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Foundation Statement

“We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” Preamble – U.S. Constitution, 1787

“We, the people” are the three opening words that inspired the concept of a government “of the people, by the people, for the people,” cracking the divide between those who ruled and those who were ruled. Through great struggle and sacrifice, the U.S. Constitution as a living document has continued to be amended and reinterpreted to make our union ever “more perfect” by embracing all people in these United States.

And now, we, the people of Nebraska, inheritors of the vision of our nation’s authors and leaders, endeavor in our duty to build a more perfect government that represents and serves our entire State. The Nebraska Democratic Party seeks to expand to include all people in our State who share these ideals. We believe the proper role of government is to support, promote, protect, and advance a society founded on individual and collective rights, human dignity and equitable treatment, without regard to one’s diversity of abilities, origin, gender, orientation, beliefs, status and other characteristics; and to ensure the inalienable rights of:

- Freedom of speech, religion, privacy, the press, and assembly;
- Full and equal access to public services including courts, education and information, medical care, and transportation;
- Full and equal participation in labor, commerce, and government.

We also believe that with the accorded rights come civic duties to be assumed according to each person’s capacity including:

- Service to our country and the world;
- Stewardship of natural and human resources;
- Participation in government;
- Preparation of self and children physically, educationally, and temperamentally as needed to fulfill the civic duties listed above.

The Nebraska Democratic Party is the diversity of its members, their unity of purpose, and their confidence in the ability of people to transcend the human failings of fear, prejudice, and strife. Most of all, at the heart of the Nebraska Democratic Party lies the belief that government can be made to serve all people with wisdom and compassion. To that end, we weigh all our proposals and positions, devote our energies, and dedicate our service.
Agriculture

Nebraska Democrats celebrate traditional family farmers and ranchers, and the agricultural land and topsoil in Nebraska that grows crops to feed the world. We are committed to preserving our rural communities and their way of life. We support the creation of a comprehensive national food, fuel, and fiber policy, which protects the long-term productivity of national resources and the quality and abundance of our food supply. We support our Ag partners as they grow local, high-quality, nutritious foods.

Nebraska Democrats want to improve financial outcomes for farmers by eliminating monopoly control of agricultural markets in production, processing, and trade, returning to fair market pricing, providing adequate crop insurance, and ensuring a strong export strategy which reaches out to other countries for world trade of Nebraska’s agricultural products, which particularly means strengthening trade with Canada, Mexico, Japan, China, South Korea, Australia, Hong Kong, Belgium, Germany, Taiwan, and other potential allies.

We strongly support programs to help farmers as they start out or recover from a difficult growing season or natural disaster. We understand the plight of the agricultural community as land prices have increased and return on investment has decreased. We support property tax reform.

Democrats are in favor of agricultural programs that keep in mind environmental impacts, conservation, and resource management. Nebraska Democrats support regenerative agriculture. We want labeling of genetically modified food products, and country of origin labeling. We want to increase organic farming in our state as well as the farming and transport of hemp.

Black Lives Matter

“Racism still occupies the throne of our nation.” - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Nebraska Democratic Party is committed to removing the barriers of systemic and institutional racism.

Institutional and systemic racism is distinguished from racial bigotry by the existence of institutional systemic policies, practices, and economic and political structures that place minority racial and ethnic groups at a disadvantage in relation to an institution’s racial or ethnic majority.

The Nebraska Democratic Party commits to educating itself about the discriminatory policies and practices that have enabled economic prejudice against people of color.
The Nebraska Democratic Party commits to critically examine and reform policies and practices within the state’s economic and political structures that disproportionately target people of color.

The Nebraska Democratic Party commits to expose and eliminate any inconsistencies of voter access, particularly those driven by partisan and racial politics.

The Nebraska Democratic Party commits to identify and rectify policy and practice inequities that lead to disadvantages in the areas of health care, family life, employment and political power.

The Nebraska Democratic Party commits to work to actively oppose racialized discrepancies of people of color and as a party commits to grow awareness to motivate and inspire change.

The Nebraska Democratic Party commits to dismantle the complex web of racial and cultural barriers integrated in our society, such as an education system where students of color have significant disparate outcomes, public transportation policies that hinder the poor, voter ID laws that obstruct access to the polls, and a mass incarceration system that incarcerates individuals of color at a rate of 5.1 times their white counterparts.

A shift in mindset is required. To be a catalyst for change, the Nebraska Democratic Party must address the situations we would have apologized for in the past, reach out and listen to those who confront these realities daily, and diminish the spotlight aimed at issues obsolete to marginalized groups. Rather than priding themselves on serving as a voice for the voiceless, the party must make a place for everyone’s voice to be heard. By destabilizing the inequitable power structure that allows excuses, the party can elevate the voices of marginalized people to inspire change.

**Civil Rights**

Nebraska Democrats believe in protecting the rights and civil liberties of all people, both citizen and non-citizen.

We will oppose discrimination, harassment, and bullying against any person for reasons including but not limited to: actual or perceived race, ethnicity, religion, familial status, physical or mental disability, intellectual cognition, sex, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, gender expression, and gender identity.

We oppose sex trafficking. We oppose sexual violence and sexual harassment of any person.

We believe in equal pay for equal work.
We oppose racial profiling, police brutality, white supremacy, and racial violence. We believe in racial justice. We oppose racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and all other kinds of bigotry.

We believe healthcare is a universal human right. We believe that equal access to food, water, shelter, transportation, utilities, and employment are also universal human rights. We support all measures to end poverty, hunger, homelessness, and lack of healthcare.

We support non-discrimination protections for sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in the areas of employment, housing, medical and mental health care, public accommodation, education, credit, state & local funded programs, family leave, adoption, foster care as well as inclusive language for identity documentation and hate crimes protection for gender identity and gender expression.

We support the restoration of the Voting Rights Act, as well as legislation forever guaranteeing the right to vote for all Americans, including same day, universal voter registration.

**Corporate PAC Contributions**

The Nebraska Democratic Party rejects corporate PAC contributions from interests that conflict with our Platform such as the fossil fuel, tobacco, alcohol, gun manufacturing and pay day lending industries, allowing Nebraska Democrats to stay consistent with our beliefs.

**Criminal Justice**

Nebraska Democrats demand the Governor of Nebraska immediately reform the state correctional system including reforms to segregation practices, prison overcrowding, lack of staffing, freedom to practice religion, medical care, and mental health treatment.

Nebraska Democrats commend police agencies who are committed to serving all communities fairly without regard to inherent bias, and to preserving life whenever possible. Nebraska Democrats are in favor of a community policing strategy that gives residents the tools they need to communicate and resolve conflict. Nebraska Democrats support police training in implicit bias, trauma, and crisis intervention.

Democrats believe domestic violence is a particular threat against community and family due to abusers’ likelihood to perpetrate mass violence.

Nebraska Democrats will work to ensure that sexual offenders are brought to justice.

Democrats want reform to the criminal justice system to promote justice for all, including sexual justice.
Democrats approve sentencing reform and favor independently auditing sentences against sentencing guidelines for those found guilty of crimes and sentenced to time in jail or prison, to ensure accurate sentencing. We encourage the courts to firm up departures from sentencing guidelines for mitigating and aggravating circumstances to reduce the number of imprisoned persons and strive for racial parity in the imprisoned population. We support alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders.

Nebraska Democrats oppose capital punishment.

Nebraska Democrats oppose any further executions by the State of Nebraska.

Nebraska Democrats oppose the use of jails and prisons in place of mental health and substance abuse treatment. We support the creation of mental health courts in Nebraska.

We oppose cruel and unusual punishment including but not limited to solitary confinement.

We support basic human rights for all detainees and incarcerated persons. People should be treated as the gender with which they identify, not the sex or gender assigned at birth. Policies and procedures should be developed that maintain the dignity and rights of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.

We believe imprisonment should be a pathway to rehabilitation. We support the staff of jails and prisons when they fairly monitor the behavior of incarcerated persons, while treating inmates with humanity. Democrats support programs which teach useful skills to incarcerated persons to reduce the recidivism rate, and transition programs to assist the incarcerated with a successful return to the community. We support the elimination of the money bond system which punishes poverty.

**Education**

Nebraska Democrats support public schools, public school teachers, and local control by public school districts. We support school choice for all Nebraska families but without any public tax dollars allocated in the form of school vouchers, tax credits or scholarships. Nebraska Democrats are opposed to charter schools. We support a community approach to ensure students’ access to technology in schools, in the community, and at home. We support innovation in education.

We believe all teachers, educational support professionals, and administrators should be paid commensurate to their professional responsibility to give knowledge to our future generations and prepare students for adulthood, taking into account each person’s education, training, and experience. Nebraska Democrats advocate for educators’ learning opportunities to improve the education received by Nebraska’s students.
We support fully funded equitable public education. Nebraska Democrats believe that no educator should have to pay out of pocket for materials or supplies for their own classroom. We support the elimination of student debt. We support programs assisting post-secondary students and their families in discharging their debt.

Nebraska Democrats strongly support fine and performing arts and physical education in public schools. Nebraska Democrats believe that extracurricular activities are enriching for every student and support scholarship programs for extracurricular activities. Children and staff deserve enough time to eat.

We believe every child should have a safe school environment conducive to learning, free from bullying, harassment, or violence. We believe that schools should be safe from gun violence, and support schools in securing facilities to protect students. Nebraska Democrats oppose efforts to fund school security initiatives that divert funds away from classrooms. We oppose arms of any kind on school grounds, with an exception for emergency responders. Nebraska Democrats will actively work to stop the school-to-prison pipeline.

We seek an increase in the age for a student to leave school without graduating, to age 18. We support continuing education for pregnant students and those who are parents and interventions to help these populations. We strongly support age-appropriate and accurate comprehensive sex education for all students starting no less than three years before the average age of menarche and continuing into high school.

Nebraska Democrats believe that special education programs should continue to be based on the individual needs of each student.

Nebraska Democrats realize that behavioral and mental health needs of students are at an all-time high, with professionals inside and outside of the school system assisting schools with this need. We support greater funding for behavioral and mental health needs of students in our state’s public schools.

We support targeted intervention for students not at grade level in reading, writing, and mathematics. Likewise, we recognize that schools with achievement gaps will need targeted intervention and support to meet expectations; we support those schools in receiving the resources they need to succeed.

We believe that educators should compare and contrast differing views on a subject, to aid students in learning how to think critically and independently.
We support policies and programs promoting recruitment of faculty and staff that represent the broadest possible diversity, training and placement of faculty and administration where their talents can best be used to meet the needs of students, integrating students into population-balanced and diverse public school districts, and normalizing parity in funding those districts. Nebraska Democrats are committed to school funding that meets the needs of students equitably and supports the improvement of schools.

We envision classrooms that create opportunities for multicultural activities and field trips, utilize distance education technologies to bring students together in study and play from other cultures and countries, and foster exchange programs of speakers and student groups.

We impress upon Nebraska’s 244 school districts to develop and utilize teaching materials and pedagogies to confront discrimination; to promote a society free of discrimination and systemic racism based upon age, race, ethnicity, linguistics, religious belief, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status, and to use interpretation services and technology to improve relationships among the school, home and community for the benefit of our students.

We support academic freedom and free speech rights.

Nebraska Democrats prioritize the restoration of previous funding, and future increased allocations to all state funded institutions of higher learning. We believe tuition hikes are detrimental to students and Nebraska families. We are committed to the state schooling delivered by the state funded institutions of higher learning within our state, which teaches skills needed in the workforce. Nebraska Democrats have pride in the students, graduates, and educators of our schools and state institutions of higher learning.

**Ending Systemic Racism against American-Latinxs**

Nebraska’s Democrats will continue to fight against institutional and systemic racism in our society. Democrats challenge and will dismantle the structures that define lasting economic, political, and social inequities based on racism against Latinxs. Democrats will promote racial justice through fair, just, and equitable governing of all public-serving institutions and in the formation of future public policy for the fair treatment of Latinxs.

Democrats shall push for a societal change to make it clear that Latinxs are Americans and that there is no place for racism or racial harassment against Latinxs in our governmental systems, organizations, businesses, or country.

**Environment**

We understand that climate change is occurring, and is an ongoing, urgent threat, and a defining challenge of our time. The Earth that we leave to our descendants depends upon our actions
now. Without ambitious, immediate action across our country to cut carbon pollution, nitrogen pollution, and greenhouse gases, the impacts of climate change will be catastrophic.

We are committed to abandoning our dependence on fossil fuels in favor of clean and renewable energy, and to creating good paying middle income jobs in the new technologies. We need to make our existing infrastructure safer and cleaner and invest in the new infrastructure necessary to power our clean energy future.

We reject efforts to politicize scientific results and we support peer-reviewed, credible research based on scientific consensus.

We are committed to protecting our Ogallala Aquifer, Nebraska’s most precious natural resource, and all waterways within and bordering our state. Water is life. Mni Wiconi. L’eau est la vie. We believe clean air and clean water are basic rights of all people, and that low-income communities and Tribal Nations are disproportionately exposed to environmental “hot spots,” where air, soil, and water pollution increase health problems and economic hardship. We believe in being a good neighbor to those who use the water downstream.

We need to champion conservation efforts and collaboratively protect our land, air and water. We must strengthen protections for our natural and cultural resources, increase access to parks and public lands for all Americans, protect endangered and native species and wildlife, and harness the immense ecological and social potential of our public lands and waters.

We insist that our representatives act on behalf of the environment and take into account the environmental impact of legislation that applies to or could directly impact the State of Nebraska. Nebraska Democrats support global environmental protection such as the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Firearms and Gun Violence Prevention

Nebraska Democrats recognize that gun violence is a serious problem that claims the lives of tens of thousands of Americans per year, injures many more, traumatizes countless others, and disproportionately impacts communities of color. We support the right of Americans to live free of gun violence. We recognize that gun violence is the consequence of an inadequately regulated consumer market.

We support the repeal of the federal Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA), which offers special immunities from liability to gun manufacturers and sellers and deprives injured persons from their right to legal remedy in the courts.

Nebraska Democrats support the right of communities to respond democratically to gun violence by passing local ordinances to address their needs. If guns are owned, they must be used responsibly. We support criminal and civil liability for those who do not safely secure their guns. We support a tax on weapons and ammunition to fund school security measures.
We agree with the American Medical Association’s proposals regarding firearms: limiting the purchase of guns to individuals 21 and over; supporting legislation that allows relatives of suicidal people or those who have threatened imminent violence to seek court-ordered removal of guns from the home; requesting better training for physicians to recognize patients at risk for suicide; and ensuring domestic abusers do not have access to firearms.

The Nebraska Democratic Party further supports the American Academy of Pediatrics’ proposals to enact a strong, effective assault weapons ban, require mandatory background checks and waiting periods of all firearm purchases, enact a ban on high-capacity magazines, enact strong handgun regulations, and require safe firearm storage under federal law.

We support scientific research into gun violence by the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and other research agencies.

**Government**

We believe government should serve all people within its responsibility.

We believe in the separation of church and state.

We believe it is the duty of the citizen to keep government officials in check. We support increased checks and balances on those who represent us. We believe government officials, those seeking public office, and other public servants should be held to the highest standard of behavior.

We support a non-partisan Unicameral and support amending the State Constitution to limit contributions from sitting officials or their families to other candidates. The original source of all contributions to a campaign, elected official, or political party should be part of the public record. Nebraska Democrats are in favor of automatic voter registration and a free and fair election process.

Legislative bodies should be representative of the population of the state, territory, or country in both gender and racial categories. State Legislators should receive a fair, reasonable salary, to allow for greater diversity in our Unicameral.

Nebraska Democrats oppose gerrymandering our political districts for partisan advantage. Democrats support moving to an independent commission to exclusively draw our political districts.

Nebraska Democrats oppose any and all attacks on our health benefits, including attacks to federal funding for public health clinics and family planning services. We stand for Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and the Affordable Care Act, and Children’s Health Insurance
Program. We will fight to make those programs stronger. We oppose cuts to public health funding and using Social Security or the Medicare Trust Fund for other than its original purpose. Nebraska Democrats propose a removal of the cap on income subject to Social Security tax as a revenue stream to save Social Security. Government should have the power to negotiate better prices for healthcare consumers for services, including prescriptions. Nebraska’s Democrats strongly believe Medicaid expansion in our state is long overdue and will save lives.

We support legislation which would repeal Citizens United.

Nebraska Democrats support progressive taxation. Government must increase revenue while investing heavily in our people, in our infrastructure, and in research. Funds from taxation or other sources, entrusted to Government, shall be used efficiently and wisely.

Democrats believe in public assistance programs paired with skill building to break the cycle of poverty.

Government should respect landowner and Tribal rights when considering actions such as eminent domain. We oppose the use of eminent domain for private gain and understand that eminent domain was never intended for use by private corporations or foreign entities. Property rights are a fundamental issue we must protect for all Nebraska land owners, farmers, ranchers, and homeowners.

To promote equality for all, we believe that the United States of America should immediately allow residents of federal non-continental districts and territories to vote for their own representatives, allow the elected representatives of those territories voting parity, and encourage statehood if the district or territory self-determines they wish to become a state.

We further believe that the government of the United States of America should recognize Native People’s sovereignty, dignity, and equality, and should honor all portions of Treaties with Native and Indigenous Peoples.

**Healthcare**

Nebraska Democrats believe that access to affordable, quality health care is a right for all. We support expanding the current health care system to Medicare for All. We support a broad base of coverage including, but not limited to primary care, preventative care, inpatient, outpatient, emergency care, prescription drugs, durable medical equipment, long term care, mental health, substance abuse services, non-cosmetic dentistry, pre-existing conditions, chiropractic services, basic vision care and correction, outpatient therapies and ambulance services. Under Medicare for All, we believe eligible providers would be any licensed or accredited provider in compliance with the law. We firmly believe that patients should choose their own healthcare provider. No
one should be denied lifesaving or life-preserving medical care, medications, or medical supplies due to cost or pre-existing conditions.

We urge further research into affordable, accessible male and female contraceptive methods. We continue to oppose any state and federal laws that would impede a woman's constitutional right to a safe and legal abortion. We oppose centers that provide biased and inaccurate information regarding reproductive health care options, and shame or stigmatize individuals for their sexual practices. We oppose the removal of funding to federally qualified health centers and any entity that receives Title X funding. We denounce all acts of violence towards providers of family planning and health care services. Nebraska Democrats continue to advocate for and support all reproductive choices for women.

We urge expansion of Medicaid coverage in Nebraska and full funding for the CHIP program.

Nebraska Democrats support Nebraskans’ access to medical cannabis with a doctor’s prescription.

We support stem cell research and therapy as a critical component of health care; we support both public and private funding for stem cell research.

**Immigration**

The United States is a country that welcomes all immigrants. Democrats believe immigration is a defining aspect of the American character; each person has a unique story and a shared history. The Nebraska Democratic Party supports fair, effective, and humane immigration reform.

The current immigration system tears mixed-status families apart and keeps undocumented workers in the shadows. Immigration reform must include a clear pathway to U.S. citizenship for all law-abiding and tax-paying immigrants who are contributing to our community and our country. All American residents regardless of immigration status shall have access to quality health care.

Nebraska Democrats oppose merit-based immigration.

Nebraska Democrats promote comprehensive immigration reform that must address: the current system that discriminates against certain immigrants; address family backlogs; eliminate policies that would restrict legal immigration avenues and denigrate immigrants; and mandate providing children under the age of 18 with appointed counsel in all removal proceedings. All immigrants fleeing violence must be assured due process according to the U.S. Constitution before they are deported or refused entry to the United States. Similarly, we support expedited immigration policies for, and protection of, the foreign nationals who assisted or who continue to assist our military in Iraq and Afghanistan.
We support investing in culturally appropriate immigrant integration services, expanded access to English language education, and promoting naturalization to help the millions of immigrants eligible for citizenship to take the final step to become voting U.S. Citizens. We support treating immigrants from Honduras, El Salvador, Venezuela, Guatemala, and Syria as refugees fleeing from violence. We also believe that fleeing domestic or gang violence constitutes a basis for a credible asylum application. We welcome immigrants and refugees into our communities.

Democrats oppose any Muslim ban or taxpayer monies for a Southern wall, and we oppose the separation of immigrant children from their parents under any circumstances. Children should have a right to counsel through the immigration process.

**Labor and Economy**

We support labor unions as they protect and empower the workforce. We recognize their historical contribution to laying the foundations to the rights that workers have today. We support the formation of unions and collective action to further the rights of employees, while standing in opposition to anti-union labor practices, policies, and potential or actual legislation or court judgments. Nebraska Democrats support the repeal of Right-to-Work and oppose At-Will employment.

Nebraska Democrats are pro-Worker, pro-Farmer, and pro-Railroad Worker, and call for improvements to worker safety, working conditions, protections, and benefits across all categories and classes of employment. Nebraska Democrats particularly support each worker receiving a minimum of one week of paid sick leave per year. Each worker should receive paid family leave of no less than twelve weeks.

We insist that markets and employers must pair human dignity with enterprise and that full-time employees must receive a wage that enables them to live without government assistance. We need a skilled, responsive workforce with globally competitive education and trade skills. We support apprenticeship programs. Nebraska Democrats support training programs for displaced workers. We need to adapt to the age of technology, recognizing when we have more people than work, and opening up jobs for more employees. We conclude that more skilled manufacturing is needed to address the structural unemployment gap in the United States.

We are in favor of tax breaks and stimulus for small business and startups. We support further stimulus to those areas where unemployment is high or where job creation is low. We believe corporations should pay taxes; taxation should not be shouldered only by individuals and working families.

We support publicly funded childcare centers to allow low and middle-income Nebraskans to work unencumbered from the high cost of childcare.
We believe that artificial scarcity harms our economy and is a deceptive business practice. Fair trade and free markets cannot be truly free and fair if prices are manipulated through supply control.

We support Social Security increases based on appropriate indices that accurately reflect seniors’ lives and seniors’ needs.

**Legalization of Cannabis**

We support the legalization of responsible recreational cannabis for adult use, 21 and over, under a state regulated system. We believe tax revenues from the sale of cannabis will help reduce reliance on property taxes. In the situation that federal or state law should allow for consumption or sale of recreational cannabis products, we as Nebraskans will be ready to adapt to this change. In preparation for a possible change in legal status, Nebraska Democrats will explore the impact to agriculture, business and tax law, zoning, grower and business permits, and regulations involving consumer sales.

**LGBTQIA+**

Democrats support the civil and human rights and safe environments for all people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and expression. Democrats support the development and maintenance of safe environments in our schools for youth from all identities and backgrounds.

Democrats celebrate marriage equality. We do not believe that religious freedom equates to any right to discriminate. Democrats will fight to pass the Equality Act in Congress, to the extent that it amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include protections that ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, public education, federal funding, credit, and the jury system. Under Title VII, we want LGBTQIA+ to be considered a ‘protected class.’

We support legislation that grants equitable access to employment, housing and accommodations, including gender-neutral bathrooms in schools and public places.

Democrats desire to improve access to informed services and address the high rates of suicide by LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Democrats respect and honor all who serve and have served in our armed forces. We support the inclusion, and appreciate the service, of transgender individuals who have served and who want to serve in the US military. We oppose any ban restricting or terminating the service of Trans service members. We believe service should be based on qualifications and ability rather than personal identity.
Native American Rights

The Nebraska Democratic Party respects the sovereignty of the Native Nations of the Americas and their land and supports municipal, state, and federal legislative efforts that reflect the rights inherent in that sovereignty. These include: complete law-making authority of Tribal Nations by the government of such nations, federal law to respect and reflect treaties entered by the United States Government and Tribal Nations, complete discretion and complete control of Tribal Nation land by the governments of such Nations. We support an Executive Order countermanding the Executive Order issued by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1904 and returning the Oglala Lakota treaty land including the Whiteclay Extension to the Oglala Lakota Sovereign Nation. The Nebraska Democratic Party calls on policy makers in all legislatures affected to fully fund its obligations to the health and welfare of all Native Peoples and Tribal Nations.

Stand with DREAMERS

DACA is ending; over 800,000 DREAMERS and their families are at risk of deportation. We acknowledge that DREAMERS teach our children and care for our family members. In addition, they are leaders in our companies, business owners, and brave members of our military.

We acknowledge that 86% of Americans agree that Congress must immediately pass bipartisan DREAM ACT legislation to ensure that these incredible young people can continue to live, work, and contribute to the only country they know as home. We, as Democrats, support a pathway to U.S. citizenship for the DREAMERS and urge Congress to swiftly adopt the legislation necessary to protect DREAMERS.

DREAMERS are still doing their jobs every day in the face of threat of deportation. It is time for Congress to do their job and protect all DREAMERS.

Nebraska Democrats proudly support and #STANDwithDREAMERS.

Survivors of Sexual Violence

The Nebraska Democratic Party acknowledges, believes, and will support all survivors of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity of the survivors.

Technology

Nebraska Democrats prioritize net neutrality, which is the principle that Internet service
providers should enable access to all content and applications regardless of the source, and
without favoring or blocking particular products or websites. We believe that equal access to
information is a civil right.

High-speed Internet connectivity is essential for 21st Century economic success, education,
health care, and public safety. Nebraska Democrats believe we should be leaders in data
protection. We also recognize the importance of data privacy and support legislation similar to
the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

We support a concerted effort to upgrade and promote a statewide broadband infrastructure
capable of supporting business, education and personal requirements. This should include efforts
in deploying 5G technologies, the next generation wireless service, that will bring faster Internet
connections to underserved areas, and will enable transformative technologies.

Fairness, affordability, access and privacy are the basic principles for state and federal governance
of communications. All Nebraskans should have access to affordable telecommunication services
provided as a public utility. Nebraska Democrats support fiber and broadband development by
municipalities. Efforts should be made to develop partnerships between municipalities and other
public entities with private concerns to develop community broadband networks, and to hook-
up anchor institutions to offer free Wi-Fi to the public.

Nebraska Democrats believe that technology should be a part of the educational curriculum and
computer literacy should be taught to students.

604 The Civil Rights of People with Disabilities

Nebraska Democrats recognize that disabilities include but are not limited to physical, emotional,
or mental conditions. We support the full enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act of
1990, as amended and its implementing regulations. We support governmental incentives and
assistance to businesses and organizations that employ people with disabilities. We believe that
people with disabilities must be provided equal access to all public buildings and public
accommodations. Children with disabilities have the right to a free and appropriate public
education. Employers must ensure fair and equitable employment opportunities for people with
disabilities. Exercising voting rights must be accessible for people with disabilities. We support
moving people to the least restrictive service option possible, including moving people from
institutions to home and community services, preventing the use of restraints and seclusion, and
implementing alternatives to traditional guardianship.

618 Urban Economic Development

Nebraska Democrats have recognized the plight and civil rights of urban Nebraskans. Urban
Nebraskans have been loyal and committed Democratic voters for over fifty years. In urban
Nebraska, the percentage of Democratic voters continues to far outweigh that of other party voters. Despite this continued support, voter turnout in urban Nebraska has continued to trend downwards with few exceptions, and this trend is correlated to the rise in poverty, joblessness, and hopelessness in our urban communities. Nebraska Democrats pledge to demonstrate our commitment and our energies for urban development, in recognition of the needs of urban communities.

Nebraska Democrats recognize that to energize our loyal urban voters we must advocate and develop policy for strong urban development, which must include initiatives to create jobs through small and large business growth in urban areas, community benefits and agreements as to any economic development within the urban settings, and respect for and maintenance of the integrity of urban culture and history. Community stakeholder voices must be heard in housing and economic development plans. Urban development should include equitable access to food, water, shelter, utilities, and transportation.

**Veterans**

Nebraska Democrats believe that government and community must keep the promises they make to the members and former members of the United States military, must exert every effort to make an injured servicemember whole after a duty physical or mental injury, and must support all exiting veterans as they return to civilian life.

Nebraska Democrats support the full funding of the Veterans Administration (VA) and VA hospitals, and oppose wholesale privatization of VA services. We believe active military and veterans deserve superior, efficient, and timely physical and mental healthcare. We reiterate that women who have served are an underserved and under-recognized population with specific needs. We support efforts to meet these needs and equalize their access to Veterans’ services.

Democrats are committed to ending sexual assault in the military. We believe that prosecution of sexual assault does not belong with the military chain of command, and support access to independent avenues for survivors to receive legal aid, health care and counseling.

Nebraska Democrats support solutions for homeless veterans. We oppose cuts to services and benefits for veterans.

#MeToo, Ending Systemic Sexism, Sexual Assault or Sexual Harassment.

Nebraska Democrats believe survivors and their accounts. Nebraska Democrats will fight to end institutional and systemic Sexism, Sexual Assault or Sexual Harassment in our society. We will challenge and dismantle the patriarchy which contributed to the structures that define lasting economic, political, and social inequities based on Sexism, Sexual Assault or Sexual Harassment. Democrats will promote fair, just, and equitable governing of all public-serving institutions and
in the formation of future public policy. Democrats will push for a societal transformation to make it clear that women and girls’ lives matter and that there is no place for Sexism, Sexual Assault or Sexual Harassment in our country.

(Note: The Plank entitled “The Civil Rights of People with Disabilities” is included and will be voted upon in a special meeting to be announced.)