



2018-2020 Platform

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Foundation Statement

1
2
3 *“We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish*
4 *justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general*
5 *welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and*
6 *establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” Preamble – U.S. Constitution,*
7 *1787*

8
9 “We, the people” are the three opening words that inspired the concept of a government “of
10 the people, by the people, for the people,” cracking the divide between those who ruled and
11 those who were ruled. Through great struggle and sacrifice, the U.S. Constitution as a living
12 document has continued to be amended and reinterpreted to make our union ever “more
13 perfect” by embracing all people in these United States.

14
15 And now, we, the people of Nebraska, inheritors of the vision of our nation’s authors and
16 leaders, endeavor in our duty to build a more perfect government that represents and serves
17 our entire State. The Nebraska Democratic Party seeks to expand to include all people in our
18 State who share these ideals. We believe the proper role of government is to support,
19 promote, protect, and advance a society founded on individual and collective rights, human
20 dignity and equitable treatment, without regard to one’s diversity of abilities, origin, gender,
21 orientation, beliefs, status and other characteristics; and to ensure the inalienable rights of:

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

26
27 We also believe that with the accorded rights come civic duties to be assumed according to
28 each person’s capacity including:

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

34
35 *The Nebraska Democratic Party is the diversity of its members, their unity of purpose, and*
36 *their confidence in the ability of people to transcend the human failings of fear, prejudice, and*
37 *strife. Most of all, at the heart of the Nebraska Democratic Party lies the belief that*
38 *government can be made to serve all people with wisdom and compassion. To that end, we*
39 *weigh all our proposals and positions, devote our energies, and dedicate our service.*

40
41

42 **Agriculture**

43

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

50

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

57

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

62

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

67

68 **Black Lives Matter**

69

70 *"Racism still occupies the throne of our nation." - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

71

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

74

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

79

80 The Nebraska Democratic Party commits to educating itself about the discriminatory policies and
81 practices that have enabled economic prejudice against people of color.

82 The Nebraska Democratic Party commits to critically examine and reform policies and practices
83 within the state's economic and political structures that disproportionately target people of
84 color.

85
86 The Nebraska Democratic Party commits to expose and eliminate any inconsistencies of voter
87 access, particularly those driven by partisan and racial politics.

88
89 The Nebraska Democratic Party commits to identify and rectify policy and practice inequities
90 that lead to disadvantages in the areas of health care, family life, employment and political
91 power.

92
93 The Nebraska Democratic Party commits to work to actively oppose racialized discrepancies of
94 people of color and as a party commits to grow awareness to motivate and inspire change.

95
96 The Nebraska Democratic Party commits to dismantle the complex web of racial and cultural
97 barriers integrated in our society, such as an education system where students of color have
98 significant disparate outcomes, public transportation policies that hinder the poor, voter ID laws
99 that obstruct access to the polls, and a mass incarceration system that incarcerates individuals of
100 color at a rate of 5.1 times their white counterparts.

101
102 A shift in mindset is required. To be a catalyst for change, the Nebraska Democratic Party must
103 address the situations we would have apologized for in the past, reach out and listen to those
104 who confront these realities daily, and diminish the spotlight aimed at issues obsolete to
105 marginalized groups. Rather than priding themselves on serving as a voice for the voiceless, the
106 party must make a place for everyone's voice to be heard. By destabilizing the inequitable power
107 structure that allows excuses, the party can elevate the voices of marginalized people to inspire
108 change.

109 **Civil Rights**

110
111
112 Nebraska Democrats believe in protecting the rights and civil liberties of all people, both citizen
113 and non-citizen.

114
115 We will oppose discrimination, harassment, and bullying against any person for reasons
116 including but not limited to: actual or perceived race, ethnicity, religion, familial status, physical
117 or mental disability, intellectual cognition, sex, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status,
118 gender expression, and gender identity.

119
120 We oppose sex trafficking. We oppose sexual violence and sexual harassment of any person.

121
122 We believe in equal pay for equal work.

123 We oppose racial profiling, police brutality, white supremacy, and racial violence. We believe in
124 racial justice. We oppose racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and all other kinds of
125 bigotry.

126
127 We believe healthcare is a universal human right. We believe that equal access to food, water,
128 shelter, transportation, utilities, and employment are also universal human rights. We support all
129 measures to end poverty, hunger, homelessness, and lack of healthcare.

130
131 We support non-discrimination protections for sexual orientation, gender identity and gender
132 expression in the areas of employment, housing, medical and mental health care, public
133 accommodation, education, credit, state & local funded programs, family leave, adoption, foster
134 care as well as inclusive language for identity documentation and hate crimes protection for
135 gender identity and gender expression.

136
137 We support the restoration of the Voting Rights Act, as well as legislation forever guaranteeing
138 the right to vote for all Americans, including same day, universal voter registration.

139

140 Corporate PAC Contributions

141

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

146

147 Criminal Justice

148

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

152

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

158

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

161

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

163 Democrats want reform to the criminal justice system to promote justice for all, including sexual
164 justice.

165 Democrats approve sentencing reform and favor independently auditing sentences against
166 sentencing guidelines for those found guilty of crimes and sentenced to time in jail or prison, to
167 ensure accurate sentencing. We encourage the courts to firm up departures from sentencing
168 guidelines for mitigating and aggravating circumstances to reduce the number of imprisoned
169 persons and strive for racial parity in the imprisoned population. We support alternatives to
170 incarceration for non-violent offenders.

171

172 Nebraska Democrats oppose capital punishment.

173

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

175

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

178

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

180

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

185

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

192

193 **Education**

194

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

200

201 We believe all teachers, educational support professionals, and administrators should be paid
202 commensurate to their professional responsibility to give knowledge to our future generations
203 and prepare students for adulthood, taking into account each person's education, training, and
204 experience. Nebraska Democrats advocate for educators' learning opportunities to improve the
205 education received by Nebraska's students.

206

207 We support fully funded equitable public education. Nebraska Democrats believe that no
208 educator should have to pay out of pocket for materials or supplies for their own classroom.
209

210 We support the elimination of student debt. We support programs assisting post-secondary
211 students and their families in discharging their debt.
212

213 Nebraska Democrats strongly support fine and performing arts and physical education in public
214 schools. Nebraska Democrats believe that extracurricular activities are enriching for every
215 student and support scholarship programs for extracurricular activities. Children and staff
216 deserve enough time to eat.
217

218 We believe every child should have a safe school environment conducive to learning, free from
219 bullying, harassment, or violence. We believe that schools should be safe from gun violence, and
220 support schools in securing facilities to protect students. Nebraska Democrats oppose efforts to
221 fund school security initiatives that divert funds away from classrooms. We oppose arms of any
222 kind on school grounds, with an exception for emergency responders. Nebraska Democrats will
223 actively work to stop the school-to-prison pipeline.
224

225 We seek an increase in the age for a student to leave school without graduating, to age 18.
226

227 We support continuing education for pregnant students and those who are parents and
228 interventions to help these populations. We strongly support age-appropriate and accurate
229 comprehensive sex education for all students starting no less than three years before the average
230 age of menarche and continuing into high school.
231

232 Nebraska Democrats believe that special education programs should continue to be based on the
233 individual needs of each student.
234

235 Nebraska Democrats realize that behavioral and mental health needs of students are at an all-
236 time high, with professionals inside and outside of the school system assisting schools with this
237 need. We support greater funding for behavioral and mental health needs of students in our
238 state's public schools.
239

240 We support targeted intervention for students not at grade level in reading, writing, and
241 mathematics. Likewise, we recognize that schools with achievement gaps will need targeted
242 intervention and support to meet expectations; we support those schools in receiving the
243 resources they need to succeed.
244

245 We believe that educators should compare and contrast differing views on a subject, to aid
246 students in learning how to think critically and independently.
247

248 We support policies and programs promoting recruitment of faculty and staff that represent the
249 broadest possible diversity, training and placement of faculty and administration where their
250 talents can best be used to meet the needs of students, integrating students into population-
251 balanced and diverse public school districts, and normalizing parity in funding those districts.
252 Nebraska Democrats are committed to school funding that meets the needs of students equitably
253 and supports the improvement of schools.

254

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

258

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

264

265 We support academic freedom and free speech rights.

266

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

273

274 Ending Systemic Racism against American-Latinxs

275

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

281

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

285

286 Environment

287

288 We understand that climate change is occurring, and is an ongoing, urgent threat, and a defining
289 challenge of our time. The Earth that we leave to our descendants depends upon our actions

290 now. Without ambitious, immediate action across our country to cut carbon pollution, nitrogen
291 pollution, and greenhouse gases, the impacts of climate change will be catastrophic.

292

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

297

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

300

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

307

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

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

315

316 Firearms and Gun Violence Prevention

317

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

323

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

327

328 Nebraska Democrats support the right of communities to respond democratically to gun violence
329 by passing local ordinances to address their needs. If guns are owned, they must be used
330 responsibly. We support criminal and civil liability for those who do not safely secure their guns.
331 We support a tax on weapons and ammunition to fund school security measures.

332 We agree with the American Medical Association’s proposals regarding firearms: limiting the
333 purchase of guns to individuals 21 and over; supporting legislation that allows relatives of
334 suicidal people or those who have threatened imminent violence to seek court-ordered removal
335 of guns from the home; requesting better training for physicians to recognize patients at risk for
336 suicide; and ensuring domestic abusers do not have access to firearms.

337
338 The Nebraska Democratic Party further supports the American Academy of Pediatrics’ proposals
339 to enact a strong, effective assault weapons ban, require mandatory background checks and
340 waiting periods of all firearm purchases, enact a ban on high-capacity magazines, enact strong
341 handgun regulations, and require safe firearm storage under federal law.

342
343 We support scientific research into gun violence by the National Institutes of Health, the Centers
344 for Disease Control, and other research agencies.

345

346 Government

347

348 We believe government should serve all people within its responsibility.

349

350 We believe in the separation of church and state.

351

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

356

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

362

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

366

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

370

371 Nebraska Democrats oppose any and all attacks on our health benefits, including attacks to
372 federal funding for public health clinics and family planning services. We stand for Medicare,
373 Medicaid, Social Security, and the Affordable Care Act, and Children’s Health Insurance

374 Program. We will fight to make those programs stronger. We oppose cuts to public health
375 funding and using Social Security or the Medicare Trust Fund for other than its original purpose.
376 Nebraska Democrats propose a removal of the cap on income subject to Social Security tax as a
377 revenue stream to save Social Security. Government should have the power to negotiate better
378 prices for healthcare consumers for services, including prescriptions. Nebraska's Democrats
379 strongly believe Medicaid expansion in our state is long overdue and will save lives.

380

381 We support legislation which would repeal Citizens United.

382

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

386

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

389

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

395

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

400

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

404

405 **Healthcare**

406

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

415 one should be denied lifesaving or life-preserving medical care, medications, or medical supplies
416 due to cost or pre-existing conditions.

417
418 We urge further research into affordable, accessible male and female contraceptive methods. We
419 continue to oppose any state and federal laws that would impede a woman's constitutional right
420 to a safe and legal abortion. We oppose centers that provide biased and inaccurate information
421 regarding reproductive health care options, and shame or stigmatize individuals for their sexual
422 practices. We oppose the removal of funding to federally qualified health centers and any entity
423 that receives Title X funding. We denounce all acts of violence towards providers of family
424 planning and health care services. Nebraska Democrats continue to advocate for and support all
425 reproductive choices for women.

426
427 We urge expansion of Medicaid coverage in Nebraska and full funding for the CHIP program.

428
429 Nebraska Democrats support Nebraskans' access to medical cannabis with a doctor's prescription.

430
431 We support stem cell research and therapy as a critical component of health care; we support
432 both public and private funding for stem cell research.

433

434 Immigration

435
436 The United States is a country that welcomes all immigrants. Democrats believe immigration is a
437 defining aspect of the American character; each person has a unique story and a shared history.
438 The Nebraska Democratic Party supports fair, effective, and humane immigration reform.

439
440 The current immigration system tears mixed-status families apart and keeps undocumented
441 workers in the shadows. Immigration reform must include a clear pathway to U.S. citizenship for
442 all law-abiding and tax-paying immigrants who are contributing to our community and our
443 country. All American residents regardless of immigration status shall have access to quality
444 health care.

445
446 Nebraska Democrats oppose merit-based immigration.

447
448 Nebraska Democrats promote comprehensive immigration reform that must address: the current
449 system that discriminates against certain immigrants; address family backlogs; eliminate policies
450 that would restrict legal immigration avenues and denigrate immigrants; and mandate providing
451 children under the age of 18 with appointed counsel in all removal proceedings. All immigrants
452 fleeing violence must be assured due process according to the U.S. Constitution before they are
453 deported or refused entry to the United States. Similarly, we support expedited immigration
454 policies for, and protection of, the foreign nationals who assisted or who continue to assist our
455 military in Iraq and Afghanistan.

456 We support investing in culturally appropriate immigrant integration services, expanded access
457 to English language education, and promoting naturalization to help the millions of immigrants
458 eligible for citizenship to take the final step to become voting U.S. Citizens. We support treating
459 immigrants from Honduras, El Salvador, Venezuela, Guatemala, and Syria as refugees fleeing
460 from violence. We also believe that fleeing domestic or gang violence constitutes a basis for a
461 credible asylum application. We welcome immigrants and refugees into our communities.

462

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

466

467 **Labor and Economy**

468

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

475

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

481

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

489

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

494

495 We support publicly funded childcare centers to allow low and middle-income Nebraskans to
496 work unencumbered from the high cost of childcare.

497

498 We believe that artificial scarcity harms our economy and is a deceptive business practice. Fair
499 trade and free markets cannot be truly free and fair if prices are manipulated through supply
500 control.

501
502 We support Social Security increases based on appropriate indices that accurately reflect seniors'
503 lives and seniors' needs.

504

505 Legalization of Cannabis

506

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

514

515 LGBTQIA+

516

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

520

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

527

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

530

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

533

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

539

540 Native American Rights

541

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

553

554 Stand with DREAMERS

555

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

559

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

565

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

568

569 Nebraska Democrats proudly support and **#STANDwithDREAMERS**.

570

571 Survivors of Sexual Violence

572

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

576

577 Technology

578

579 Nebraska Democrats prioritize net neutrality, which is the principle that Internet service

580 providers should enable access to all content and applications regardless of the source, and
581 without favoring or blocking particular products or websites. We believe that equal access to
582 information is a civil right.

583

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

588

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

593

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

600

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

603

604 **The Civil Rights of People with Disabilities**

605

606 Nebraska Democrats recognize that disabilities include but are not limited to physical, emotional,
607 or mental conditions. We support the full enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act of
608 1990, as amended and its implementing regulations. We support governmental incentives and
609 assistance to businesses and organizations that employ people with disabilities. We believe that
610 people with disabilities must be provided equal access to all public buildings and public
611 accommodations. Children with disabilities have the right to a free and appropriate public
612 education. Employers must ensure fair and equitable employment opportunities for people with
613 disabilities. Exercising voting rights must be accessible for people with disabilities. We support
614 moving people to the least restrictive service option possible, including moving people from
615 institutions to home and community services, preventing the use of restraints and seclusion, and
616 implementing alternatives to traditional guardianship.

617

618 **Urban Economic Development**

619

620 Nebraska Democrats have recognized the plight and civil rights of urban Nebraskans. Urban
621 Nebraskans have been loyal and committed Democratic voters for over fifty years. In urban

622 Nebraska, the percentage of Democratic voters continues to far outweigh that of other party
623 voters. Despite this continued support, voter turnout in urban Nebraska has continued to trend
624 downwards with few exceptions, and this trend is correlated to the rise in poverty, joblessness,
625 and hopelessness in our urban communities. Nebraska Democrats pledge to demonstrate our
626 commitment and our energies for urban development, in recognition of the needs of urban
627 communities.

628

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

636

637 **Veterans**

638

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

643

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

649

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

653

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

656

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

658

659 Nebraska Democrats believe survivors and their accounts. Nebraska Democrats will fight to end
660 institutional and systemic Sexism, Sexual Assault or Sexual Harassment in our society. We will
661 challenge and dismantle the patriarchy which contributed to the structures that define lasting
662 economic, political, and social inequities based on Sexism, Sexual Assault or Sexual Harassment.
663 Democrats will promote fair, just, and equitable governing of all public-serving institutions and

664 in the formation of future public policy. Democrats will push for a societal transformation to
665 make it clear that women and girls' lives matter and that there is no place for Sexism, Sexual
666 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.)