



# 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 great State was built on Indigenous homelands, including those Nations forcefully removed from their territory. We pay our respects to the millions of Indigenous people throughout history who have protected our lands, waters, and animals.

Today, we respectfully acknowledge the four Federally recognized tribes in Nebraska – the Omaha Tribe (Umonhon), the Ponca Tribe, the 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, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” Preamble U.S. Constitution, 1787

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

And now, we, the people of Nebraska, inheritors of the vision of our nation’s authors and leaders, endeavor in our duty to build a more perfect government that represents and serves our entire State. The Nebraska Democratic Party seeks to expand to include all people in our State who share these ideals. We believe the proper role of government is to support, promote, protect, and advance a society founded on individual and collective rights, human dignity, and equitable treatment, regardless of one’s diversity of abilities, origin, gender, orientation, beliefs, status or other characteristics and to ensure the inalienable rights of:

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

We believe that with 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**

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 Support:

- Preserving our rural communities, family farms, and small businesses.
- 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.
- Property tax reform: agricultural land should be taxed on the basis of its annual ability to earn income, and not on the basis of fluctuating market values for land.
- The Right to Repair: producers should have the right to fix the equipment they use to produce agricultural products.
- 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.
- Improving financial outcomes for farmers by eliminating monopoly control of agricultural markets in production, processing, trade, and by opening local markets to local producers.
- Domestic markets for family farmers and ranchers, through developing and growing regional food systems in order to deliver fresh, Nebraska-grown produce to schools, hospitals, and other major public institutions, so that small, mid-size, and traditional farmers can stay competitive.
- Strengthening trade with our allies.

- Labeling of genetically-modified food products, and country-of-origin labeling.
- Programs to help farmers as they recover from a difficult growing season or natural disaster, including access to farm credit at reasonable terms and interest rates.
- Nebraska’s biofuels manufacturing sector and support research, development, and deployment of advanced biofuels.
- 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.
- 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.
- The investment in research and development to support climate-resilient, sustainable, low-carbon, and organic agricultural methods.
- Increasing organic farming in our state as well as the farming and the transportation of hemp for food, fuel, and fiber.
- Agricultural programs that are mindful of environmental impacts, conservation, and resource management.
- Regenerative agriculture.
- The “Fed Cattle Set Aside” initiative.
- The “Rural Nebraska Bill of Rights”, and we fully endorse all the rights delineated therein.
- The 30x30 Executive Order, also known as the “America the Beautiful plan”.

## **Civil Rights**

### **Black Lives Matter**

We Support:

- The belief that Black Lives Matter.
- Black voters, especially Black women, who are the backbone of the Democratic Party and are our most reliable voting block.

- Restoration of the Voting Rights Act and legislation that guarantees a right to vote for all Americans.
- Passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act by our U.S. Congress.
- Elimination of the 2-year waiting period and the restoration of voting rights for all formerly incarcerated persons upon completion of sentences.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) education and activities in all situations and all institutions.
- Education without discriminatory policies and practices.
- Racial justice.
- The end of racial profiling, police brutality, white supremacy, and racial violence by law enforcement.
- Closing the wage gap between Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and white employees.
- Criminal justice reform that repairs the systems that negatively and disproportionately affects BIPOC defendants.
- A commitment to remove the barriers of systemic and institutional racism.
- Sound policies, practices, and economic and political structures that provide minority racial and ethnic groups equitable opportunities to achieve the American dream.
- A commitment to identifying and rectifying policies and practices that lead to inequities in healthcare, family life, employment, and political power.
- The dismantling of the complex web of racial and cultural barriers integrated into society.
- Creating spaces where marginalized voices can be heard.

## **Disability 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.
- 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.
- The Help America Vote Act, among other bedrock statutes protecting the rights of people with disabilities.
- The belief that people with disabilities deserve to lead full, happy, and healthy lives.
- Working to make sure that people with disabilities are treated fairly, not just in the workforce, but in all settings including education.
- Governmental incentives and assistance to businesses and organizations that employ people with disabilities.
- Ensuring non-discrimination in access to health care, building on the protections for people with disabilities enshrined in the Affordable Care Act.
- Enforcing non-discrimination protections for people with disabilities in health care, employment, education, and housing, and ensure equal access to the ballot box, which is why voting polls must be accessible for people with disabilities.
- Individuals with autism and their families, as well as promoting equitable treatment of students on the autism spectrum in schools and educational settings.
- Early Childhood screening, particularly in underserved communities.
- The belief that children with disabilities have the right to a free and appropriate public education.
- Eliminating state waiting lists for home and community-based care, ending the institutional bias in Medicaid, and expanding support for informal caregivers.
- Legislation for people with disabilities, to ensure equal access to all public buildings and public accommodations.
- The belief that employers must ensure fair and equitable monetary employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Accessible and affordable health care and medication for people with disabilities.
- Increasing federal funding to expand accessible transportation and accessible, integrated, and affordable housing.



- Protecting people with disabilities in emergencies and meeting the needs of travelers with disabilities.
- Ensuring that new technologies benefit, and are affordable and accessible for people with disabilities.
- Expanding 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.
- 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.
- Implementing alternatives to traditional guardianship.
- Improving access to home and community-based care for people with disabilities and older individuals.
- Enforcing the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Settings Rule, ending the institutional bias within Medicaid.
- Expanding the home care workforce to end state waiting lists for long-term services and supports.

We Oppose:

- Any efforts to weaken enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## **Latinx Americans**

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

We Support:

- A continued fight against institutional and systemic racism in our society.
- Dismantling structures that define lasting economic, political, and social inequities based on racism against Latinx persons.
- The promotion of racial justice through fair, just, and equitable governing of all public-serving institutions and in forming future public policy for the appropriate treatment of Latinx Nebraskans.
- A societal change that makes it crystal clear that Latinx Nebraskans are, in fact, Americans because they are Indigenous to this country and continent.
- A belief that there is no place for racism or racial harassment against Latinx individuals in our governmental systems, organizations, businesses, state, or country.

- Protecting the rights and civil liberties of persons, both citizens and non-citizens.

## **LGBTQIA2S+ Civil And Human Rights**

Nebraska Democrats support the civil and human rights, and safe environments for all people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions. Nebraska Democrats support the development and maintenance of safe environments in our schools for youth of all identities and backgrounds. Nebraska Democrats believe that religious freedom does not equate to any right to discriminate against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Transexual, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Agender, Two-Spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) community.

We Support:

- Amplifying the voices of the LGBTQIA2S+ community within our political process and public discourse.
- A ban on conversion therapy.
- Protecting LGBTQIA2S+ students from bullying and harmful behaviors.
- Full parental rights for parents who identify as LGBTQIA2S+ AS WELL AS parents of children who identify as LGBTQIA2S+.
- Pursuant to Title VII, we support LGBTQIA2S+ persons as a legal 'protected class'.
- Improving access to informed services and addressing the high rates of suicide by LGBTQIA2S+ individuals.
- 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.
- Legislation that grants equitable access to employment, housing, and accommodations, including gender-neutral bathrooms in schools and public places.
- Speaking up and organizing against legislation damaging to the queer community no matter who brings it forward
- The inclusion and appreciation of the service of transgender individuals who have served and who want to serve in the US military.

- The acknowledgement of the epidemic of violence against the transgender community, particularly against transgender women of color and trans women who are immigrants and refugees.
- Unequivocal opposition to transphobic violence, especially when intersected with racism.
- Legislative solutions to address this issue, including a ban on the “trans panic” defense and adding gender identity wording to Nebraska hate crimes laws.
- Non-discrimination protections based upon 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.
- The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.
- Passage of the Equality Act in Congress to the extent that it amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

## **Criminal Justice and Police Reform**

We Support:

- Investments in education, jobs, health care, and housing that are proven to keep communities safe.
- Re-issuing federal guidance from the Department of Education and the Department of Justice to prevent the disparate disciplinary treatment of BIPOC children and children with disabilities in educational settings.
- Supplying sufficient funding to employ guidance counselors, social workers, nurses, and school psychologists rather than turning to police to resolve disciplinary issues.
- Continued reform of the state correctional system, including issues of appropriate staffing, mental health and medical treatment.
- Working to reduce the number of Americans held in jails and prisons.
- Sentencing reform and independently auditing sentences against sentencing guidelines for those found guilty of crimes and sentenced to time in jail or prison, to ensure fair sentencing.
- Prison as a pathway to rehabilitation.

- Offering incarcerated persons opportunities to turn their lives around.
- Police training in implicit bias, trauma, and crisis intervention.
- Adopting oversight measures of municipal police departments in Nebraska.
- The creation of a public database of police misconduct.
- Working to eliminate domestic violence, especially ensuring that sexual offenders are brought to justice.
- Ensuring transgender and non-binary people receive fair and equitable treatment in the criminal justice system.

We Oppose:

- The use of jails in place of mental health and substance abuse treatment.
- Private prisons.
- Capital punishment.
- Cruel and unusual punishment, including, but not limited to, solitary confinement.

## **Education**

Nebraska Democrats believe public education, pre-K through post-secondary, is a critical public good and is basic to a productive, democratic society.

We Support:

- Fully funded public education, at all levels, in order to equitably meet the needs of students and for the maintaining and improvement of schools.
- Full funding from the State of Nebraska and the federal government in order to equitably meet the needs of students and faculty and for the maintaining and improvement of schools.
- The ability of Nebraskans to elect board members for their respected public school districts and for these elected officials to make decisions that best support all students, families, faculty and the greater community.
- The ability of Nebraskans to elect, at a local level, members to the Nebraska State Board of Education.
- The opportunity for Nebraska families to decide what educational experience is best for them through public school open enrollment, homeschooling or by attending a private institution.

- Fair and equitable compensation and benefits for teachers, faculty & staff members.
- Rigorous and flexible opportunities to obtain teaching credentials through accredited institutions and programs that honor and maintain the high standards for education professionals.
- A broad curriculum featuring core subjects (english, math, science, social studies and world languages) and the arts, physical education, social issues, technology and vocational education that meets students and staff where they are and that encompasses quality, integrity, diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Academic freedom that embraces critical and independent thinking for students and faculty and ensures academic freedom of speech.
- A strong co-curricular program consisting of, but not limited to athletics and fine and visual arts.
- Accessible, high quality libraries and information systems.
- Age appropriate, comprehensive. and inclusive sex education.
- A fully funded early childhood program available at no cost to every child in the State of Nebraska.
- Affordable and equitable access to Nebraska's public post-secondary educational institutions.
- Authorization of student debt relief/forgiveness including...
  - The retroactive forgiveness of loan interest.
  - The forgiveness of all student federal loan debt after 20 years of payment.
  - Modernizing and improving the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.
- The investment in behavioral and mental health professionals to assist students and staff in their social and emotional well-being.
- Free access to healthy and nutritious meals to pre-K through 12 students.
- A safe educational environment that is conducive to learning and free from all forms of bullying, harassment, or violence.
- Limit class sizes using research-appropriate student-to-teacher/faculty ratios.
- A ban of arms, of any kind, on the grounds of educational institutions, except for school resource officers (SRO) and emergency responders. If an institution decides to employ SRO programming, these programs must

proactively address school safety issues and divert students from the juvenile justice system.

- Initiatives to break the school-to-prison pipeline.
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Transexual, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Agender, Two-Spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) students, families and faculty.
- Students, families, and faculty with disabilities through the enforcement and full funding of the Individual Disabilities Education Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Students, families, and faculty of all languages and cultural, economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds.
- The enforcement of Title IX to ensure all education programs that receive federal funding are free of gender and/or sex discrimination or harassment.
- 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.
- Efforts by educational institutions to develop comprehensive policies to combat gender-based discrimination, harassment, and violence.

We Oppose:

- Book bans.
- Charter schools.
- Voucher programs.
- Arming teachers.

## **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, scientific, and immediate action across our country to cut carbon pollution, nitrogen pollution, and greenhouse gasses, the impacts of climate change will be catastrophic.

## We Support:

- Phasing out our dependence on fossil fuels, in favor of clean and renewable energy to create good-paying middle-income/union jobs in the process of expanding and building these new technologies.
- Peer-reviewed and credible research based on scientific consensus.
- Convening a world summit aimed at new and more ambitious global targets to reduce greenhouse gas pollution.
- The renewal and expansion of climate-related foreign assistance including recommitting to the Green Climate Fund. Protecting waterways within and bordering our state, including our most precious resource, the Ogallala Aquifer. Mni Wiconi. L'eau est la vie. "Water is life". 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.
- Being a good neighbor to those who use the water downstream.
- Building the renewable energy economy requires those whose land will be used must be at the table for decisions on siting, decommissioning, land reclamation, and - most critically - part of the wealth creation, so that big corporations do not hold all the power.
- Strengthening protections for our natural and cultural resources, increased access to parks and public lands for all Americans, protection of endangered and native species and wildlife, and harnessing the immense ecological and social potential of our public lands and waters.

## We Oppose:

- 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 that put a community in harm's way, like the proposals for carbon pipelines that use eminent domain and can cause serious health implications to humans and livestock when they explode.
- All efforts to politicize scientific results

Nebraska Democrats champion conservation efforts to preserve biodiversity and wilderness and to collaboratively protect our land, air, and water. 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.

## **Family and Parental Rights**

Children and families are the center of everyday American life. Nebraska Democrats understand that children and young people are integral to our society. We owe it to our children and families to support, protect, and empower them. We commit to doing so, from ensuring that women/persons have access to the full spectrum of obstetric care, to access to high-quality and affordable childcare and public school education for all, to safety needs and security at home.

We support:

- High-quality, affordable childcare, preschool, and early childhood development centers, for all to support early development and improve school readiness and educational outcomes in disenfranchised, underserved communities.
- Providing a public education for every student in an accredited proven school with credentialed teachers and community-based afterschool, summer, and vacation programs.
- Ensuring that Child Protective Services and social workers utilize trauma-informed practices and have the resources needed to protect children in family (domestic) and non-family (institutional) environments.
- Foster youth and the reunification of families when possible; improving the foster care system to ensure that child abuse and neglect court proceedings that protect the welfare of children are accessible, swift, and unbiased; aggressively enforce child-support payment rulings; ensuring child support payments are timely paid and urge enforcement in a manner that maintains a payor's ability to pay; and, encouraging foster youth to successfully complete high school.
- Addressing the disproportionate effect that our child welfare system has on families of color.
- Programs that address the education, healthcare, employment, and housing needs of youth that age out of the state's foster care system and students that age out of the state's special education system.
- An end to racial disparities in maternal health and ensuring that all have access to full-spectrum family planning and pregnancy care, including contraception, abortion, miscarriage management, prenatal care,



childbirth, and postpartum care, including treatment for depression, and access to doulas, midwives, and/or obstetricians as each individual prefers.

- Public assistance programs paired with skill building to break the cycle of poverty.

## Firearms

Nebraska Democrats fully respect the rights of eligible individuals to responsibly own and use guns for lawful purposes.

We Support:

- Gun ownership as an individual responsibility.
- Responsible gun ownership practices, which include but are not limited to:
  - Always treating a weapon as though it is loaded.
  - Storing ammunition separately from the weapon.
  - Firearms should be stored securely to ensure the safety of our fellow Nebraskans by preventing theft and access by children.
  - That the sale or purchase of all firearms includes universal background checks, and the closing of dangerous loopholes.
  - Continuing education regarding gun responsibility and safety.
- The right of individuals to live free of gun violence.
- The right of communities to assess their own needs and respond democratically to gun violence by passing local ordinances, including limiting the carrying of concealed weapons without a permit.
- 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.
- The American Medical Association's (AMA) proposals regarding firearms, which include but are not limited to:
  - Limiting the purchase of guns to individuals 21 and over.

- Legislation that allows relatives of suicidal people or those who have threatened imminent violence to seek court-ordered removal of guns from the home (also known as red flag laws).
- Better training for physicians to recognize patients at risk for suicide.
- Ensuring domestic abusers do not have access to firearms.
- Criminal and civil liability for those who do not safely secure their guns.
- A national gun buyback program.
- A tax on weapons and ammunition to fund school security measures.
- Behavioral Health Programs.
- Fully funding the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) proposals, which include but are not limited to:
  - Enacting a strong, effective assault weapons ban.
  - Requiring mandatory background checks and waiting periods for all firearm purchases, including long guns, and purchases from gun shows and private sales.
  - Enacting a ban on high-capacity magazines.
  - Enacting strong handgun regulations.
  - Requiring safe firearm storage under federal law.
- Scientific research into gun violence by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and other research agencies.

We Oppose:

- The use of firearms for intimidation and unlawful purposes.
- Unpermitted concealed carry.
- Preemption law prohibiting local jurisdictions from imposing gun control measures that are more restrictive than state law.

## **First Amendment**

Maintaining absolute separation of religion and government providing 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.

We Support:

- Freedom of speech, which does not include freedom from consequences for free speech.
- Freedom of the press.
- Right to peaceably assemble.
- Right to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

We Oppose:

- Any and all attempts to limit the provisions of the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment.

## **Gender-based Violence**

Nebraska Democrats stand with and support survivors against all forms of gender-based violence that undermines the health, dignity, security, and autonomy of its victims. Nebraska Democrats recognize that gender-based violence disproportionately affects Indigenous women, women of color, immigrant women, especially LGBTQIA2S+ women/persons, and that transgender and non-binary survivors face greater barriers to accessing safety, support, and care. 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 support:

- Victim-and-survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and equitable care and access to all available resources and supports.
- 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.

- Greater access to affordable health care, including mental health, sexual, and reproductive health care.
- Affordable housing.
- Legal representation.
- Food security.
- Educational opportunities.
- Employment opportunities.

## Government

“The Salvation of the State is the Watchfulness of the Citizen.” Hartley Burr Alexander

Nebraska Democrats believe in a government that serves all people, and believe in the civic duty to hold the government to account. Government officials, and those seeking public office, should be held to the highest standard of behavior.

We support:

- Our non-partisan Unicameral.
- Amending the State Constitution to limit political contributions from current office holders and their families.
- Automatic voter registration.
- A free and fair election process.
- Enhancement of the Standards and Code of Ethics for elected officials.
- State Legislators should receive a fair and reasonable salary which will create greater diversity in our Unicameral.
- An independent commission to draw our political districts.
- Legislation to repeal Citizens United.
- The United States Postal Service’s mission to provide mail service at reasonable cost to all residents of our country, and recognize the importance of USPS services to rural Nebraska.
- Generating revenue through progressive taxation to prudently invest in our people, in our infrastructure, and in research.

- Public assistance programs paired with skill building break the cycle of poverty.
- All other forms of government services.
- Protecting property rights of all Nebraska landowners, farmers, ranchers, and homeowners.
- Promoting equality for all by allowing residents of federal districts and territories to vote for their own representatives, encouraging statehood should the district or territory self-determine.
- Recognizing Native People's sovereignty, dignity, and equality, and honoring all portions of Treaties with Native and Indigenous Peoples.
- The right of citizens to petition for initiatives and referendums to be placed on the ballot.

We oppose:

- A Convention of States calling for an Article V Convention.
- Gerrymandering.
- Efforts to privatize, slow down, or significantly modify the United States Postal Service.
- The use of eminent domain for private gain.

## 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, expanding Medicaid coverage in Nebraska, and full funding for the Children's Health Information Program (CHIP) to ensure that all young Nebraskans are able to access necessary healthcare.
- Ongoing advocacy for expansion of all available reproductive choices for all Nebraskans and increased healthcare access for birthing persons and their newborns to decrease the maternal mortality and fetal mortality rates in Nebraska.

- Increased rural health clinics and adequate funding for critical care hospitals.
- The idea that mental health is an essential part of health and healthcare and that access to supportive interventions should be available to all Nebraskans.
- Reduced prescription drug costs.
- LGBTQIA2S+ people and people living with HIV or AIDS to have full access to healthcare and resources and increased community HIV prevention and testing programs.
- Expanded rehabilitation and destigmatization for persons struggling with drug addiction.
- A robust, science-based, and thoroughly integrated public health system to support the state and the country with any future pandemic outbreaks.
- Giving the government power to negotiate better prices for healthcare consumers for services, including prescriptions.

We oppose:

- Any and all attacks on our health benefits.
- Cuts to public health funding and using Social Security or the Medicare Trust Fund for other than its original purpose.
- No denials of life-preserving medical care, medications, or medical supplies due to cost or pre-existing conditions.
- Continued opposition to any state and federal laws that impede a birthing person's constitutional right to a safe and legal abortion.

## Housing

Homeownership is central to the American Dream and paramount to building generational wealth, yet it remains inaccessible to many. Expanding access to those who have been unfairly excluded and discriminated against is critical to closing economic and racial wealth gaps. With a statewide shortage of affordable housing units, thousands of Nebraskans live in homes that pose risks to health and safety. Affordable housing has reached crisis proportions statewide, with housing costs rising faster than wages.

## We Support:

- Housing/Homeownership that is accessible to all citizens including those who have been economically and systemically discriminated against.
- Recognizing our state's history of redlining, rising income inequality, and predatory lending practices has made the dream of owning a home all but impossible for many in Nebraska, especially those in marginalized communities.
- Expanded access to affordable housing and homeownership to those who have experienced discrimination while attempting to obtain either.
- Legislative action to address the shortage of safe and affordable housing units across the state.
- Vital legislation to better protect the many Nebraskans living in homes and apartments that pose risks to their health and safety.
- Homeownership that has historically been central to building generational wealth for families.
- Holding the State of Nebraska responsible for aggressively increasing affordable housing supply and addressing our housing markets' long-standing economic and racial inequities.
- Innovative approaches to eliminating the wealth gap that more often affects historically underrepresented Nebraskans.
- Efforts to equalize affordable credit and improved access to down payment assistance for BIPOC, low-income, and rural buyers when seeking to purchase a home.
- Finding solid solutions to the affordable housing crisis in our state: rising housing costs, including rental properties, have grown faster than wages, putting undue burdens on many living in our larger towns and cities.
- An increase in funding for assistance to first-time buyers to help navigate the financing and servicing of their homes.
- In the rights of every Nebraskan to safe and affordable housing, a place to take refuge when it seems the world is against them, and a place to feel calm and secure.
- Demanding swift, innovative action to end the crisis of unhoused veterans and to enact strong protections for BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+ youths and adults, as well as the housing needs of those with mental health and mobility needs, who all too often find themselves living on the streets.

- A commitment to assist all efforts to provide safe and affordable housing to the unhoused throughout the state.
- Providing Section 8 housing support for every eligible family and support protections that keep landlords from discriminating against voucher recipients.
- The Uniformed Landlord Tenant Act.
- Increasing investments in public housing to expand its availability and to improve and upgrade existing public housing to ensure safe living conditions for residents, protecting tenants' rights to return if extensive renovations are needed.
- A People First approach to all matters of housing.

## Immigration

Nebraska Democrats welcome all immigrants and refugees. Each person has a unique story and a shared history. 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 Support:

- Fair, effective, and humane immigration reform.
- Welcoming immigrants and refugees into our communities.
- 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.
- The end of any freeze on green cards for new immigrants.
- Policies and programs to make it easier for qualified immigrants, refugees, and their families to become full and equal U.S. citizens.
- 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. Non-citizens 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).

- Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) status for workers who performed agricultural labor or services for at least 2,300 hours or 400 workdays, including seasonal or temporary work.
- Creating an immigration policy based on the humanity and recognition of immigrant heritage.
- Promoting a comprehensive immigration reform that must:
  - Address the current system that discriminates against certain immigrants.
  - Address family backlogs, eliminating policies restricting legal immigration avenues.
  - Mandate providing children under the age of eighteen with appointed counsel in all removal proceedings. Children must always have a right to counsel throughout any immigration proceedings.
- Expedited immigration policies for, and protection of the foreign nationals who assisted or continue to assist our military and embassies in conflict zones.
- Investing in culturally appropriate immigrant integration services.
- Expanded access to English language education.
- Promoting naturalization to help the millions of immigrants eligible for citizenship to take the final step to becoming voting U.S. Citizens.
- Treating immigrants fleeing from war and violence as refugees. 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.

We oppose:

- The practice of caging children and separating them from their parents under any circumstances.
- The forced sterilization of migrant women.

## **Labor and Economy**

We believe in building a strong, vibrant economy that benefits everyone, where workers and employers share in gains and opportunity is created across the State. We believe

in regulations that both encourage and regulate business in a way that creates economic opportunity for all. We recognize that there are Rural and Urban areas in our State. That there are different areas of focus in different zip codes and the needs unique to these areas have not always been equally addressed. We aren't all at our best unless our policies allow everyone to achieve their best. We believe Labor is the foundation upon which economic wealth is built, therefore we believe Labor has the right to an equitable share of the wealth they helped create.

We Support:

- The premise that economic investment is the engine of job creation.
- Investments in areas or industries most in need.
- Infrastructure investments that create sustainable improvements for society.
- Small businesses, especially those owned by economically disadvantaged groups.
- Investment that seeks to elevate minority and BIPOC owned businesses and others who have not historically received this support.
- Access to credit for those who are disenfranchised by the current system that holds back those that lack starting capital.
- Rural economic development to bring back economic revival, affordable housing, and access to quality education.
- Investment in Rural Broadband and subsidizing innovation in underserved areas.
- Access to health care including telehealth, mental health professionals and senior care and investments that recognize the geographical challenges posed in rural areas.
- Strengthening rural postal services.
- Economic development in urban areas benefiting the diverse communities and elevating those people and areas that need it the most.
- Urban development that considers input from affected communities and gives weight to the negative impact on long standing residents and businesses as well as those who will benefit.
- The right of all workers to organize into Unions.

- Safe workplaces for everyone including the many agricultural workers, railroad workers, first responders, and construction workers that encounter perils in their everyday work.
- The many immigrant workers who create significant wealth and we welcome their contribution.
- A minimum wage that is a livable wage and escalates with inflation.
- Retirement security, access to affordable health care and child care, maternity and paternity leave, and paid sick leave.
- Paid time off for workers.
- Area wage standards and continued support for Davis-Bacon laws.
- Project Labor agreements to promote labor peace.

We Oppose:

- Public investments that inordinately benefit owners/investors over the public.
- Investments financed by regressive taxes on those that can least afford the increases.
- Union busting and call for stronger penalties for employers that commit illegal acts during organizing campaigns.
- So-called “Right to Work” laws that provide neither rights nor work, these laws should be repealed.
- Any changes in workplace regulations that do not consider the effect on safety in the workplace.
- Increasing the age of full retirement under Social Security.
- Workplace harassment.

## **Legalization of Recreational Cannabis**

Nebraska Democrats support the legalization of responsible recreational cannabis for those 21 years of age and older under a state-regulated system.

We support:

- Tax revenues from the sale of cannabis will help reduce reliance on property taxes.

- The consumption or sale of recreational cannabis products under state regulations.
- Exploring the impact on agriculture, business and tax law, zoning, grower and business permits, and regulations involving consumer sales.
- Medical cannabis and pharmaceutical access, including for minors, under the direction of a physician.

## **Libraries and Information**

Libraries, librarians and the information they provide have come under attack. Therefore;

We support:

- The right of the public to read what they choose.
- The right to develop library collections to meet community needs.
- The protection of librarians as they perform their duties.

## **National Security and International Policy**

Nebraska Democrats recognize the intertwined relationship between national security and international policy. We believe in a foreign policy that strives for international cooperation, supports human rights, and respects international justice.

We Support:

- Free elections and democracy.
- Foreign aid that helps people achieve economic self-sufficiency.
- Fair trade policies based on mutual understanding of each country's problems and culture.
- The protection and promotion of women's rights, including comprehensive, adequately funded international family planning programs.
- United Nations mediation of international conflicts and global reduction in armed forces, nuclear, and conventional weapons.
- International cooperation to protect the global environment in areas such as preventing acid rain, preserving the rainforests, preserving the ozone layer, and preventing global warming.

We Oppose:

- Terrorism, dictatorial, and exploitative international policies.

## **Native American Rights**

Nebraska Democrats respect the sovereignty of the Native Nations of the Americas and their land, and support municipal, state, and federal legislative efforts that reflect the rights inherent in that sovereignty. These include complete law-making authority of Tribal Nations by the government of such nations, federal law to respect and reflect treaties entered by the United States Government and Tribal Nations, complete discretion, and complete control of Tribal Nation land by the governments of such Nations.

We support:

- An Executive Order countermanding the Executive Order issued by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1904 and returning the Oglala Lakota treaty land including the Whiteclay Extension to the Oglala Lakota Sovereign Nation.
- Policy makers in all legislatures affected to fully fund its obligations to the health and welfare of all Native Peoples and Tribal Nations.
- Federal government commitment to providing full funding to meet trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations and Native American peoples.
- Increased funding, resources, and financial tools for Tribes, particularly in the key areas of criminal justice, health care, education, housing, and economic development.
- The security of Native peoples (Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians) to ensure that Tribes have the resources needed to investigate and prosecute crimes in their communities, including cooperation from law enforcement agencies outside Tribal lands.
- The fight for justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP), and Indigenous children. We also support the MMIW Awareness Day and the allocation of federal resources to address these epidemic crises, and the enforcement and expansion of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).
- Expansion of the 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 further efforts to address the *Oliphant* decision.

- The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and the enforcement to protect Native families and involve Tribes in child welfare cases.
- Federal programs to reduce the disproportionate incarceration and sentencing disparities of Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian individuals
- Full funding and insurance that all formerly incarcerated Native persons reentering back into their Tribal communities have access to housing, employment services, and health care, including mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

## Reproductive Rights

Nebraska Democrats believe that Reproductive Rights are a basic human right, for all individuals. We recognize that people who identify as men, non-binary, gender non-conforming, gender queer, and many other gender identities can become pregnant. Reproductive, access, and freedom, since the reversal of *Roe v Wade*, are under attack across the country. Anti-choice state legislators have and are continuing to dismantle abortion rights and make it impossible for BIPOC and low-income individuals to access the reproductive and sexual health care they need and are legally entitled to. We are committed to advancing reproductive freedom, improving access and outcomes for people who give birth, children, and families, and combating the racial disparities that put reproductive care, including abortion, out of reach for so many. 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, which 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.

We support:

- The right to choose when and whether or not to bear children, ensuring comprehensive reproductive care across the lifespan, and universal access to routine contraception, emergency contraception, and abortion.
- An end to racial disparities in reproductive health and pregnancy care so that Black and Indigenous birthing people no longer die at twice the rate of white birthing people by ensuring patients have access to doulas, midwives, and/or obstetricians as well as treatment for postpartum depression and anxiety.

- Access to full-spectrum pregnancy care for all—including abortion, miscarriage management, prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, and lactation consulting—that is fully covered by all health insurance without cost-sharing or copays for patients.
- No-cost access to menstrual products in prisons, homeless shelters, and public schools.
- Medication abortion available at all via Telehealth to prevent anyone from traveling long distances to obtain an early abortion.
- Sexual health education taught in all public schools that is comprehensive, medically accurate, LGBTQIA2S+ inclusive, includes consent, healthy relationships, and effective use of contraceptives.
- True reproductive freedom, safe homes, domestic violence assistance, and adequate wages to support our families.

## **Survivors of Sexual Aggression #MeToo**

Nebraska Democrats support the #MeToo movement. We recognize the reality of power dynamics and power differentials. We require protections in the form of laws to help prevent Sexism, Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Sex Discrimination and Stalking from happening, and to put better structures in place that will create accountability. All survivors must be heard.

We Support:

- The power of the vote and the Nebraska Democratic Party Code of Conduct to elect officials that protect survivors and all people.
- The rapid and complete testing of all rape kits currently, and going forward, in the custody of law enforcement.
- The premise that all survivors deserve the right to speak of their experiences.
- Legal Aid Services, Counseling and Income Support for low income survivors.
- Consistently challenging and dismantling the patriarchy that contributes to the structures that define lasting economic, political, and social inequities.
- The recognition of power dynamics and power differentials present in the victimization of vulnerable persons.

- A commitment to ensuring that all vulnerable persons are protected from exploitation and abuse by those in positions of power.
- The promotion of fair, just, and equitable governing of public-serving institutions and in the construction of public policy.
- A push for a societal transformation to make clear that everyone deserves to feel safe and secure, regardless of gender identity.
- The belief that there is no place in a civilized society for Sexism, Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment, Sex Discrimination or Stalking in the workplace, politics, schools, health care system or in any place where there exists a power differential.

## **Technology**

Nebraska Democrats believe that an open and democratic internet is critical to technological progress.

We Support:

- Net neutrality, which is the principle that Internet service providers should facilitate access to all content and applications regardless of the source.
- Equal access to information as a civil right.
- High-speed Internet connectivity as essential for 21<sup>st</sup> Century economic success, education, health care, and public safety.
- The call for bi-partisan legislation to impose stricter limits on the collection of personal data and ban targeted advertising to children.
- Legislation to protect data privacy.
- A Statewide broadband infrastructure capable of supporting business, education, and personal requirements.
- The “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act” ensuring fairness, affordability, access, and privacy for urban and rural Nebraskans.
- Technological access to local hospitals, telehealth services, community, clinics, senior care, and mental health facilities.

## **United States Supreme Court Code of Conduct**

We Support:



- Fair and impartial Supreme Court Justices who are completely free of inappropriate influences of powerful lobbyists, organizations, donors, and business associates.
- A Supreme Court whose Justices are subject to, and scrupulously follow, an ethical code of conduct that is enforceable, protects the public from potential misconduct of Justices, and restores trust in the Court.
- The “Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency Act of 2023.”

We Oppose:

- Supreme Court Justices who preside over cases in which they may have a conflict of interest.

## **Veteran and Military Families**

We believe in honoring the sacrifices made by those who serve and have served our country through military service. We recognize that the decision to serve also affects the families of those in the military and not just the people serving. Our commitment does not end when their service is over. Every effort must be made to address the physical and mental challenges that afflict many who served their country.

We Support:

- Full funding of Veteran Administration services.
- Evolving and adapting to fill the needs of women and historically underserved populations; including travel to states for healthcare when it is denied in the state that a veteran or active military personnel is currently residing or stationed.
- Full and complete access to health coverage that includes mental health services
- Affordable housing for Veterans and available options for those who are unhoused.
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment services and Veteran Employment and Training services, as well as much needed expansions to these programs.
- Continued funding of the G.I. Bill and the benefits derived from this important legislation.
- A safe environment free of harassment.

- The preservation of rights for all who want to to serve in the Military including an environment free of ALL discrimination.
- Improving paths to leadership positions for underserved groups including LGBTQIA2S+, Women and BIPOC individuals.

We Oppose:

- Predatory lending practices by “payday lenders” and predatory schools who target veterans.
- The use of active duty military forces or National Guard forces to be used as law enforcement assets.

## **Young Democrats**

Nebraska Democrats believe in promoting the rights of young people.

We support:

- Fostering intergenerational partnerships among Nebraska Democrats.
- Focused voter registration among young Democrats.
- GOTV (Get out the Vote) among young Democrats
- Efforts to encourage the retention of young Nebraskans in rural communities through the development of arts and culture programs, and adequate funding for quality community colleges and trade schools.
- Building high school and college chapters to bring young people together across the state.
- Mentoring young people by creating opportunities for them within the party and recruiting young people to run for office.

## Nebraska Democrats Believe:

Our State's greatest strength is our people: honest, hard-working people from all walks of life. We want to do well for ourselves and our families and do our part for our communities (state and country). Democrats respect the dignity of every person-no matter who you are, what you look like, who you love or where you come from. Each of us has something valuable to contribute to our state. Democrats fight every day to move our state forward and make our government and our economy work for every Nebraskan not just a select few at the top or special interests. We believe in growing the good life for all Nebraskans.

In this, Democrats believe:

- Electing people who know the proper role of government is to use the people's common resources to provide conditions to be the best people, contributing to their communities and living "The Good Life".
- In a country that's founded on the principle that all of us are created equal and have inalienable rights including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- In a government formed to secure those rights by forming a more perfect union, establishing justice, ensuring domestic tranquility, promoting common welfare and securing policies and government budgets that ensure Nebraskans a fair shot at success and at the American Dream.
- In an economy in which working people can take care of themselves and their families without having to choose between food, shelter or clothing on one hand or healthcare on the other hand.
- In a market economy in which farmers and business owners receive fair prices for their goods and services and have a level playing field without unfair competition or monopolies.
- In a strong fully funded public school system to ensure that every child has an opportunity for quality public education to help them become a contributing member of our community.
- In protecting our air, water, and land in order to pass down a legacy of a clean environment by taking action on climate change.
- Democrats believe in the rights of working people to join a union for just, safe and productive workplaces and a secure retirement.

**NDP Platform and Resolutions Committee Acknowledgments:**

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