



## **Platform**

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## **Nebraska Democratic Land Acknowledgement**

We, as members of the Nebraska Democratic Party, wish to acknowledge that we gather together to state our values on lands that have been stewarded through many centuries by the ancestors and descendants of Tribal Nations who have been here since time immemorial. We honor all Native communities, relatives, two-spirit, and elders of this continent and recognize that our state was built on Indigenous homelands. We pay our respects to the millions of Indigenous people throughout history who have protected our lands, waters, and animals.

Today, four Federally recognized tribes in Nebraska – the Omaha Tribe (Umonhon), Ponca Tribe, Santee Sioux Nation (Isanti), and the Winnebago Tribe (Ho-Chunk).

We respectively recognize that we will present this Land Acknowledgement at our 2022 Nebraska Democratic State Convention on the lands of the four (4) Federally recognized tribes in Nebraska – the Omaha Tribe (Umonhon), Ponca Tribe, Santee Sioux Nation (Isanti), and the Winnebago Tribe (Ho-Chunk).

## Preamble

*“We, the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure 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.”*  
*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, regardless of one’s diversity of abilities, origin, gender, orientation, beliefs, status or other characteristics.

When Nebraskans go to the polls this fall, we will be choosing more than a candidate. Character is on the ballot in this election. The character of our elected officials, the character of our democracy, our society, and our leadership throughout Nebraska.

The challenges before us—the worst public health crisis in a century, the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, the worst period of global upheaval in a generation, the urgent global crisis posed by climate change, the intolerable racial injustice that still stains the fabric of our nation—will test Nebraska’s character like never before. We also believe that with the afforded rights come civic duties to be assumed according to each person’s capacity including:

- Service to our state, 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.*

## **Advancing Racial Equity**

On his first day in office, President Biden moved to fulfill a key campaign promise made during the height of the 2020 protests. He signed a series of Executive Orders (EO) including EO #13985 which “established that affirmatively advancing equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity is the responsibility of the whole of our Government”. As Nebraska Democrats we commit to examine our own practices and determine the extent to which those policies promote equitable outcomes, and, using evidence, assess any ongoing diversity and inclusion initiatives.

## **Agriculture**

Nebraska Democrats celebrate traditional family farmers and ranchers, the agricultural land, and the 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 agricultural partners as they grow local, high-quality, nutritious foods.

Nebraska Democrats support partnerships with farmers, ranchers, and foresters to make our agriculture sector the first in the world to achieve net-zero emissions, which will spark a revolution in agriculture and create new revenue streams for farmers in energy and waste products and grow bio-based manufacturing jobs. We support Nebraska’s biofuels manufacturing sector and support research, development, and deployment of advanced biofuels. We encourage expansion of voluntary programs for sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices that help protect clean air and water and support wildlife habitats, including for threatened pollinators.

Nebraska Democrats encourage the investment in research and development to support climate-resilient, sustainable, low-carbon, and organic agricultural methods. We also support domestic markets for family farmers and ranchers by developing and growing regional food systems to deliver fresh, Nebraskan-grown produce to schools, hospitals, and other major public institutions, so small, mid-size, and traditional farmers can stay competitive.

Nebraska Democrats support the Biden-Harris plan to build back better in rural America to improve financial outcomes for farmers by eliminating monopoly control of agricultural markets in production, processing, trade, and by opening local markets to local producers. 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.

## **America the Beautiful Plan**

We, as members of the Nebraska Democratic Party, stand with the Biden-Harris administration on the 30x30 Executive Order. Also known as “America the Beautiful plan,” the Executive Order calls for preserving 30 percent of the land by 2030. Thirty percent being the amount of land many scientists say should be preserved to protect species in a warming world. As of now, about 12 percent of U.S. land is being preserved.

Those on the far right call the Order government overreach whether it is about “land grabs” or controlling the state’s water supply. Although 97 percent of the state is privately owned, the Order is not designed to seize private land but provide new protection for public and Tribal lands, and provide financial support for farmers, ranchers and other landowners for adopting sustainable conservation practices.

Nebraska Democrats acknowledge the following: we need a fundamental course correction to our relationship with nature and the Biden administration has put us on that path; four out of five voters nationwide favor a plan to protect at least 30 percent of our land, ocean areas, and inland waters by 2030; a large majority of voters view the plan as reasonable, achievable, and good for the economy.

This Order focuses on increasing access to nature for all people, with an emphasis on underserved communities and communities of color. In this country, 74 percent of communities of color and 70 percent of low-income communities in the contiguous United States live in nature-deprived areas. Implementation of 30x30 should also center the rights, voices, and knowledge of Indigenous peoples, who have protected and managed the lands and waters for millennia and affirm the Administration’s commitment to Tribal sovereignty.

## **Black Lives Matter**

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

We believe that Black lives matter. We support the establishment of a statewide commission to examine the lasting economic effects of slavery, Jim Crow segregation, and racially discriminatory federal policies on income, wealth, educational, health, and employment outcomes; to pursue truth and promote racial healing; and to study reparations. We must acknowledge that there can be no realization of the American dream without grappling with the lasting effects of slavery and facing up to the centuries-long campaign of violence, fear, and trauma wrought upon Black Americans.

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 structures 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 structures and political structures that disproportionately target people of color.

Nebraska Democrats commit to expose and eliminate any voter access restrictions, 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 against people of color, and our Party commits to grow awareness to motivate and inspire change.

Nebraska Democrats commit to dismantle the complex web of racial and cultural barriers integrated into 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 must occur. 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. We must 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.

## **Broadband Internet Service**

Nebraska Democrats endorse the National Platform support of President Biden's \$20 billion investment to provide access. Broadband, especially during the pandemic, is an essential utility to fully function in society today, *i.e.*, education for students at home, parents working from home, telehealth services and for those trying to stay socially distant.

Nebraska Democrats support the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBBP), now known as the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), to aid Nebraskans with limited financial resources. Nebraska Democrats support the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) in classifying Internet Service Providers (ISP) as "Utilities" and for the Internet to remain a free, open, and neutral entity. Nebraska Democrats request all broadband providers to support these programs and make them available and affordable.

Nebraska Democrats are especially concerned with internet and phone access for our rural communities. According to the Nebraska Information Technology Committee (NITC), “rural broadband is necessary for the attraction and retention of millennials, greater economic growth, attracting new firms, higher household incomes and small business growth.” It is for these reasons that Nebraska Democrats support national and state laws that will help those who have no access to broadband get that access they so desperately need.

## **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.

Nebraska Democrats believe in equal pay for equal work. Nebraska Democrats support a psychologically safe environment where all persons can be and express oneself without fear of negative consequences to self-image, status, or career.

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, anti-immigrant sentiment and all other kinds of bigotry.

We support the appointment of U.S. Supreme Court justices and federal judges who reflect the diversity of the United States, are committed to the rule of law, will uphold individual civil rights and civil liberties as essential components of a free and democratic society, and will respect and enforce foundational precedents, including *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Hernandez v. Texas* and *Roe v. Wade*.

Nebraska Democrats believe healthcare is a universal human right. We believe that equal access to food, water, education, housing, transportation, utilities, and employment are also universal human rights. We support all measures to end poverty, hunger, homelessness, and a 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 locally funded programs, family leave, adoption, foster care as well as inclusive language for identity documentation and hate crime 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. Nebraska Democrats call on the U.S. Congress to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

## **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.

## **COVID-19 Reveals Health Disparities**

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately sickened and killed Nebraskans, especially in the Black, Latinx, Native Americans, and certain Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in Nebraska. The pandemic has revealed and magnified long-standing racial and geographic disparities in health care and propelled health outcomes into front-page news. Nebraska Democrats support a total government effort to eliminate health disparities, including achieving universal health coverage through a high-quality and affordable public option; expanding funding for community health centers, rural health centers, and mobile health clinics; and tackling environmental racism that sees communities of color disproportionately impacted by air pollution, water pollution, and toxic chemicals.

## **Criminal Justice**

Nebraska's criminal justice system is failing to keep communities safe—and failing to deliver justice. America is the land of the free. We must make evidence-based investments in education, jobs, health care, and housing that are proven to keep communities safe and prevent crime. Instead, our system continues to criminalize poverty, over police, underserve Black, Native American and Latinx communities, and cut public services. Instead of offering incarcerated persons the opportunity to turn their lives around, our prisons are overcrowded and continue to rely on inhumane methods of punishment. Instead of treating those who have served their time as full citizens upon re-entry to their communities. Too many of our laws continue to punish the formerly incarcerated, erecting barriers to housing, employment, and voting rights for many Nebraskans.

Nebraska Democrats demand that the legislative branch and the Governor 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. We oppose any form of private prisons!

Nebraska Democrats commend police agencies who recognize and address inherent bias and are committed to preserving life and serving all communities fairly. 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 support legislation to maintain records of officer discipline and the creation of a public database of law enforcement and officer misconduct and adopting oversight measures of municipal police departments in the State of Nebraska.

Crime rates have fallen steadily from their peak nearly three decades ago. Nebraska Democrats promise to work to end the era of mass incarceration and dramatically reduce the number of Americans held in jails and prisons, while continuing to further reduce crime rates.

We support re-issuing federal guidance from the Department of Education and the Department of Justice to prevent the disparate disciplinary treatment of children of color and children with disabilities in school and educational settings.

We believe every school should have sufficient funding to employ guidance counselors, social workers, nurses, or school psychologists to help guarantee age-appropriate and racially equitable student disciplinary practices, rather than turning to police to resolve these issues.

Nebraska Democrats believe domestic violence is a threat against community and family, including some 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 denounce former President Trump's inappropriate use of clemency to help his cronies avoid facing justice.

Nebraska Democrats will work with our judges, correction officers, prosecutors, public defenders, and police officers to ensure transgender and gender non-conforming people receive fair and equitable treatment in the criminal justice system. Nebraska Democrats will work to appoint people to the bench who are committed to seeing that justice be served and treating each case on its merits. 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 must be developed that will 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 dignity and 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 an elected State Board of Education. 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, including giving students mental health days.

We believe all teachers, educational support professionals, and administrators should be paid commensurate to their professional responsibility to educate our future generations and prepare students for adulthood. Nebraska Democrats advocate for educators' learning opportunities to enhance the education received by Nebraska's students.

Nebraska Democrats recognize the importance of Early Childhood Education and support a fully funded Early Childhood program available at no cost to every child in the State of Nebraska. Research clearly demonstrates the importance of a sound early educational program in preparing children for learning in all schools, public, private or parochial, and reducing the school-prison pipeline creating the disproportionate tendency of minors and young adults from disadvantaged backgrounds to become incarcerated. The first step in eliminating the school-prison pipeline is to eliminate the existing educational inequity in Nebraska and the United States, is to have children ready to learn when they attend school and ensure that each child has an appropriate educational program.

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 for post-secondary education. We support programs assisting students and their families in discharging their debt.

Nebraska Democrats underscore the need for strong science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. Our preK-12 students—the future scientists, engineers, and world leaders—need skills that only STEM can provide. To best cultivate these young minds, our teachers need equitable access to platforms that will help them in every learning scenario. We support districts and schools in their quest to deliver programs flexible enough to meet teachers and students where they are, and without compromising quality, integrity, and equity.

Nebraska Democrats strongly support a comprehensive program of the arts in Nebraska schools, including vocal and instrumental music, theater arts, and visual arts. It has been said that STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) is critical to the economic and entrepreneurial wellbeing of the United States, it is the Arts that make us human. The correlation between the creative expressions of the arts and STEAM related growth has shown the importance of inclusion of the arts in a comprehensive educational program, and Nebraska

Democrats recognize the need for creative expression to enhance students' overall educational growth.

Nebraska Democrats support a comprehensive physical education and health program for public school students that serve to enrich and educate each student regarding healthy lifestyles and behaviors that will enhance each person's life during their school years and beyond. Nebraska Democrats also support a strong co-curricular program consisting of athletics, speech, drama and debate in addition to co-curricular activities in the fine and visual arts.

Nebraska Democrats believe no child should experience food insecurity and that schools should do their utmost to address and prevent 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. Children and staff deserve enough time to eat.

Nebraska Democrats believe every child should have a safe school environment conducive to learning, free from all forms of 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.

We believe that a student must be of legal age in Nebraska (19) before they can drop out of school prior to graduation.

We support continuing education and programs for pregnant students and those who are parents to help them remain in school. We support age appropriate, comprehensive, and inclusive sex education, with a full range of family planning services for students aged fifth grade through High School. We support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Transexual, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Agender, Two-Spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) inclusive sex education including information about sexual orientations and gender identities. Nebraska Democrats believe that Special Education (SPED) programs should continue to be based on the individual needs of each student.

Nebraska Democrats support the provision of equitable education opportunities for students with disabilities. We support the funding of the Individual Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and implementing the enforcement of the requirements for a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. We support aggressive enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in schools and other settings. We support that remote instruction must be individualized to the greatest possible extent and reasonable modifications should also be provided for students with disabilities even during a pandemic.

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 mandated funding for the behavioral and mental health needs of students in our state's public schools. School districts must support the social and emotional needs for students.

Communities can decide whether they want to employ School Resource Officers (SROs). If so, these communities must figure out how they go about it in the most effective way by developing positive relationships with students and collaboration with educators and mental health professionals to proactively address school safety issues and divert at-risk students from the juvenile justice system. Implementing effective SRO programs that support the positive development of youth is an essential part of youth justice reform.

Nebraska Democrats will work with our leaders in Washington to authorize up to \$10,000 dollars in student debt relief and authorize retroactive loan interest forgiveness in Nebraska. We believe that after 20 years, all student federal loan debt should be forgiven. Democrats support modernizing and improving the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, including making the enrollment process automatic for people who work in schools, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Nebraska Democrats will fight for those students in undergraduate programs at two- or four-year colleges to have their loans forgiven if they make less than \$125,000 a year. We also reject Republican proposals that would make students pay billions of dollars more on their student loans. Nebraska Democrats will also work to empower the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to act against exploitative lenders and will work with Congress to allow student debt to be discharged during bankruptcy.

Nebraska Democrats 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, support staff, and where appropriate, resource officers that represent the broadest possible diversity, training and faculty placement, staffing, and administration. Staff talent must 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 support academic freedom and the freedom of speech. We envision classrooms that create opportunities for multicultural activities and field trips. In addition, we support utilizing distance education technologies to bring students together in study and play from other cultures and countries and fostering exchange programs of speakers and student groups.

Nebraska Democrats support comprehensive civic education in schools, including thorough knowledge of the voting process from what happens when you register to vote, all the way to how ballots are managed once they are submitted. We believe this knowledge would prevent disinformation from having the effect we saw in the 2020 election.

Nebraska Democrats impress upon Nebraska's school districts to develop and utilize quality 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 and translation services and technology to improve relationships among the school, home, and community for the benefit of our students.

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 education delivered by the state-funded institutions of higher learning, which provides the specialized skills that are needed in the workforce. Nebraska Democrats take pride in the students, graduates, and educators of our public schools and state institutions of higher learning.

We believe education is a critical public good. We must increase investments to guarantee all students can access high-quality public schools, no matter where they live, so they are well prepared to thrive in college and careers. We must break the school-to-prison pipeline that results in children of color and rural children disproportionately punished by the criminal justice system for disciplinary issues that should have been managed by school administrators.

## **Economic Investment**

We are committed to combatting the extreme gap in household wealth and income which is hurting our working class and holding our country back. This gap disproportionately affects people of color— Black Americans, Latinx Americans, Native Americans, and Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders communities. Nebraska Democrats are committed to improving economic mobility for people of color. We will fight to tackle intergenerational poverty and close the racial wealth gap.

Nebraska Democrats recognize that racial wealth gaps are rooted in longstanding discrimination and unjust policies. We will equalize established pathways for building wealth while exploring innovative approaches to closing racial wealth gaps, including policies that provide seed capital, to access the economic security of asset ownership. We must invest in low-income communities, urban and rural areas, and communities of color by strengthening access to credit for women- and minority-owned small businesses, persons with disabilities and veterans.

## **Ending Systemic Racism against Latinx Americans**

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

Nebraska 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 Latinx. 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 Latinx.

Nebraska Democrats support a societal change that makes it crystal clear that Latinx are, in fact, Americans because they are Indigenous to this country and continent. Nebraska Democrats believe there is no place for racism or racial harassment against Latinx Americans in our governmental systems, organizations, businesses, state, 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, *i.e.*, oil, fracked gas, and carbon, 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 must make our existing infrastructure safer and cleaner; and invest in the new infrastructure necessary to power our clean energy future.

Nebraska Democrats reject all efforts to politicize scientific results. We also support peer-reviewed and credible research based on scientific consensus. We support convening a world summit aimed at new and more ambitious global targets to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. We also support the renewal and expansion of climate-related foreign assistance including recommitting to the Green Climate Fund.

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.

The Nebraska Democratic Party stands firmly against false solutions that serve mainly to ensure the continued dominance of fossil fuels. False solutions include those hidden behind "Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)" or "Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS)," "clean coal," "natural gas is a bridge fuel," "carbon offsets," "netzero" and "carbon neutral."

Climate policies should not put a community in harm's way, like the recent proposal for carbon pipelines that use eminent domain and can cause serious health implications to humans and livestock when they explode. Our party stands for property rights, sovereign rights of Tribal Nations, and protection of clean water.

We believe as our country builds out the clean energy infrastructure needed to address climate change, that the jobs must be good paying union jobs and the people whose land will be used must be at the table for decisions on siting, decommissioning, land reclamation and - most critically - part of the of wealth creation, so that big corporations do not hold all the power.

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. We applaud the Biden Administration for re-joining this accord.

## **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 childcare 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 eligible individuals to own and use guns for lawful purposes.

Nebraska Democrats believe that an obligation of our second amendment right is that all gun owners must implement responsible gun ownership practices, which include but are not limited to 1) always treating a weapon as though it is loaded; 2) storing ammunition separately from the weapon; and 3) the safe storage of firearms to prevent theft and access by children.

Nebraska Democrats understand that gun ownership is an individual responsibility. We support the idea that the sale or purchase of all firearms including background checks. We believe that all firearms should be stored securely to ensure the safety of our fellow Nebraskans as well as continuing education regarding gun safety.

Nebraska Democrats oppose the use of firearms for intimidation and unlawful purposes.

## **Gender-based Violence**

Nebraska Democrats stand with and support survivors against all forms of gender-based violence. We acknowledge the horrific injustices victims and survivors face and the barriers they are confronted with as they seek justice, healing, safety, and security. We stand with all victims and survivors and advocate for victim-and-survivor centered, trauma-informed, and equitable care and access to all available resources and supports.

Gender-based violence undermines the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its victims, yet it remains shrouded in a culture of silence. Victims of violence can suffer sexual and reproductive health consequences, including forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, traumatic fistula, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and even death.

We demand more funding for programs committed to advocating for and supporting all victims and survivors of gender-based violence, including rape, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and stalking, regardless of race, gender, sexuality, disability, or religion. We support greater access to affordable health care, including mental health, sexual and reproductive health care, affordable housing, legal representation, food security, educational opportunities, and employment opportunities for victims and survivors of gender-based violence, discrimination, and harassment.

Nebraska Democrats recognize that gender-based violence disproportionately affects Indigenous women, women of color, immigrant women, especially LGBTQIA2S+ women/persons, and that trans/nonbinary survivors face greater barriers to accessing safety, support, and care.

## **Government**

Nebraska Democrats believe our government should serve all people. Nebraska Democrats believe in the separation of church and state. Nebraska Democrats believe it is the citizen's 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. Nebraska Democrats oppose the Convention of States. We are also

against Voter ID measures. Nebraska Democrats support the forced enhancement of the Stand of Ethics conduct for elected officials in our state.

Legislative bodies should be representative of the population of the state, territory, or country in 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. Nebraska 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 reduce federal funding for public health clinics and family planning services, especially in rural areas. 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 Democrats are proud that Medicaid expansion in our state is saving 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 public 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, slow down 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 *i.e.*, a tax in which the tax rate increases as the taxable income amount increases. 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 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.

## **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 deprives injured persons from their right to legal remedy in the courts.

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

We agree with the American Medical Association's (AMA) 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.

Nebraska Democrats support a national gun buyback program to reduce the estimated 265+ million firearms in circulation by at least 30%. We also support Behavior Health Programs and fully funding the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs. Also, Nebraska Democrats support enacting universal background checks and closing dangerous loopholes.

The Nebraska Democratic Party further supports the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) proposals to enact a strong, effective assault weapons ban; require mandatory background checks and waiting periods for 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 (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and other research agencies.

## **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. Nebraska Democrats recognize the need for more rural health clinics and adequate funding for critical care hospitals.

Nebraska Democrats support 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 Children Health Information Program (CHIP). 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 shall work to make it easier on families to afford high-quality insurance in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces by ensuring that no one pays more than 8.5% - 9% of income in premiums and eliminating the cap on subsidies. Nebraska Democrats support reducing the cost of prescription drugs.

We also support LGBTQIA2S+ people and people living with HIV or AIDS having full access to healthcare and resources. This includes requiring that the federal government mandate federal healthcare plans to include coverage for HIV/AIDS testing and treatment, and for HIV prevention medications, gender affirmation surgery and hormone therapy.

Nebraska Democrats also support increasing community HIV prevention and testing programs that effectively reach the Latinx, Black, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Native American, and other communities. We support the efforts of the federal government to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic by the year 2025. Nebraska Democrats support increased funding for research into health disparities of different communities like race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation and more.

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

## **Housing**

Homeownership is at the center of the American Dream—and yet, it is not accessible to all. Decades of redlining, rising income inequality, and predatory lending practices have made homeownership all but impossible for millions of low-income families and people of color. Homeownership has long been central to building generational wealth. Expanding access to those who have been unfairly excluded and discriminated against is critical to closing the racial wealth gap. We have a statewide shortage of affordable housing units, and thousands of Nebraskans live in homes that pose risks to their health and safety. Affordable housing has reached crisis proportions in our state, and housing costs that rise faster than wages have put the squeeze on renters in many of our larger cities.

Nebraska Democrats believe the government should take aggressive steps to increase the supply of affordable housing and address long-standing economic and racial inequities in our housing markets. We support innovative approaches to eliminating the racial wealth gap in Nebraska. We support equalization of affordable credit and improved access to down payment assistance for families of color, low-income families, and rural buyers to purchase homes. We support an increase of funding for assistance to first-time purchasers to navigate the financing and servicing of their homes.

Nebraska Democrats believe that everyone is entitled to a safe and habitable place to live. A place that makes one feel calm and secure. A place to go and take refuge when the rest of the world seems to be against you. We demand swift action to end homelessness among veterans and to enact strong protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth, especially Black, Latinx, Native American, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and LGBTQIA2S+ youth, and individuals with mental health needs, who too often find themselves on the streets.

Nebraska Democrats are committed to ending homelessness throughout our state. We commit to the provision of Section 8 housing support for every eligible family and support protections to keep landlords from discriminating against voucher recipients. We must increase investments in public housing to expand availability for the first time since the 1990s and improve and upgrade existing public housing to ensure safe living conditions for residents, protecting tenants' rights to return if extensive renovations are needed.

## **Immigration**

Nebraska Democrats welcome all immigrants and refugees; and support the passage of the Citizenship Act of 2021, proposed by President Joe Biden on his first day in office. 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. Nebraska Democrats support a 21st century immigration system that honors our values. It is an essential prerequisite to recover from the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, to strengthen our democracy and to guarantee America's long-term

economic competitiveness. That's why Nebraska Democrats believe in improving and increasing opportunities for legal, permanent immigration.

The Citizenship Act of 2021 would expand and reform legal immigration: 1) The residence requirement for naturalization would be reduced from 5 years to 3 years for all lawful permanent residents; 2) The one-year deadline for filing asylum applications in the United States would be eliminated and the Act would provide funding to reduce asylum application backlogs. 3) It would also allow asylum applicants to file a motion to reopen their case within two years after the Act is passed if they were: Denied asylum solely based on failure to meet the one-year application deadline; Granted withholding of removal; Have not obtained LPR status; Not subject to the safe third country exception or another bar to asylum; and not denied asylum as a matter of discretion. The act would expand eligibility for V visas.

Immigration contributes immeasurably to the vibrance and productivity of American society. Family reunification, humanitarian, and diversity pathways must continue to be the centerpiece of our immigration system. We also support awarding visas for permanent, employment-based immigration in a way that is responsive to labor market needs. We must attract and keep talent in this state, which is why Nebraska Democrats support the end of the past Administration's freeze on green cards for new immigrants and instead pursue a meaningful reform agenda.

Nebraska Democrats support policies and programs to make it easier for qualified immigrants, refugees, and their families to become full and equal U.S. citizens. This includes increasing funding for culturally appropriate immigrant inclusion and citizenship services, legal support, English classes and bilingual education, workforce development, and adult education.

Nebraska Democrats support a U.S. citizenship pathway for immigrants and refugees who engaged in "essential critical labor or services" during the COVID-19 public health emergency, H-2A non-immigrants (temporary agricultural workers), and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients would be eligible for Legal Prospective Immigrant (LPI) status. Noncitizens who entered the United States as children, including DACA recipients would be eligible for lawful permanent residence. This also includes Nationals of certain countries designated for TPS or Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED).

Nebraska Democrats support workers who performed agricultural labor or services for at least 2,300 hours or 400 workdays, including seasonal or temporary work, during the five-year period before the date they apply for a green card would be eligible for Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) status. Their spouses and children would also be eligible for permanent residence as derivatives.

Nebraska Democrats support the Biden-Harris Administration's plan for comprehensive immigration reform. We support creating an immigration policy based on the humanity and recognition of immigrant heritage. 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 eighteen 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, Nebraska Democrats support expedited immigration policies for and protection of the foreign nationals who assisted or who continue to assist our military and embassies in Iraq, Afghanistan and other conflict zones. 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, Syria and others fleeing from violence as refugees. 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.

We continue to oppose the practice of caging children and separating them from their parents under any circumstances. All children must always have a right to counsel throughout any immigration proceedings. Most importantly, we condemn the forced sterilization of migrant women conducted by the Trump administration.

## **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. We believe that the right to organize and collectively bargain benefits all workers, particularly workers of color and workers with disabilities.

Nebraska Democrats will work to invest in low-income communities, urban and rural areas, and communities of color by strengthening the Community Reinvestment Act, improving federal support and access to credit for women- and minority-owned small businesses, expanding and making permanent the New Markets Tax Credit, and doubling funds for Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). Nebraska Democrats will work to invest in low-income communities, urban and rural areas, and communities of color by strengthening the Community Reinvestment Act. We advocate improving federal support and access to credit for women- and minority-owned small businesses, expanding and making permanent the New Markets Tax Credit, and doubling funds for CDFIs.

We support expanding the Obama-Biden Administration's Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces policy and use the purchasing power of the federal government to incentivize private companies to recruit and advance people of color, women, people with disabilities, and veterans. We will also work with Congress to direct the Chair of the Federal Reserve to report on the extent of racial employment and wage gaps. We support the release of details on how the central bank is countering those gaps, in addition to monitoring, reporting on, and responding to macroeconomic conditions in general.

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 will work to pass the Public Sector Foresight Network (PSFN), which would provide the federal government's guarantee for public-sector employees to bargain for better pay and benefits and the working conditions they deserve. 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.

Nebraska Democrats strive to increase the wages of working people, to include raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by the year 2024 and assuring a living wage beyond then. By raising the minimum wage, workers will not need to hold down multiple jobs.

Nebraska needs a qualified, responsive workforce with globally competitive education and trade skills. We support apprenticeship programs. We support training programs for displaced workers. We must adapt to the age of technology, recognizing we have more people than work, and we must create jobs for more employees. More skilled manufacturing is needed to address the structural unemployment gap in the United States. Nebraska Democrats support a new economic contract that raises wages and restores workers' rights to organize, join a union, and collectively bargain. Nebraska Democrats believe that all workers should be able to hold their employers accountable for unpaid or underpaid wages, regardless of corporate structure.

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 their fair share of taxes; taxation should not be shouldered by working, middle-class families and individuals. We support publicly funded childcare centers to allow low and middle-income Nebraskans to work unencumbered from the high cost of childcare. Nebraska Democrats support Social Security increases based on appropriate indices that accurately reflect seniors' lives and seniors' needs. 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.

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 that 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.

Nebraska Democrats support medical cannabis and pharmaceutical access, including for minors, under the direction of a physician.

## **LGBTQIA2S+ Civil Rights**

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 recognize that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Transexual, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Agender, Two-Spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) youth and adults suffer from significant health disparities, including mental health, substance use disorders, and experience disproportionately higher rates of suicide and self-harm. LGBTQIA2S+ seniors must be included in federally funded programs for older adults.

Nebraska Democrats support a ban on Conversion Therapy on LGBTQIA2S+ individuals. Conversion Therapy is a practice that allegedly purports to change the sexuality of the individual to heterosexual, using psychological or spiritual interventions. The American Medical Association (AMA), American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), as well as other national and transnational professional organizations, have stated that Conversion Therapy and its practice is very harmful to LGBTQIA2S+ individuals. Therefore, a ban on the use of Conversion Therapy is needed to protect the basic human and civil rights of LGBTQIA2S+ Nebraskans. Nebraska Democrats support protecting LGBTQIA2S+ students from bullying and assaultive behaviors. Nebraska Democrats also support full parental rights for parents who identify as LGBTQIA2S+.

Nebraska Democrats celebrate marriage equality. We do not believe that religious freedom equates to any right to discriminate against marriage equality.

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 based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, public education, federal funding, credit, and the jury system. Pursuant to Title VII, we support LGBTQIA2S+ persons as a legal '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. Democrats condemn the attacks on

families that affirm their trans children and will work to protect parents from governmental inference.

Nebraska Democrats support improving access to informed services and addressing the high rates of suicide by LGBTQIA2S+ individuals. We support LGBTQIA2S+ individuals in accessing 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. We do not believe that religious freedom equates to any right to discriminate against the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

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 against transgender Women of Color and immigrant trans women. Nebraska Democrats stand in unequivocal opposition to transphobic violence, especially when intersected with racism. Nebraska Democrats support legislative solutions to address this issue including a ban on the gay/trans panic criminal defense and the addition of gender identity to Nebraska hate crimes laws.

## **Native American Civil 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 demand the federal government commit to providing full funding to fulfill unmet trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations and Native American peoples. We shall work collectively to increase funding, resources, and financial tools for Tribes, particularly in the key areas of criminal justice, health care, education, housing, and economic development.

Nebraska Democrats recognize the security of Native peoples (Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians) is paramount, and shall ensure that the Tribes have the resources needed to investigate and prosecute crimes in their communities, including cooperation from law enforcement agencies outside Tribal lands.

We shall fight for justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP), and Indigenous children. Nebraska Democrats support the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). We reaffirm provisions relating to Tribal jurisdiction and expand the list of crimes that can be prosecuted under the federal statute to include stalking, child abuse, and trafficking. We also support Indian Tribal jurisdiction over Tribal lands, and we support further efforts to address the *Oliphant* decision.

We commit to defend the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), and demand ICWA enforcement to protect Native families and involve Tribes in child welfare cases. We must build on federal programs to reduce the disproportionate incarceration of Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian men, women, and persons to reduce sentencing disparities. We must ensure all persons reentering back into their communities have access to housing, employment services, and health care, including mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

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.

## **People with Disabilities Civil Rights**

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, (ADA) as amended and its implementing regulations. We support governmental incentives and assistance to businesses and organizations that employ people with disabilities.

One in four American adults live with a disability. Nebraska Democrats believe people with disabilities deserve to lead full, happy, and healthy lives. Nebraska Democrats support the full enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, and the Help America Vote Act, among other bedrock statutes protecting the rights of people with disabilities. We shall strongly oppose any efforts to weaken enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Nebraska Democrats must ensure non-discrimination in access to health care, building on the protections for people with disabilities enshrined in the Affordable Care Act. We demand that every federal agency aggressively enforce the integration mandate affirmed in the *Olmstead* decision, and repair the damage done by the Trump Administration. We will rigorously enforce non-discrimination protections for people with disabilities in health care, employment, education, and housing, and ensure equal access to the ballot box.

Nebraska Democrats are committed to supporting the millions of Americans on the autism spectrum and their families. We support early childhood screening, particularly in underserved

communities, and promote equitable treatment of students on the autism spectrum in schools and educational settings, in keeping with our commitment to providing equal educational opportunities for Nebraskans with disabilities. By eliminating state waiting lists for home and community-based care, ending the institutional bias in Medicaid, and expanding support for informal caregivers, Nebraska Democrats will enable more individuals with autism to receive the support they need in their homes and communities.

Nebraska Democrats support legislation for people with disabilities, to ensure 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. We support and stand for people with disabilities, and we will work to make sure that they are treated fairly, not just in the workforce, but in all settings including education. 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. We support increasing federal funding to expand accessible transportation and accessible, integrated, and affordable housing.

We will protect people with disabilities in emergencies and meet the needs of travelers with disabilities. We will ensure new technologies benefit, and are affordable and accessible for, people with disabilities. We will expand access to tax-advantaged ABLE savings accounts, which provide people with disabilities a way to pay for disability-related expenses like housing, education, and transportation. Democrats will improve access to home and community-based care for people with disabilities and older Americans, including by enforcing the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Settings Rule, ending the institutional bias within Medicaid, and expanding the home care workforce to end state waiting lists for long-term services and supports.

## **Police Reform**

Nebraska Democrats believe we must overhaul the criminal justice system from top to bottom. Current police brutality is a stain on the soul of our nation. It is unacceptable that millions of people in our country have good reason to fear they may lose their lives in a routine traffic stop or while standing on a street corner or while playing with a toy in a public park. Despite the magnitude of the loss of life and the evident disproportionate burden of deaths from the police on Black, Indigenous, and Latinx/Hispanic people in the USA, these deaths can be misclassified and subsequently undercounted in official statistics.

It is unacceptable that parents of color must have “the talk” with their children, to try to protect them from the very police officers who are sworn to protect and serve them.

Nebraska Democrats recognize that all too often, systematic cuts to public services have left police officers on the front lines of responding to social challenges for which they have not been trained, from homelessness to mental health crises to the opioid epidemic. We can and must do better for our communities.

Nebraska Democrats demand that we end the era of mass incarceration and dramatically reduce the number of Americans held in jails and prisons while continuing to reduce crime rates, which have fallen steadily from their peak nearly three decades ago. This is the moment to root out structural and systemic racism in our criminal justice system and in our society. We must reimagine public safety for the benefit of our people and the character of our country.

## **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 future 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.

## **Reproductive Rights**

Nebraska Democrats believe that Reproductive Rights are a basic human right. Reproductive Rights are based on the United Nations internationally accepted Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a comprehensive body of law that details the rights of all individuals, including but not limited to: Indigenous women/persons, women/persons of color, and trans persons. We recognize that people who identify as men, non-binary, gender non-conforming, genderqueer, and many other gender identities can become pregnant. In addition, we believe that our state and federal governments have the responsibility to protect their reproductive rights.

Reproductive Rights are the rights of women/persons to decide whether to reproduce and have reproductive health services. This may include a woman/person's right to plan a family, terminate a pregnancy, use contraceptives, receive accurate and age-appropriate sex education in public schools, and gain access to reproductive health services.

As part of Reproductive Rights, abortion access is critical, and Indigenous women/persons, women/persons of color, and trans persons and other marginalized women/persons and other persons also often have difficulty accessing contraception, comprehensive sex education, Sexual Transmitted Infections (STI) prevention and care, alternative birth options, adequate prenatal and pregnancy care, domestic violence assistance, adequate wages to support our families, safe homes, and so much more.

Nebraska Democrats affirm that Reproductive Rights are about access to services, not choice. Mainstream movements have focused on keeping abortion legal as an individual choice. That is necessary, but not enough. Even when abortion is legal, many women/persons and women/persons of color cannot afford it or cannot travel hundreds of miles to the nearest clinic. There is no choice where there is no access.

## **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. Rural public schools are the bedrock of local community life and must be preserved. We strongly support access to local hospitals, telehealth services, community clinics, senior care, and mental health facilities. Your zip code should not condemn you to substandard care. Nebraska Democrats 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.

## **Standing with DREAMERS**

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is ending; over 800,000 DREAMERS are at risk of deportation which adversely affects their immediate family and communities. 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 U.S. citizenship. Nebraska Democrats proudly support and #STANDwithDREAMERS.

## **Technology**

Nebraska Democrats prioritize net neutrality, which is the principle that Internet service providers should facilitate access to all content and applications regardless of the source, and without favoring or blocking specific 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, which will bring faster Internet connections to underserved areas, and will enable transformative technologies.

Nebraska Democrats support the Biden-Harris Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to ensure fairness, affordability, access, and privacy for urban and rural Nebraskans. All Nebraskans should have access to affordable telecommunication services provided as a public utility. 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 for students.

We strongly support technological access to local hospitals, telehealth services, community clinics, senior care, and mental health facilities.

## **Title IX**

On May 6, 2020, the United States Department of Education released new Title IX regulations that establish how education programs which receive federal funding must respond to sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in all school activities and programs. In K-12 to post-secondary institutions, they must take appropriate steps to prevent and redress issues of sex discrimination. Schools must respond when harassment occurs "in the school's education or activity programs," which would include athletic programs.

We support efforts to strengthen accountability and ensure that all educational institutions are faithfully implementing the fullest measure of the law when pursuing Title IX complaints, taking seriously the claims of victims and survivors, and recognizing and addressing failures to abide by Title IX regulations. We further acknowledge the gaps in the current formulation of Title IX and support any efforts educational institutions may undertake to develop comprehensive policies to combat gender-based discrimination, harassment and violence.

We recognize that disparities exist in how victims and survivors of color, LGBTQIA2S+ persons, transgender, and nonbinary persons, and those with disabilities are often

disproportionately excluded from access to all available resources and are denied the ability to exercise their full rights. We stand with educational institutions who are fully committed to correcting these disparities and providing transparent, accessible, and accountable reporting, investigation, arbitration, and adjudication for all Title IX or student conduct cases. We support providing comprehensive training for all responsible reporting parties at all educational institutions. We further voice support for full transparency and accountability in Clery Act reporting.

As schools across the state develop budgets, accessing school funding and all the direct and collateral consequences of the pandemic, K-12 schools cannot ignore and must take the immediate step of addressing how to implement the new Title IX regulations. A major focus in the regulations is to ensure that alleged victims (complainants) and perpetrators (respondents) of sexual harassment, are treated equitably during any complaint process.

Nebraska Democrats support holding educational institutions accountable for failing to abide by Title IX, either in failure to report, unequal treatment of claimants, or in promoting practices that shame, stigmatize, villainize, silence, or dismiss victims and survivors. These institutions should face real consequences for violating a student's Title IX rights and for abdicating their responsibility to protect students from gender-based violence, discrimination, or harassment.

We recognize the impact these experiences have on a student's ability to pursue their education and access the full range of educational opportunities, and that educational institutions are obligated to provide equal access to all students. Therefore, we recognize that gender-based violence, discrimination, and harassment disrupts, impedes, imperils, and obstructs a student's educational opportunities, in addition to the trauma of the experience itself and any consequential impacts it may have on a person's physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

## **Urban Economic Development**

Home to more than half of humanity, cities have pushed the boundaries of human productivity, innovation, and success as economic, social, and cultural hubs in an era of rapid urbanization. The future development of Nebraska cities may depend on identifying and maintaining the pathways of urban evolution. Many features of human behavior and society have been modeled by frameworks of universality, which suggests that cities may follow universal trends regardless of regional and historical differences. Identifying these universal trends in urban economic growth will require Nebraska policy makers to meet the economic and industrial needs of their growing cities.

Nebraska Democrats pledge to demonstrate our commitment and our energies for urban development by recognizing 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.

Nebraska Democrats respect 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, education, healthcare, utilities, and transportation.

## **Veterans**

Nebraska Democrats insist that the government and the community must uphold promises made to 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 demand the full funding of the Veterans Administration (VA) and VA hospitals and clinics and oppose wholesale privatization of VA services. We support equitable access to non-governmental services not provided by the VA. We believe active-duty military, retired military and veterans deserve superior, efficient, and timely physical and mental healthcare. Ensuring America's veterans have timely access to high-quality mental health care is imperative to reduce the high rate of suicide.

We reiterate that women who have served are an underserved and under-recognized population with specific needs. We support efforts to meet these needs and ensure their access to Veterans' services.

Nebraska Democrats applaud the new law named "I am Vanessa Guillén Act" which took effect on January 1, 2022. The Act is named after Vanessa Guillén, who was a 20-year-old Army private first class stationed at Fort Hood when she disappeared in April 2020. Vanessa was sexually harassed and murdered by a fellow soldier on her base at Fort Hood. The Act overhauls all military investigations regarding sexual assault and sexual harassment. Pursuant to the Vanessa Guillén Act, the decision to prosecute sexual assault and sexual harassment will now be made outside the service members' chain of command and the reporting party will be offered protections against retaliation.

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 LGBTQIA2S+ service. We support improved paths to senior leadership positions for women, non-white males and LGBTQIA2S+ 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 acknowledge 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. Nebraska Democrats are against legislation that would discourage voting by mail or limit/reduce the current window citizens must apply for vote by mail. 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 Rights**

Nebraska Democrats are committed to the sacred principle of “one person, one vote”—and we must fight to achieve that principle for every citizen, regardless of race, income, disability status, geography, or English language proficiency. We stand united against the insidious Republican campaign to disenfranchise voters through onerous voter ID laws, unconstitutional and excessive purges of the voter rolls, and closures of polling places in low-income neighborhoods, on college campuses, and in communities of color. Nebraskans should never have to wait in hour-long lines to exercise their right to vote.

Nebraska Democrats support Election Day as a national holiday. We celebrate our democratic institutions and every United States citizen’s constitutional right to cast their ballot. Nebraska Democrats recognize that unions, community groups, faith organizations and other civic organizations are critical to facilitating registration, encouraging voting, and protecting voter rights. We support strengthening our democracy by guaranteeing that every Nebraskan’s vote is protected. We support making voting easier and more accessible for all Nebraskans by supporting automatic voter registration, same-day voter registration, early voting, and universal vote-from-home and vote-by-mail options.

We must give voters the confidence that their ballot is counted as cast, by supporting mandatory, statistically meaningful post-election audits, and full transparency of all election results and data. To ensure every eligible ballot is counted, vote by mail voters must be informed of and provided a meaningful opportunity to fix any problem with their ballot. A professional, and well-trained election workforce is critical to the administration of elections. We further support ongoing federal and state funding for local elections offices.

Nebraska Democrats support ranked-choice voting in elections to capture true voter preference more accurately.

## **Voter Suppression**

Nebraska Democrats condemn any attempts at Voter Suppression, including but not limited to 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.

## **Young Democrats**

Nebraska Democrats will promote the rights of young people and mentor young emerging leaders. Nebraska Democrats shall work with young 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. We 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.

## **#MeToo**

Nebraska Democrats support the #MeToo movement. All Survivors must be heard. Nebraska Democrats will fight to end institutional and systemic Sexism, Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment in our society. We shall challenge and dismantle the patriarchy which contributed to the structures that define lasting economic, political, and social inequities based on Sexism, Sexual Assault, and Sexual Harassment.

Nebraska Democrats recognize the reality of power dynamics and power differentials. We are committed to ensuring that all vulnerable persons are protected from exploitation and abuse by those in positions of power and authority. Nebraska Democrats shall promote fair, just, and equitable governing of all public-serving institutions and in the formation of future public policy. Nebraska Democrats shall 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 our society.

### ***NDP Acknowledgement:***

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