



# ***Statement of Principles***

**FREEDOM DEMOCRATS**

# Statement of Principles

*Democrats must rededicate themselves to the Core American Principles that have guided them since President Franklin Delano Roosevelt championed the cause of Freedom in 1941.*

*These Principles center around Freedom and a Fair Shot for the People to build a stronger future.*

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**Freedom.** Democrats believe that freedom, in all its forms, defines America. The freedom to do what we choose and the freedom from that which would harm us. Democrats stand for freedom for every American.

**Democracy.** Democrats believe that democracy is a great achievement of humanity, but it is not guaranteed, and we must do all we can to protect freedom and government of, by, and for the People. Democrats fight to make sure every citizen's vote is counted, to root out corruption, and to ensure every citizen is represented fairly.

**Capitalism.** The story of America is as much about small businesses and entrepreneurs as giant corporations who have built their companies with the help of working people across the nation. Democrats believe that capitalism and innovation have brought more people up from poverty – and brought more people freedom – than any system in history. But the system needs guardrails to ensure every American has dignity in work, the right to collectively bargain, a level playing field, and the opportunity at a fair shot to achieve their American Dream.

**Community.** Democrats believe Americans are a good and generous people who deserve to live in safe and strong communities – and who deserve to feel that they belong. Every community should have the freedom of safety for children to grow, for families to live and thrive, and for schools, businesses, and places of worship to work together to build a healthy society where Americans can enjoy the freedom afforded to them by our Constitution.

**Equality.** Democrats believe that every person should be judged by the content of their character, not by the color of their skin, who they love, or where they worship. Democrats fight to march forward America's freedoms and ongoing quest to live up to its founding principle of life and liberty and know America's failings never outweigh its promise.

**Climate.** Democrats believe that American ingenuity can lead the world in building an energy revolution, but we must harness America's potential to lead in renewable energy before it is too late. The freedoms enabled by safe water, clean air, fresh food and ecosystem are stake.

**Reform.** Democrats believe in unifying, commonsense reforms that are backed by a bipartisan majority of Americans. From stopping the chaos of gun violence to reforming marijuana laws, to lowering healthcare costs, Democrats are committed to reforms that make every American more free.

**Future.** Democrats believe in a vibrant and hopeful future where America leads the world as a shining beacon of freedom, a county that builds on its greatness by investing in the genius, common sense, and goodness of the American people.

# *Freedom*

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***Democrats believe in freedom in all its forms. The freedom to do what we choose and the freedom from that which would harm us. Democrats stand for freedom for every American.***

Democrats believe in the freedom to prosper and pursue our dreams, to worship as we choose, to speak our minds without fear of persecution, to respectfully participate in the civic dialogue of the nation, to vote and have that vote counted. We believe the right to personal privacy is intrinsic to the idea of American freedom: freedom for families to control their own lives, who to love, who to marry, reproductive freedom so the decision when or if to have a family is a personal choice.

And we believe in freedom from that which would harm us. From fear of crime, from hunger, from medical bills that would bankrupt our families, from government corruption, from discrimination, from environmental dangers and a climate crisis that threaten personal, family, and societal health. Freedom from government and corporate intrusion in our lives, and from authoritarianism wherever it comes from.

**Freedom defines America.**



# Democracy

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***Democrats believe democracy is one of the great achievements of humanity, but it is fragile, and we must do all we can to preserve government of, by, and for the People. Democrats fight to make sure every citizen has the right to vote and have that vote counted, to root out corruption from our electoral process, and to make sure every citizen is represented fairly.***

Democrats believe that those in government must work hard to restore transparency and accountability, fight corruption, end gerrymandering, enhance election security, and put a stop to the stranglehold special interests maintain over government.

We are a nation of laws, and those laws must apply equally to everyone. To the powerful as well as to those who would threaten ordinary Americans with violent crime; to those who riot in the streets and those who storm the Capitol. We must have a bipartisan agreement to preserve election integrity and trust.

**No one, foreign or domestic, from any group, at any level of government, can ever be allowed to overrule the will of the American people.**



# Capitalism

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***Democrats believe capitalism and innovation have brought more people up from poverty – and brought more people freedom – than any system in history. But the story of America is as much about our small businesses and entrepreneurs as the giants who dominate our economy today. We need guardrails to ensure competition, to give every American the dignity of work, the right to collectively bargain, and a fair shot for each of us to achieve our own American Dream.***

Democrats believe that American innovation, ingenuity, and capitalism have enabled the freedom to build prosperity. Throughout our history, people have come to America for the opportunity of upward mobility, to be free, and to build their American Dream. Democrats are committed to keeping America in the lead.

Democrats fight for the working people who make capitalism work. Every American, no matter where they come from or what they look like, who they worship or love, deserves a fair shot to go as far as their talents, aspirations, and hard work can take them

Democrats support business – especially small business. America must encourage and invest in innovation while balancing new innovations/future technologies and protecting Americans' equal access to opportunity. The more Americans who get a fair shot – who are provided equal opportunity, education, and training to advance their careers, to own a home or a business - the more our nation will prosper.

In recent decades, special interests have pushed in the opposite direction, devaluing the contribution of workers, reducing competition and innovation, allowing industries to consolidate, and send jobs overseas. Monopolies exploit loopholes to take advantage of Americans.

In the process the American middle class – once the envy of the world – has been decimated. America does better when its workers do better. We must stop outsourcing American jobs, strengthen labor unions and workers' ability to collectively bargain, and ensure that our workers are beneficiaries of a growing economy. It's time to restore the dignity of work.

**Capitalism works when there is a level playing field and equal access to opportunity so workers, entrepreneurs, and businesses large and small have the same chance to compete and succeed.**

# Community

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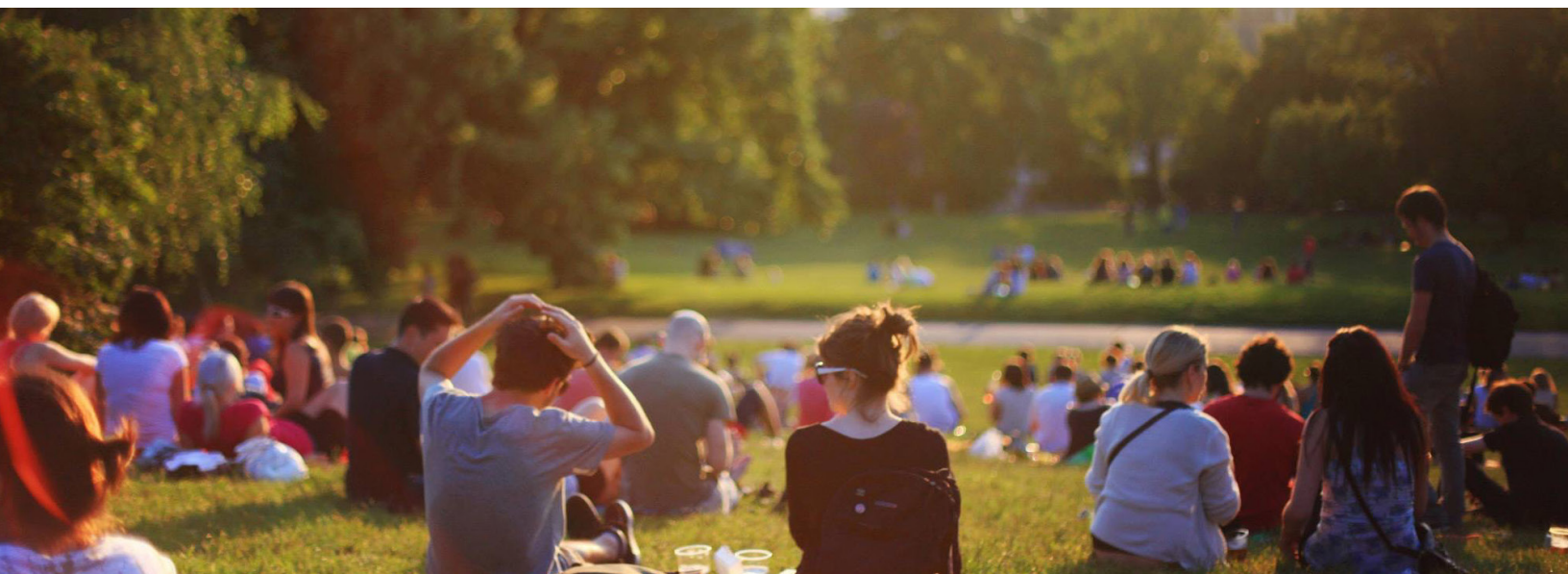
***Democrats believe Americans are a good and generous people who deserve to live in safe and strong communities. Every community should have the freedom of safety for children to grow up, for families to thrive, and for schools, businesses, and places of worship to work together to build a healthy society.***

Democrats believe it's not enough just to invest in business; we must invest in people. To revive the middle class, American families need the tools to allow them to create their own opportunities: education, job training, childcare, family leave, affordable healthcare. We already know these investments repay themselves three and four times over. The more Americans who get a fair shot – who are provided equal opportunity, education, and training to advance their careers, to own a home or a business - the more our nation will prosper.

Likewise we must support our communities in regrowing bonds of trust and connection, so they can be a safe place for children to grow, and where families, schools, businesses, and houses of worship can work together to build a healthy society. Americans deserve to feel like they belong – and Democrats are committed to working toward this vision of our future.

Democrats will continue to fund and respect the police while working to ensure accountability and that laws are enforced fairly. Democrats will make crucial investments to address the root causes of crime, so our families can thrive in communities free from fear.

**America's greatest natural resource is her people. What has always made us exceptional is our belief that every individual deserves equal opportunity to succeed. And individuals thrive when their communities thrive.**



# Equality

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***Democrats believe that every person should be judged by the content of their character, not by the color of their skin, who they love, or where they worship. Democrats fight to march forward America's freedoms and ongoing quest to live up to its founding principle of life and liberty and know America's failings never outweigh its promise.***

Democrats reject the idea that any person should be made to feel shame or discomfort about their own race or ethnicity, who they love, or where they worship. Regardless of whatever extent this happens in schools, corporations, or the media, it is emphatically not part of any policy supported by Democrats.

America is the only country on earth founded on an idea. And Democrats believe the story of America is our quest to make that idea – equality – a reality. Denying the uglier parts of our history like slavery, racism, or internment camps denies the heroism of the brave Americans who fought to right those wrongs. While the Founders of the United States were imperfect, their genius is reflected in our Constitution that binds us together and provides Citizens with the tools to create a more perfect Union. The ideal of Progress was built into this founding document and has been practiced from the very beginning of our great Nation.

Democrats believe that our children should learn that America is a great country not because we have always lived up to our founding principles, but because we have never stopped trying to be better in pursuit of our freedoms. That work is ongoing and is the responsibility of every American citizen.

**Democrats believe America's failings can never outweigh her promise and achievements.**



# Climate

***Democrats believe American ingenuity can lead the world in building an energy revolution that will bring security, prosperity, and millions of jobs; but we must unleash that potential before it is too late. The freedoms enabled by safe water, clean air, fresh food and livable ecosystems are beyond measure.***

Democrats believe America is at a cross-roads; one path leads to climate disaster, the other to an energy revolution that will create millions of new jobs that can't be sent overseas, permanent energy independence, and protection from the worst of climate chaos. And much more: it will cut the cost of living for every American, give our most marginalized communities a chance at prosperity, and by decentralizing energy creation make our nation more resilient against all natural disasters and foreign influence.

Disinformation about climate change – that it's a hoax, that fighting it will kill jobs, that we will have to give up our cars and houses – has cost us decades. It's time to make the investments necessary to guarantee our children and their children the freedom and prosperity earlier generations enjoyed, time to retrain the fossil fuel workers who helped build our nation's greatness. It's time for all hands on deck; all of our freedoms are at stake.

**Democrats believe that America should lead the world in creating an energy revolution.**





# Reform

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***Democrats believe in unifying, commonsense reforms that are backed by a bipartisan majority of Americans. From stopping the chaos of gun violence to reforming marijuana laws, to lowering healthcare costs, Democrats are committed to reforms that make every American more free.***

Democrats believe in unifying, commonsense reforms that are backed by a bipartisan majority of Americans. From ending the chaos of gun violence to modernizing marijuana laws, from lowering healthcare costs to a sound fiscal policy in government to lower debt and make smarter investments, Democrats are committed to reforms that make everyone more free.

The chaos of gun violence, unjust marijuana enforcement laws, the crippling cost of health-care, and tax bailouts for the ultra-rich have restricted the freedom to life and opportunity for too many Americans.

**Democrats will work toward any solutions that protect every Americans' freedom to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.**



# Future

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***Democrats believe in a vibrant and hopeful future where America leads the world as a shining beacon of freedom, a country that builds on its greatness by investing in the genius, common sense, and goodness of the American people.***

Democrats believe in a vibrant and hopeful future where America leads the world as a shining beacon of freedom, a country that can build on its greatness by investing in the genius, common sense, and goodness of the American people.

Democrats see an America where nothing is impossible if we commit to solving the problem, where America builds upon generations of achievements to address the biggest challenges we face today.

Democrats are committed to helping build an America where our new freedoms are enshrined in our laws, where commonsense and the common good, not special interests, guide our governing.

**Democrats can build a great future if we invest in the genius, common sense, and goodness of the American people.**

