



# **NEBRASKA**

## **DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

# **Platform**

2026 DRAFT

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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, 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.” 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.

# Agriculture and Rural Nebraska

We Support:

- Preserving the livability, economic viability, sustainability, and culture of our rural communities, family farms and ranches, and small businesses.
- Providing property tax relief to family farms by taxing their real estate solely on its ability to produce income.
- Restoring Fair Market competition for purchasing seed, feed, fertilizer, and supplies.
- Restoring Fair Market competition to sell crops and livestock.
- Safeguarding a strong sustainable export strategy of Nebraska's agricultural products.
- Mandatory country-of-origin labeling.
- Strong Farm Bill programs.
- Raising the payment cap on CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) enrolled farm ground to reflect current production values.
- Efforts to ensure that farm subsidies and disaster relief benefit actual Nebraska family farmers and ranchers.
- The Right to Repair: Producers and their mechanics should have the right to fix the equipment they use to produce agricultural products.
- Ensuring that farmers have control over the data produced by their equipment and implements.
- Protecting landowner's rights to manage their land in a lawful manner.
- Labeling of all food products produced through artificial genetic modifications.
- Investments and research for the improved profitability of Nebraska agriculture.
- Continued investment in innovative research to maintain Nebraska as a leading agricultural state.
- Livestock and crop diversification.
- Empowering local markets and regional food hubs to sell fresh local products.
- Locally accessible healthcare including timely and reliable ambulance services.
- Fully funded local rural public schools.
- Public-private partnerships and incentives for the economic revival of rural Nebraska.
- Laws requiring businesses that have received tax relief or subsidies, and then abandon facilities to be responsible for community impacts.

- The establishment of local co-op or individually owned slaughter/packing/cold storage facilities across the state.
- Expansion of voluntary programs for sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices.
- Investing in research and development to support climate-resilient, sustainable, low-carbon, and modern agricultural methods.
- Increasing organic farming in our state.
- The development of the hemp industry, including processing capacity for food, fuel, medicine, and fiber/paper.
- Regenerative agriculture using conservation methods.
- Statewide high-speed broadband internet.
- The construction of divided highways including the completion of the expressway systems throughout Nebraska.
- Programs to help farmers recover from difficult growing seasons or natural disasters.
- Access to credit at reasonable terms and interest rates.
- Strengthening international trade.
- Research, development, and deployment of advanced biofuels.
- Net-Zero emissions.

#### We Oppose:

- Tariffs that negatively affect the agricultural community in our state.
- The concentration and monopolistic control of U.S. agricultural production, processing, and marketing by multi-national corporations.
- The use of grain or livestock as bargaining chips in trade wars, which worsen financial outcomes for farmers and ranchers.
- Subsidizing large agribusiness.
- Invasive data collections by farm equipment manufacturers.
- Foreign and non-family corporate ownership of farm and ranch land.
- The use of eminent domain by non-governmental entities.
- Unreasonable barriers on land owners' usage of their property to generate electricity.

## **Civil Rights:**

### **Black Rights**

We Support:

- The belief that Black lives matter.
- Black voters, especially Black women, as an active and reliable voting block of the Democratic Party.
- Restoration of the Voting Rights Act and legislation that guarantees the right to vote for all Americans.
- Passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act by the U.S. Congress.
- 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.
- Reform of the criminal justice system which disproportionately affects BIPOC defendants.
- A commitment to remove the barriers of systemic and institutional racism.
- Sound policies, practices, economic and political structures that provide minority racial and ethnic groups equitable opportunities.
- 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**

We Support:

- Appropriate and accessible institutional environments that fully address the individual needs of those unable to manage in a more independent home.

- Improved vetting and regulation of guardians, conservators, and other caretakers to assure there is no neglect or abuse of persons who need such 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 statutes protecting the rights of people with disabilities.
- Governmental incentives and assistance to businesses and organizations that employ people with disabilities.
- Individuals with autism and their families.
- Promoting equitable treatment of students on the autism spectrum in schools and educational settings.
- Early Childhood screening, particularly in underserved communities.
- Accessible and affordable health care and medication for people with disabilities.
- Expanding accessible transportation and affordable housing while also protecting people with disabilities in emergencies.
- Ensuring that new technologies benefit, and are affordable and accessible to people with disabilities.
- Expanding access to tax-advantaged ABLE savings accounts.
- Placement in the least restrictive environment including moving people from institutions into home and/or community-based services.
- Supported Decision-Making (SDM).
- Improving access to home and community-based care for people with disabilities.
- 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:

- The use of restraints and seclusion for the convenience of caretakers.
- Exploitation of disabled workers.

## **Latino American Rights**

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

We Support:

- Dismantling structures that define lasting economic, political, and social inequities based on racism against Latino persons.
- The promotion of racial justice through fair, just, and equitable governing of all public-serving institutions.
- Forming future public policy for the fair treatment of Latino Nebraskans.
- A belief that there is no place for racism or racial harassment against Latino individuals in our governmental systems, organizations, businesses, state, or country.
- Protecting the rights and civil liberties of citizens and non-citizens.

We Oppose:

- Racism or racial harassment against Latino individuals.
- Racial profiling.

## **Queer Rights**

We Support:

- Amplifying the voices of the queer community within our political process and public discourse.
- Full parental rights for parents who identify as queer as well as parents of children who identify as queer.
- Pursuant to Title VII, we support queer persons as a legal ‘protected class’.
- Addressing the high rates of suicide by queer individuals.
- Accessible and affordable gender-affirming healthcare.
- Legislation that grants equitable access to employment, housing, and accommodations, including gender-neutral bathrooms in schools and public places.
- The inclusion and appreciation of the service of transgender individuals who have served and who want to serve in the U.S. 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.
- Legislative solutions to transphobic violence, 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, and foster care.
- Passage of the Equality Act in Congress to the extent that it amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

We oppose:

- Conversion therapy.
- Violence against the transgender community, which is more common against transgender women of color.
- Claims that transgender people are in any way a danger to our society.

## **Women’s Rights**

We Support:

- Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.
- The right to vote, run for office, and hold leadership positions.
- Equal pay for equal work, fair employment, property ownership, and entrepreneurship.
- Equal and fair access to all levels of education and professional training.
- Access to quality healthcare, reproductive healthcare, contraception, safe childbirth, and bodily autonomy.
- Protection from domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, trafficking, stalking, and abuse.
- 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 systems, or in any place where a power differential may exist.

- The rapid and complete processing and preservation of all rape kits and other evidence.
- Equality before the law, freedom from discriminatory laws, and equal rights in family matters, such as marriage and divorce.
- Freedom of movement, expression, thought, and religion.
- Eighteen as the age of marriage without parental consent.
- Sixteen as the age of sexual consent.

We Oppose:

- Economic, political, employment, and social inequities for women.
- Forced marriage.
- Forced sterilization.
- Genital mutilation.

## **Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Reform**

We Support:

- Access to skilled training opportunities, fair wages, and worker protections for inmates.
- Investments in education, jobs, health care, and housing that are proven to keep communities safe.
- Continued reform of the state correctional system, including issues of appropriate staffing, mental health and medical treatment.
- Ensuring qualified immunity is not abused.
- Reducing the number of Americans held in jails and prisons through sentencing reform.
- Independently auditing sentences against sentencing guidelines.
- Offering incarcerated persons rehabilitation opportunities.
- Law enforcement training in implicit bias, trauma, and crisis intervention.
- Adopting oversight measures of law enforcement including the creation of a public database of law enforcement misconduct.
- All people receiving fair and equitable treatment in the criminal justice system.
- Ensuring prisons are habitable and meet the basic living needs of the incarcerated.

- Releasing prisoners who are no longer a threat to reoffend or negatively impact the community due to their age or physical limitations.

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.
- Prison overcrowding.
- Use of pre-trial detention in non-violent offenses.

## Education

We Support:

- Fully funded public education, at all levels, to meet the needs of students.
- The Nebraska Constitutional provision that all public schools shall be free of compulsory religious instruction.
- Private-public partnerships that allow public schools to provide specialized educational and vocational training programs.
- Retired teachers covering one substitute for a medical illness or maternity leave per semester without a retirement benefits penalty.
- Local control of public schools through direct election of school board members.
- Direct election of members to the Nebraska State Board of Education (NSBOE).
- Changing Nebraska state statute to revise the appointment process for vacant seats on the NSBOE and permitting vacancies to be filled by the board.
- The opportunity for Nebraska families to decide what educational experience is best for the student(s).
- Public tax dollars going only to public schools.
- Fair and equitable compensation and benefits for teachers, faculty, and staff members.
- Alternative and flexible methods to obtain teaching credentials through accredited institutions and programs.
- A broad curriculum featuring core subjects (english, math, science, social studies and world languages) and the arts, physical education, technology, vocational education, and school supported extra-curricular activities.
- Civics education as a graduation requirement.

- The establishment of a media literacy curriculum for K-12 by the State Board of Education.
- Academic freedom that embraces critical and independent thinking for students and faculty and ensures academic freedom of speech.
- Requiring human relations training for teachers.
- Strong co-curricular programs.
- 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.
- Reform of the student loan program and a system of student loan forgiveness.
- 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 firearms at educational institutions with exceptions for sanctioned school sponsored shooting clubs, Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) students, emergency responders, and for select school resource officers.
- Initiatives to break the school-to-prison pipeline.
- The enforcement and full funding of both the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for students, families, faculty and staff with disabilities.
- Queer students, families, and staff.
- The enforcement of Title IX to ensure all education programs that receive federal funding are free of gender and/or sex discrimination or harassment.
- Increasing the resources and programs for students, families, and staff of all languages and cultural, economic, and racial backgrounds.
- Development of comprehensive policies to combat gender-based discrimination, harassment, and violence.
- 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 law enforcement to resolve disciplinary issues.
- Science-based vaccination requirements.
- School accreditation and certified staff.

We Oppose:

- Banning books.
- Charter schools.
- Voucher programs.
- Arming teachers.
- Mandatory religious instruction in public schools during school hours.
- Using test results to determine the quality of a school and its teachers.

## Environment

We Support:

- Development of clean, sustainable, and affordable energy generation.
- Peer-reviewed and credible research based on scientific consensus.
- 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".
- Clean air and clean water as basic rights of all people.
- Water conservation by citizens and industry.
- Statutes and regulations that impose meaningful water conservation standards on agricultural, urban, and industrial water uses to ensure continued quality and access.
- Implementing legislation to regulate data centers and enforce closed loop cooling for data centers.
- Establishing a more robust assessment process to assess pollution violations with penalties which are enforced to prohibit industrial dumping of waste products.
- Being a good neighbor to those who use the water downstream.
- Meaningful consultation with communities impacted by siting, decommissioning, and land reclamation decisions to ensure that large corporations do not disproportionately benefit at the expense of local communities and to ensure that

the communities that host projects reap a meaningful amount of the wealth generated as a result of the projects in their communities.

- Sensible zoning regulations which do not restrict renewable energy projects but respect reasonable setbacks and protections.
- 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.
- A successful public power grid.
- Providing consumers the flexibility to install renewable energy projects without overregulation from Public Power Districts (PPDs), state and local governments.
- Maintaining Nebraska as an all public power state.

We Oppose:

- Continued dominance of fossil fuels.
- Unsustainable development of AI, in particular through the harmful effects of data centers on the local water supply and increased energy demands.
- Proposed climate solutions that poorly balance the costs imposed on local communities against any benefits yielded as a result of the proposed climate solution.
- All efforts to politicize scientific results.

## **Family and Parental Rights**

We support:

- Increasing supply and reducing the costs of quality, affordable childcare, preschool, early childhood development centers and afterschool programs.
- Paid family and medical leave.
- Early childhood development and improving school readiness and educational outcomes in disenfranchised, underserved communities.
- Providing public education for every student in an accredited school with credentialed teachers,-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 and addressing the disproportionate effect that our child welfare system has on families of color.
- Reunifying foster youth and families when safe and 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;
- Expanding access to adoption services with fewer arbitrary hurdles.
- Enforcing child-support payment rulings; ensuring child support payments are timely paid, urging enforcement in a manner that maintains a payor's ability to pay.
- Encouraging foster youth to successfully complete high school.
- Addressing the disproportionate effect that our child welfare system has on families of color.
- Addressing 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.
- Ending disparities in and access to maternal, reproductive, and pregnancy healthcare.
- Ensuring access to affordable infertility services and providers.
- Pairing public assistance and education programs with skill building to break the cycle of poverty.

## Firearms

We Support:

- Gun ownership as an individual right and responsibility.
- Responsible gun ownership practices, which include but are not limited to:
  - Storing firearms and ammunition separately and securely.
  - Universal background checks and closing of loopholes on all firearm purchases.
  - Education regarding gun responsibility and safety.
- A society 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).
- 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.
- Passage of common sense gun safety legislation.
- A tax on weapons and ammunition to fund school security measures.
- 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.
- Straw firearm purchases.
- Laws prohibiting local jurisdictions from imposing gun control measures that are more restrictive than state law.
- Ghost Guns and kit firearms purchased without serial numbers.

## First Amendment

#### We Support for all:

- Freedom of speech.
- Freedom of the press.

- Freedom of and/or from religion.
- Right to peaceably assemble and protest.
- 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.
- Any infringement on the separation of church and state.

## **Gender-based Violence**

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, gender identity, sexuality, disability, or religion.
- Greater access to affordable health care, including mental health, sexual, and reproductive health care.
- The rapid and complete testing, and preservation of all rape kits in the custody of law enforcement.
- Expansion of laws to increase prevention of sexual assault, sexual harassment, sex discrimination and stalking.
- Financially-accessible legal representation for victims.
- The right of all survivors to be believed and to testify of their experiences.
- Legal Aid Services, counseling and income support for low income survivors.
- The right to feel safe and secure, regardless of gender identity.

## **Government**

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

We support:

- Our non-partisan Unicameral.
- Providing the Legislature with the power to make appointments to vacancies left by the Governor within 90 days.

- Eliminating the power of corporations to make campaign contributions at the state level.
- Union representation on relevant governing and administrative boards.
- Amending the State Constitution to limit political contributions to a set amount.
- Major campaign finance reform that eliminates special interests' ability to buy elections.
- Automatic voter registration.
- A free and fair election process.
- Protecting the confidentiality of voter information files at the state level.
- Standards and a Code of Ethics for elected officials.
- A reasonable salary for State Legislators to promote broader representation of Nebraskans.
- An independent commission to draw our legislative and congressional districts.
- Expanding the number of members in Congress.
- Legislation to repeal Citizens United.
- The United States Postal Service's mission to provide prompt and reliable mail services at reasonable cost to all Nebraskans.
- Public assistance programs.
- Protecting property rights of all Nebraska landowners, farmers, ranchers, and homeowners.
- Providing residents of U.S. territories and federal districts full integration into the electoral process and statehood if desired.
- 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 and to be fully and faithfully implemented in a timely manner.

We oppose:

- A Convention of States calling for an Article V Convention.
- Gerrymandering.
- Privatization of the United States Postal Service.
- The use of eminent domain for private gain.
- Efforts by the federal government to manage Nebraska's voting rolls, policies, and procedures.
- Penalization of homelessness.

# Healthcare

We support:

- A robust, science-based, and thoroughly integrated public health system to support the state and the country with any future pandemic outbreaks.
- Expanding the current healthcare system to Medicare for All.
- Expanding Medicaid coverage in Nebraska.
- Full funding for the Children's Health Information Program (CHIP).
- Expansion of all available reproductive choices for all Nebraskans and increased healthcare access for individuals and their newborns to decrease the maternal mortality and fetal mortality rates in Nebraska.
- Increased access and funding to rural health clinics, critical care hospitals, community hospitals, health centers and nursing homes.
- Mental health as an essential part of health and healthcare and that access to supportive interventions should be available to all Nebraskans.
- Medical cannabis as a prescribed treatment for medically diagnosed conditions.
- Reduced prescription drug costs.
- Full access to healthcare, resources, and community HIV prevention and testing programs.
- Expanded rehabilitation and destigmatization for persons struggling with drug addiction.
- Government negotiations for better prices on healthcare and prescriptions.
- Healthcare that is affordable and does not result in bankruptcy or significant hardship for individuals and families.
- Education regarding HIV/AIDS.
- Healthcare cost transparency with itemized disclosure of hospital procedure costs, for pre-op comparison, and insurance reconciliation.
- Public health funding and Affordable Care Act subsidies to purchase health insurance.
- The right of individuals to make end-of-life decisions without government interference.

We oppose:

- Any and all attacks on our health benefits.

- Using Social Security or the Medicare Trust Fund for other than its original purpose.
- Denials to life-preserving medical care, medications, or medical supplies due to cost or pre-existing conditions.
- Any local, state or federal laws that impede a person's right to a safe and legal abortion and other reproductive care.

## Housing

### We Support:

- Housing/Homeownership that is accessible to all citizens.
- Increasing the availability of affordable housing.
- The rights of tenants to organize against substandard housing conditions without fear or retribution.
- Affordable homeowners' and renters insurance.
- Funding programs that enable the purchase and redevelopment of distressed properties to be sold as affordable homeownership opportunities.
- Legislative action to address the shortage of safe and affordable housing units across the state.
- Legislation to protect and assist Nebraskans living in substandard housing .
- Increased funding for assistance to first-time buyers to help navigate the financing and servicing of their homes.
- Action to end the crisis of homelessness.
- Strong protections against housing discrimination.
- Providing Section 8 housing support for every eligible family and support protections that keep landlords from discriminating against voucher recipients.
- The Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act and the Mobile Home Landlord and Tenant Act.
- Increasing investments in publicly owned and maintained workforce housing across Nebraska 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.

### We Oppose:

- Redlining and predatory lending practices.
- Large investment firms that buy up single family homes.

# Immigration

We Support:

- Fair, effective, and humane immigration reform.
- The intent and spirit of the 14th Amendment that grants citizenship to all people born in the U.S.
- Refugee protections for individuals fleeing war and violence.
- Employment-based visas that meet labor market needs.
- Guaranteed legal counsel for children under 18 in all immigration proceedings.
- Legal counsel that can fluently communicate with the immigrant they are representing.
  - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients (aka Dreamers) in their pursuit of a pathway to citizenship.
- Expedited protections for foreign nationals who assisted U.S. military or diplomatic efforts in conflict zones.
- Culturally appropriate immigrant integration services, including expanded English language education, workforce development, and legal aid.
- Inclusion of immigrants' contributions in this nation's history.

We oppose:

- Use of local facilities in Nebraska used as detention centers without consultation of stakeholders and community leaders.
- Any freeze on green cards, Temporary Protective Status (TPS), or asylum protection for new immigrants.
- Detention, caging, and/or separation of children from their families.
- Any fast-track pathway to citizenship that allows wealthy non-citizens to purchase preferential access.
- Immigration enforcement practices by Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") or other agents that instill fear, rely on racial profiling, deny due process, or target safe space locations such as schools, places of worship, hospitals, and social service centers.
- Rhetoric and policies that demonize immigrants and deny their essential role in building and sustaining our nation.
- Attacks on asylum and lawful dual, naturalized, and birthright citizenship.
  - Efforts to penalize those who follow the current immigration and asylum law.

## Labor and Economy

We Support:

- Efforts to protect labor from the negative effects of the development of artificial intelligence.
- Inclusion of Cost-of-Living Adjustments (“COLA”) in defined benefit plans.
- Enhanced enforcement to punish wage theft, including wage theft perpetrated against tipped employees.
- Development, funding, and promotion of intrastate and interstate passenger rail service.
- Small businesses.
- An economy that creates jobs, invests in industries, and improves infrastructure.
- Investment that elevates minority and BIPOC owned businesses.
- Access to credit for those who are disenfranchised by the current system that holds back those that lack starting capital.
- Rural economic development to support 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 and join Unions.
- Safe workplaces for everyone including the many agricultural workers, railroad workers, first responders, medical professionals, and construction workers.
- A livable wage that includes a COLA.
- Retirement security, access to affordable health care and child care, maternity and paternity leave, paid sick leave, and earned paid time off for workers.
- Area wage standards and continued support for Davis-Bacon laws.
- Protecting Labor agreements.

- Stronger penalties for employers that commit illegal acts during organizing campaigns.
- Responsible bidder requirements for public projects.
- State licensing of trades workers.
- Immigrant workers.

We Oppose:

- Public investments that inordinately benefit owners/investors over the public.
- Union busting.
- 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**

We support:

- Legalization of recreational cannabis for those 21 years of age and older under a state-regulated system.
- Modifying Nebraska business and tax law, zoning, grower and business permissions to promote the regulation, growing, and sales of cannabis for recreational use.
- Use of tax revenue from the regulation and sale of cannabis to help reduce the reliance on property and income taxes, and bolster Nebraska’s economy.

## **Libraries and Information**

We support:

- Adequate public financing.
- Public libraries, librarians, and the information/community space they provide are valuable to our communities.
- Employment of certified professional librarians.

- Access to supportive technologies and multiple forms of technology.
- The right of the public to read what they choose.
- The right of public libraries to develop library collections to meet community needs.
- Protection of librarians as they perform their duties to support the public's right to read and obtain information.
- The right to privacy of patrons for their records and reading choices.

## **National Security and International Policy**

### We Support:

- Strengthening our relationship with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- Free elections and democracy.
- Foreign aid that helps people achieve economic self-sufficiency.
- Protection and promotion of women's rights, including comprehensive, adequately funded international family planning programs and women's reproductive healthcare.
- United Nations mediation of international conflicts and global reduction in armed forces, nuclear, and conventional weapons.
- International cooperation to address the climate crisis.
- Secure borders.
- Reinstating the United States Agency for International Development ("USAID").

### We Oppose:

- Facism and authoritarianism.
- Terrorism, dictatorial, exploitative domestic and international policies.
- Groups such as militias, cults, and reactionary organizations which weaken democracy, and are a clear and present danger to our Constitution.
- Candidates who advocate for the abolishment of government offices and bureaus which have provided services to people in need.
- Efforts by individuals and groups in the United States which cause internal divisions and weaken the Union.

## Native American Rights

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 assurance 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.
- Full funding to ensure 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

We support:

- The right to choose when and whether or not to bear children.
- An end to racial disparities in reproductive health and pregnancy care for BIPOC and low-income birthing people.
- Comprehensive reproductive care across the lifespan.
- Universal access to routine contraception, emergency contraception, and abortion.
- Access to doulas, midwives, and/or obstetricians.
- Treatment for postpartum depression and anxiety.
- Health insurance coverage for full spectrum reproductive health care.
- Free-Placement of free menstrual products in prisons, homeless shelters, and public schools.
- Access to medication abortion via Telehealth.

## Senior Rights

We Support:

- Protecting and fully funding Social Security, Medicaid (Access Nebraska), and Medicare.
- Annual COLA that reflects ~~for the~~ actual costs that seniors face.
- Maintaining Social Security Field Centers across Nebraska, including mobile offices.
- Medicare coverage of hearing, vision, dental, and medically indicated services and products.
- Robust protection of older workers and job applicants against age discrimination and unfair treatment in the workplace.
- Protecting and preserving retirement benefits., ~~including hard-earned private and public pensions.~~
- Policies which protect pensioners from corporate bankruptcy and confiscation of earned benefits.

- Programs that allow seniors to age in place, with dignity, including in-home care, meal delivery, and respite services for family caregivers.
- Expanding compensation to be competitive with market wages for in-home assistance/family care.
- Revising the property appraisal system and increasing the homestead exemption to prevent seniors from being taxed out of their homes.
- Lender requirements that are designed to protect seniors from financial abuse.
- Local, affordable, community based, independent, assisted, and memory level senior living facilities.
- Programs that provide training and education for community members to care for elderly family members and/or neighbors.
- Enhancing local educational opportunities to address the critical shortage of staffing in the state's rural care facilities.
- Education, enforcement and promotion of laws, and services that protect seniors from consumer fraud, identity theft, and elder abuse.
- Funding intergenerational childcare and senior care in shared facilities.

#### We Oppose:

- Efforts to reduce Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid benefits owed to seniors.
- The diversion and/or privatization of dedicated Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid resources for other purposes.
- Predatory financial practices targeted at Seniors.
- Mandatory retirement.
- Efforts to use retirement benefits to balance budgets.

## Taxation

#### We Support:

- Increasing the earned income tax credit.
- Excluding tips from income taxes.
- Excluding overtime income from income taxes.
- Creating a childcare tax credit.
- More progressive income tax tables to provide tax relief for lower income Nebraskans.
- Restoring balance among Nebraska's income taxes, property taxes and sales taxes.

- Tax incentives that promote reindustrialization in urban and rural communities, including:
  - Targeted tax incentives to promote the development of skilled labor through apprenticeships,
  - Tax incentives that support infrastructure investments, such as broadband internet.
  - The expansion of existing workforce housing programs and the creation of new tax incentives to grow the supply of budget friendly housing.
  - The periodic reevaluation of state tax incentive programs for effectiveness.
- Reforms of the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) program.
- Economic Development projects which provide local benefits, including by:
  - Developing Nebraska’s worldwide competitiveness in energy, agriculture, and education.
  - Expanding the renewable energy sector of our economy through the nameplate capacity tax.
- Increased tax collection enforcement.
- Broadening the sales tax base and lowering the sales tax rates.

We Oppose:

- Eliminating the inheritance tax.
- Taxing food, medicine, personal hygiene products, and similar basic necessities.
- Reducing the corporate income tax.
- Tax exemptions and credits to large corporations.

## Technology

We Support:

- Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) policies that prioritize and protect workers, individual privacy, the environment, and intellectual property rights.
- AI regulations.
- Net neutrality.
- Equal access to information.
- High-speed Internet connectivity.
- Stricter limits on the collection of personal data.

- Legislation to protect data privacy.
- Expanding broadband infrastructure capable of supporting business, education, and personal requirements.
- Technological access to local hospitals, telehealth services, community clinics, senior care facilities, and mental health providers.
- Increased funding to update the technology for local hospitals, telehealth services, community clinics, senior care facilities, and mental health providers.

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

We Support:

- An enforceable United States Supreme Court Code of Conduct.
- Fair and impartial Supreme Court Justices.

We Oppose:

- Supreme Court Justices who preside over cases in which they may have a conflict of interest.
- Use of the so-called Shadow Docket to hand down decisions.
- Supreme Court Justices accepting gifts.

## **Veteran and Military Families**

We Support:

- Full funding of Veteran Administration services.
- Affordable quality housing opportunities and services for homeless and disabled veterans.
- Interstate travel for necessary healthcare from their residence or place of deployment.
- Full and complete access to health coverage including mental health services for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (“PTSD”) and other conditions.
- Expansion and maintenance of vocational rehabilitation and employment services and veteran employment and training services.
- Continued funding of the G.I. Bill.
- The preservation of rights for all who want to serve in the Military including an environment free from discrimination.

- Improved paths to career advancement, promotion, combat, and leadership positions for underserved groups including Queer, Women, and BIPOC individuals.

We Oppose:

- Predatory lending practices and predatory schools tuition/va lending practices who target veterans.
- Use of active duty military forces or National Guard forces as law enforcement assets.
- Discrimination against veterans and their families by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) Officers.

## **Young Democrats**

We support:

- Fostering intergenerational partnerships among Nebraska Democrats.
- Focused voter registration of 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 cultural programs.
- Employment that provides a living wage and opportunity for advancement.
- Adequate funding for quality community colleges and trade schools.
- Building high school and college Democratic Party chapters.
- Mentoring young people by creating opportunities for them within the party and recruiting young people to run for office.
- Education on voter registration and voting.

## 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:

- In electing people who know that the proper role of government is to use the people's common resources to provide conditions in which We the People can to be the best people we can be, contributing to their communities and can live living "The Good Life".
- In a country that's founded on the principle that all of us are created equal and are endowed with 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 the blessings of liberty for We the People. 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.
- 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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