



2020-2022 Platform

Revised August 29, 2020

Table of Contents

Cover Page.....	1
Table of Contents.....	2
Foundation Statement	3
Agriculture	4
Black Lives Matter.....	4-5
Civil Rights.....	5-6
Contributions.....	6
Criminal Justice.....	6-7
Education.....	7-9
Ending Systemic Racism against Latinx-Americans.....	9
Environment.....	9-10
Essential Workers Bill of Rights.....	10
Firearms.....	11
Gun Violence Prevention.....	11-12
Government	12-13
Healthcare	13-14
Immigration	14-15
Labor and Economy.....	15-16
Legalization of Cannabis.....	16
LGBTQIA+	16-17
Native American Rights	17
Public Health-Pandemic.....	17-18
Rural Economic Development.....	18
Separation of Church and State.....	18
Stand with Dreamers	18-19
Survivors of Sexual Violence.....	19
Technology.....	19-20
The Civil Rights for People with Disabilities	19
Urban Economic Development.....	20
Veterans.....	20-21
Voting by Mail.....	21
Voter Suppression.....	21
#MeToo, Ending Systemic Sexism, Sexual Assault or Sexual Harassment.....	22
Young Democrats.....	22

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, the agricultural land, and its 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. Nebraska Democrats believe in 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 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 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. Nebraska Democrats strongly support the Fed Cattle Set Aside initiative. Nebraska Democrats created and adopted the "Rural Nebraska Bill of Rights" and we fully endorse all the rights delineated therein.

Nebraska Democrats are in favor of agricultural programs that are mindful of 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 the transportation of hemp for food, fuel, and fiber.

Black Lives Matter

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

Nebraska Democrats are 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, economic and political structures that place minority racial and ethnic groups at a disadvantage in relation to an institution's racial or ethnic majority.

Nebraska Democrats commit to educating themselves about the discriminatory policies and practices that have enabled economic prejudice against people of color.

Nebraska Democrats are committed to critically examine and reform policies and practices within the state's economic and political structures that disproportionately target people of color.

Nebraska Democrats commit to expose and eliminate any inconsistencies of voter access, particularly those driven by partisan and racial politics.

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

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

Nebraska Democrats commit 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.

Nebraska Democrats acknowledge that 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 citizens and non-citizens.

Nebraska Democrats 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.

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

Nebraska Democrats believe in equal pay for equal work.

Nebraska Democrats oppose racial profiling, police brutality, white supremacy, and racial violence. We believe in racial justice. We oppose racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism, islamophobia, and all other kinds of bigotry.

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

Nebraska Democrats 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 and 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 guaranteeing the right to vote for all Americans, including same day voter registration.

Contributions

The Nebraska Democratic Party does not seek or accept contributions from individuals or corporate entities whose values conflict with this Platform. Furthermore, Nebraska Democrats support reforms that level the playing field and provide a voice to small donors to balance the access and influence of big donors. Finally, Nebraska Democrats support measures to require comprehensive reporting of all fundraising and spending intended to influence or related to influencing elections.

Criminal Justice

Nebraska Democrats demand that 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.

Nebraska Democrats believe domestic violence is a 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. Nebraska Democrats want reform to the criminal justice system to promote justice for all, including sexual justice. Nebraska 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 fair 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. We support the creation of mental health courts and the expansion of other problem-solving courts.

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

Nebraska Democrats support basic human rights for all detainees and incarcerated persons. Inmates 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.

Nebraska Democrats 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 that 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. Finally, Nebraska Democrats support the elimination of the money bond system which punishes the poor.

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.

Nebraska Democrats 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. Nebraska Democrats believe no child should experience food insecurity and that schools should do their utmost to prevent and address child hunger. We believe every child should have access to healthy, nutritious, and affordable meals and that no school should deny children access to meals based on a child or parent's inability to pay or debt obligation.

Nebraska Democrats 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 to 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 the 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 the 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 that they need to succeed.

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

Nebraska Democrats support policies and programs promoting recruitment of faculty and staff that represent the broadest possible diversity, training and placement of faculty and administration. Staffs' talents should 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. Also, in utilizing 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.

Nebraska Democrats impress upon Nebraska's school districts to develop and utilize teaching materials and pedagogies to confront discrimination; to promote a society free of discrimination and systemic bias based upon age, race, ethnicity, linguistics, religious belief, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or economic status. In addition, school districts should provide interpretation services and technology to improve relationships among the school, home, and community for the benefit of our students.

We support academic freedom and the freedom of speech.

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 take pride in the students, graduates, and educators of our public schools and state institutions of higher learning.

Ending Systemic Racism against Latinx-Americans

“Sí Se Puede”- Spanish for “Yes, We Can” - Dolores Huerta, Civil Rights leader

Nebraska’s Democrats will continue to fight against institutional and systemic racism in our society. Nebraska Democrats challenge and will dismantle the structures that define lasting economic, political, and social inequities based on racism against Latinxs. Nebraska 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.

Nebraska 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

Nebraska Democrats 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.

Nebraska Democrats are committed to phasing out our dependence on fossil fuels in favor of clean and renewable energy, and to create good paying middle-income jobs in the process of expanding and building these 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.

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

Nebraska Democrats are committed to protecting our Ogallala Aquifer which is Nebraska’s most precious natural resource, and all other 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 also believe in being a good neighbor to those who use the water downstream.

Nebraska Democrats will 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.

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

Essential Workers' Bill of Rights

Nebraska Democrats support essential workers who are on the frontlines of the worldwide Coronavirus Pandemic. At least 6.3 million of the U.S. essential workers are also immigrants (legal permanent residents, DACA recipients, TPS recipients, and persons without lawful status) who are working in extreme high-risk conditions without appropriate equipment, safety standards, sick pay, or job protections.

The essential workers include but are not limited to: doctors, nurses, home care workers and other healthcare workers, grocery store and drug store employees, domestic workers, food service workers, federal, state, county, and municipal employees, janitorial staff, farm and ranch workers, delivery drivers, warehouse workers, meatpacking workers, transportation workers, and child care workers.

Reports indicate that these essential workers may be contracting COVID-19 at a higher rate than the public. Therefore, essential workers should be guaranteed the following:

1. Health and safety protections
2. Robust premium compensation
3. Protections for collective bargaining agreements
4. Truly universal paid sick leave and family and medical leave
5. Protections for whistleblowers
6. An end to worker misclassification
7. Health care security
8. Support for child-care
9. Treat workers as experts
10. Hold corporations accountable for meeting their responsibilities
11. A pathway to legal status for essential workers who are undocumented or have TPS or DACA status.

Firearms

The Nebraska Democrats fully respect the rights of individuals to own and use guns for lawful purposes, such as sport shooting, hunting, defense against predators, and euthanizing livestock.

Nebraska Democrats believe that an obligation of those rights is that all gun owners must implement responsible gun ownership practices, which include but are not limited to: always treating a weapon as though it is loaded, storing ammunition separately from the weapon, and the safe storage of firearms to prevent theft and access by children.

Nebraska Democrats also encourage responsible gun ownership training for all new gun owners. Nebraska Democrats oppose the open carry of firearms at protests and/or any public event where said firearms serve only to intimidate other Nebraskans, including the Nebraska State Capitol.

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.

Nebraska Democrats 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 deprive 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 ensure that 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; including long guns and purchases from gun shows and private sales; 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

Nebraska Democrats believe our government should serve all people within its responsibility. Nebraska Democrats believe in the separation of church and state.

Nebraska Democrats believe it is the citizens' duty 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.

Nebraska Democrats 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 must 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 which will create 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 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, 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.

The Founding Fathers recognized the benefits of a postal service for all and felt strongly enough to include the Post Office in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7, of the U.S. Constitution. The United States Postal Service (USPS) is a critical service and it continues to provide mail service at reasonable cost to all residents of our country. Nebraska Democrats especially recognize the importance of USPS services to rural Nebraska. Nebraska Democrats oppose efforts to privatize or significantly modify those public services. Nebraska Democrats support measures to bolster the economic health of the USPS including the repeal of The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006, which immediately put the USPS in a tenuous financial footing, returning the USPS to the pay-as-you-go pension system.

Nebraska Democrats support legislation to repeal *Citizens United*.

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

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

The Government must respect landowner and Tribal rights when considering actions such as eminent domain. Nebraska Democrats 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 landowners, farmers, ranchers, and homeowners.

To promote equality for all, we believe that the United States of America must 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 must recognize Native People's sovereignty, dignity, and equality, and 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 healthcare 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 believe that patients should choose their own healthcare provider. No one should be denied life-preserving medical care, medications, or medical supplies due to cost or pre-existing conditions.

We urge further research into affordable, accessible contraceptive methods for all persons. We continue to oppose any state and federal laws that would impede a woman's or other person's constitutional right to a safe and legal abortion, regardless of gender identity. 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 or other persons regardless of gender identity.

We support the 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. Also, we support both public and private funding for stem cell research.

Nebraska Democrats recognize drug addiction as a public health crisis issue. We support rehabilitation for persons struggling with drug addiction. In addition, we call for an increase of funding for drug addiction treatment.

Immigration

Nebraska Democrats welcome all immigrants. Nebraska Democrats believe immigration is a defining aspect of the great American character; each person has a unique story and a shared history. Nebraska Democrats support fair, effective, and humane immigration reform.

The current immigration system tears mixed-status families apart; rips newborn babies from the arms of their nursing mothers then cages babies and tears children apart from their families; 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 believe in family unification and we oppose merit-based immigration because you should not be able to buy an immigration legal status.

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.

Nebraska Democrats oppose any Muslim ban or taxpayer monies for a Southern wall, and we oppose the caging of children and the separation of immigrant children from their

parents under any circumstances. Children must always have a right to counsel throughout their immigration proceedings.

Labor and Economy

Nebraska Democrats support labor unions as they protect and empower the workforce. We recognize their historical contribution by 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 support Project Labor Agreements.

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 we have more people than work, and we must create jobs for more employees. We conclude that more skilled manufacturing is needed to address the structural unemployment gap in the United States.

Nebraska Democrats are in favor of tax breaks and stimulus for small businesses 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 truly be free and fair if prices are manipulated through supply control.

Nebraska Democrats support Social Security increases based on appropriate indices that accurately reflect seniors' lives and seniors' needs.

At a time of massive income and wealth inequality, we believe the wealthiest Americans and largest corporations must pay their fair share of taxes. Democrats will claw back tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas, eliminate tax breaks for big oil and gas

companies, and crack down on inversions and other methods companies use to dodge their tax responsibilities. We will make sure that our tax code rewards businesses that make investments and provide good-paying jobs here in the United States, not businesses that walk out on America. We will end deferrals so that American corporations pay United States taxes immediately on foreign profits and can no longer escape paying their fair share of U.S. taxes by stashing profits abroad. We will then use the revenue raised from fixing the corporate tax code to reinvest in rebuilding America and ensuring economic growth that will lead to millions of good-paying jobs.

Legalization of Cannabis

Nebraska Democrats 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 on agriculture, business and tax law, zoning, grower and business permits, and regulations involving consumer sales.

LGBTQIA+

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

Nebraska Democrats support a ban on Conversion therapy on LGBTQIA+ individuals. Conversion Therapy is known as a practice in which it tries to change the sexuality of the individual to heterosexual using psychological or spiritual interventions. Several organizations have stated that conversion therapy and its practice is very harmful to LGBTQIA+ individuals. Therefore, a ban on the use of Conversion Therapy is needed to protect the basic human and civil rights of LGBTQIA+ Nebraskans.

Nebraska 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. In addition, Nebraska Democrats oppose any favor given in child custody cases when the basis is on a parent's/guardian's gender identity or sexual orientation.

Nebraska Democrats desire to improve access to informed services and address the high rates of suicide by LGBTQIA+ individuals. We believe LGBTQIA+ individuals should have

access to safe, affordable, and affirming health care, including mental health services, preventative medicine, sexual and reproductive health care, and equity of access to available resources and support.

Nebraska 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.

Nebraska Democrats acknowledge the epidemic of violence against the transgender community, particularly transgender Women of Color and transwomen who are immigrants. Nebraska Democrats stand in unequivocal opposition to transphobic violence, especially when intersected with racism. Nebraska Democrats support legislative solutions to address this including a ban on the gay/trans panic defense and the addition of gender identity to Nebraska hate crimes laws.

Native American Rights

Nebraska Democrats respect the sovereignty of the Native Nations of the Americas and their land and support 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. Nebraska Democrats call on policy makers in all legislatures affected to fully fund its obligations to the health and welfare of all Native Peoples and Tribal Nations.

Nebraska Democrats support the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Awareness Day on May 5th. Though awareness for MMIW has increased in recent years, the killing and other violence against Indigenous women remains a serious and on-going fatal crisis. According to the U.S. Justice Department, the murder rate of Native females is more than ten times the national average on some reservations. Often, these disappearances or murders are connected to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking. Nebraska Democrats support the re-allocation of federal resources to address the epidemic crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women.

Public Health-Pandemic

Nebraska Democrats believe in a robust, science-based, and thoroughly integrated public health system. Coordination and planning must be cohesive on the international, national, state, and community levels.

The United States must always take a leadership role in tackling pandemics and contagious diseases and tacit withdrawal from the world's organizations has not served our country well. When global problem-solving opportunities appear, our government must fully engage in that process. Our country's intellectual and scientific strength must be used to make the world better. Nebraska Democrats believe that America can do better and that our country must do better.

Rural Economic Development

Nebraska Democrats believe in a strong, prosperous future for our rural communities. Rural issues are our party's issues. Nebraska Democrats embrace several key areas of rural economic development: economic revival, housing, community schools, local health care access, and defending small business.

Nebraska Democrats engage rural votes by focusing on economic revival via private-public partnerships, expanding small businesses with low and no interest loans, rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, expanding access to affordable broadband services, and renewing retail shopping districts. Nebraska Democrats support expanding affordable housing, particularly for seniors and young people. Community schools are the bedrock of local community life and must be preserved. We strongly support access to local hospitals, community clinics, senior care, and mental health facilities. Your zip code should not condemn you to substandard care. Nebraska Democrats also believe in promoting small businesses. Too often, big corporations and big box stores put small enterprises out of business on Main Street. We advocate for economic incentives to help local enterprises first survive, then thrive.

Separation of Church and State

Nebraska Democrats support maintaining absolute separation of religion and government; Equal Protection of the rights of Nebraskans of all faiths and of no faith; privileging no religious group or belief system over another; providing no privilege to general religious belief over lack of religious belief; and legislating based on science and evidence while maintaining religious neutrality.

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, care for our family members and over 280,000 DREAMERS are essential workers in the healthcare field. In addition, DREAMERS are leaders in our companies, business owners, and brave members of our military.

Nebraska Democrats 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 Nebraska 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 by passing legislation granting legal permanent residency to them as a pathway to citizenship. Nebraska Democrats proudly support and #STANDwithDREAMERS.

Survivors of Sexual Violence

The Nebraska Democrats acknowledge, believe, and support all survivors of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

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 like the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Nebraska Democrats 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 of wireless services, 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.

The Civil Rights for 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.

Nebraska Democrats 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 monetary employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Nebraska Democrats believe that voting polls must be accessible for people with disabilities. Nebraska Democrats also support accessible and affordable health care and medication for people with disabilities.

Nebraska Democrats support people being placed in the least restrictive placement including moving people from institutions into home and/or community-based services, the prevention of the use of restraints and seclusion, and implementing alternatives to traditional guardianship.

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 the government and the 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 service member whole after a service-connected physical or mental injury, and must support all exiting service members 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-duty military, retired military and veterans deserve superior, efficient, and timely physical and mental healthcare. We reiterate that women who have served is an underserved and under-recognized population with specific needs. We support efforts to meet these needs and ensure their access to Veterans' services.

Nebraska 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 through building or identifying safe, adequate, affordable housing. We support the enhancement of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment services available through the VA. We believe in the continued support of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service program. We oppose predatory lending practices by for-profit schools and payday lenders that target veterans and their families.

Nebraska Democrats affirm through our policies and rhetoric that the strength of America's military comes from the diversity of those who serve our nation in uniform and that our country's struggle for equality is reflected in our military. We support LGBTQ+ service. We support improved paths to senior leadership positions for women, non-white males and LGBTQ+ individuals. We support women being assigned to combat duty leadership positions and roles in accordance with service standards, including physical and mental aptitude.

Nebraska Democrats believe it is the right of all Americans to peacefully protest actions of their government at national, state, or local levels. Though we do not condone protests that devolve into violence and further loss of life, we strongly oppose the use of active duty military forces as law enforcement assets in American cities. We strongly renounce any such use of active duty forces by any administration and the nationalization of the Guard/Reserve Forces to support such unlawful activity as well.

Vote by Mail

Nebraska Democrats know that voting by mail has been the practice of many Nebraska counties for several years. Nebraska Democrats believe that vote by mail should be available to all Nebraska voters in every election.

Voting by Mail is an excellent way to involve more citizens in the Nebraska democratic process. It is both convenient and secure without jeopardizing the health of the electorate.

Voter Suppression

Nebraska Democrats condemn any attempts at Voter Suppression, including and not exclusively, Voter ID laws, gerrymandering, removal of valid voters from the voter rolls and closure and relocation of polling places.

Nebraska Democrats further condemn any attempts by foreign governments or other entities to interfere with fair and open elections in Nebraska and the country.

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

Nebraska Democrats support the #MeToo movement. All Survivors must be heard. 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. Nebraska Democrats promote and practice accountability, transparency, and strive to create an environment that is trauma-informed and safe for all. We recognize the reality of power dynamics and power differentials.

Nebraska Democrats are committed to ensuring that all vulnerable persons are protected from exploitation and abuse by those in positions of power and authority. Nebraska Democrats will promote fair, just, and equitable governing of all public-serving institutions and in the formation of future public policy. Nebraska Democrats will push for a societal transformation to make it clear that women, children, and other persons' lives matter regardless of gender identity. Nebraska Democrats believe that there is no place for Sexism, Sexual Assault or Sexual Harassment in the workplace or in society.

Young Democrats

Nebraska Democrats will promote the rights of young people and mentor young progressive leaders. Nebraska Democrats shall work with young progressive people who seek greater opportunities including by promoting job creation, expanding education, and healthcare which is affordable. We will foster partnerships between younger and older Nebraska Democrats. In addition, Nebraska Democrats will promote new voter registration among young Nebraskans. Nebraska Democrats support efforts to encourage the retention of young Nebraskans in rural communities through the development of arts and culture programs, small business start-up grants, expansion of rural medical services including mental health, and adequate funding for quality community colleges and trade schools.