foreign policy to eliminate the worst poverty by targeting an additional one percent of our budget to aid and development;
- Promote population-planning worldwide through education and support for family planning organizations;
- Reduce our trade deficit and restore America's global economic leadership by designing policies that maximize the benefits and minimize the negative consequences of globalization;
- Structure fair trade agreements that require countries to adopt and enforce internationally recognized labor standards such as the right to associate and bargain collectively, and prohibition against child labor, forced labor, and discrimination in employment; and,
- Support the dignified treatment of refugees everywhere no matter their race, religion, or country of origin.