

# 4th Legislative District Democrats Platform

## Adopted: June 10, 2020

### Preamble

The platform of the 4th LD Democrats is a declaration of human rights, justice, and opportunity for all. We reaffirm the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and expect government at all levels to champion these rights for everyone.

### Executive summary:

**Agriculture:** We believe agriculture is a domestic strategic resource vital to American independence and is the number one industry in Washington. Family farmers as, 'stewards of the land', deserve the right to basic services and markets in rural communities.

**Economy and Corporate Power:** We believe a strong and stable economy is essential to the workings of a democracy. Government has a role to ensure that markets are free of special interest manipulation.

**Education:** We believe education is the foundation of democracy; it brings together students of diverse experience, ability, and background for the common purpose of learning. We believe the state is obliged to fully fund education for all students.

**Environment and Energy:** We believe protection of the environment and the promotion of economic growth are not mutually exclusive, and that preservation of the environment is an important obligation of our government. We support a cooperative and proactive approach to sustainable living practices that incorporate responsible ecological practices to combat the effects climate change.

**Equity and Human Rights:** We believe human rights are inherent rights, the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace are essential to the preservation of democracy. These rights include food, shelter, safety, health care, education, employment, and access to timely legal counsel. We believe that all people should be treated equally and fairly.

**Government and Political Reform:** We believe free and fair elections are a cornerstone of our democracy. We support equitable access to the political process for all Americans. We believe in a government that is both accountable and transparent to the people, operating in a fiscally sound manner.

**Healthcare:** We believe everyone deserves affordable accessible healthcare. Mental and physical healthcare should be treated equally.

**Immigration:** We believe in the principle of E Pluribus Unum: From many, one. That unofficial motto of the US boldly proclaims we are a nation of immigrants. Immigrants strengthen America.

**Indian Tribes and Treaties (Tribal affairs):** We believe tribal sovereignty and culture are to be respected and preserved. The rights, privileges, and treaties of tribes should not be infringed upon.

**Infrastructure:** We believe that American infrastructure is decaying, investment for our schools, water systems, bridges, roads, and public transportation is necessary for a productive society. It's time for a 21st century New Deal.

**Labor and Economic Justice:** We believe our economic system should serve everyone, not just the wealthy few. Labor unions are necessary for achieving economic justice. Safe, fair, and organized working conditions are essential to a prosperous middle class and key to a healthy economy.

**Law and Justice:** We believe the government has the responsibility to prevent crime in a constitutional manner that respects the rights of all people, including rights to due process and equal protections under the law.

**Media:** We believe a free and open press is critical to a stable democracy. Internet access should be affordable, accessible, and free of corporate influence.

**Military and Veterans:** We believe veterans deserve to be rewarded when they come home and receive the services and respect they have earned. Democrats have always answered our country's call to duty and are proud of our military contributions to the nation.

**Washington State Reforms:** We believe there are reforms that should be enacted in the state of Washington in order to make our great state better than it already is.

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### Agriculture

We believe agriculture is a domestic strategic resource vital to American independence and is the number one industry in Washington. Family farmers as, 'stewards of the land', deserve the right to basic services and markets in rural communities.

#### We support:

- local food production
- open competition in the marketplace to buy and sell seeds, fertilizer, produce, livestock, meat, and other goods, and anti-trust safeguards;
- providing access to credit and capital for rural businesses and farmers regardless of background;
- protections for national resources and local control of land;
- clear labelling of food including nation of origin, genetically modified organism status, irradiation, organic status, and expiration dates;
- the right of landowners to access water on their property at a reasonable cost and without undo regulation;
- honoring grandfathered and recorded water rights;
- protections for farmers and ranchers from nuisance lawsuits when development encroaches on their farms and ranches;
- incentives for agriculture.

#### We oppose:

- multi-national corporations locking farmers out of their local market and denying; U.S. consumers local and regional foods;
- holding farmers liable for cross-pollination.

### Economy and Corporate Power

We believe a strong and stable economy is essential to the workings of a democracy. Government has a role to ensure that markets are free of special interest manipulation.

#### We support:

- small business-friendly legislation;
- the notion that corporations are vital to our economy and standard of living;
- limiting corporate contributions to elections;
- the growth of entrepreneurship and small business by giving tax incentives to those who create jobs within our borders;
- elimination of predatory lending and the re-instituting of "usury" laws.

#### We oppose:

- the notion that corporations are people and should have the same rights as US citizens;
- corporate mergers that reduce competition.

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### Education

We believe education is the foundation of democracy; it brings together students of diverse experience, ability, and background for the common purpose of learning. We believe the state is obliged to fully fund education for all students.

#### We support:

- fully funding universal pre-K, K-12 and higher education;
- stable and appropriate funding for all programs;
- simple majority votes for all school levies and bond issues;
- funding for small class sizes;
- safe and secular learning environments for all students;
- age-appropriate and evidence-based education;
- school and student assessment and accountability that rejects “one size fits all” high stakes testing;
- medically accurate and comprehensive sex education in schools, as well as education on healthy relationships and models of consent;
- fair wage and annual cost of living increases for teachers;
- fully funding state and federal financial aid for higher education, including an increase in the Washington State Need Grant and Pell Grants;
- civic education for all students;
- affirmative action and other admission practices that create a level playing field for marginalized communities;
- the adoption and full funding of programs that assess and accommodate learning impairments and behavioral issues;
- affordability, accessibility, and accountability in higher education;
- increased funding for fine arts and the humanities;
- vocational education;
- investment in alternative and magnet schools as long as they are accountable to the general public.

#### We oppose:

- public funding of charter schools;
- predatory student loans that cannot be discharged in bankruptcy;
- the gathering of personal student information for commercial gain.

### Environment and Energy

We believe protection of the environment and the promotion of economic growth are not mutually exclusive, and that preservation of the environment is an important obligation of our government. We support a cooperative and proactive approach to sustainable living practices that incorporate responsible ecological practices to combat the effects climate change.

#### We support:

- fundamental rights of all individuals to clean air, clean water, and other natural resources;

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- research and use of energy efficient solar, wind, wave, tidal, biomass, geothermal, hydro, and other renewable natural sources of power;
- meaningful measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- incentives for the use of energy conservation and emerging clean energy systems;
- increased safety standards before any increase in coal or oil transportation;
- responsible regulation of carbon emissions, and other environmentally harmful activities;
- maintaining public lands, parks, and trails;
- strong public policy that restores and preserves wilderness, and other environmentally sensitive areas;
- restoration and cleanup of contaminated lands and water;
- reducing the use of persistent toxic chemicals and pesticides;
- the reuse and recycling of materials;
- Spokane River and Spokane Valley/Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer cleanup;
- Full funding for maintenance and security of the electrical grid.

## **Equity and Human Rights**

We believe human rights are inherent rights, the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace are essential to the preservation of democracy. These rights include food, shelter, safety, health care, education, employment, and access to timely legal counsel. We believe that all people should be treated equally and fairly.

### **We support:**

- the right to privacy in all personal matters;
- the right to sovereignty over our own bodies;
- access to health care and human services for all individuals;
- public assistance to safeguard those who cannot reasonably provide for themselves;
- access to legal services for people experiencing discrimination;
- organized efforts to eliminate discrimination, harassment, intimidation and domestic or sexual violence;
- the right of confidentiality of financial, medical, and genetic (DNA) information;
- the rights of all adults including seniors and individuals with disabilities in matters regarding their own lives in housing, education, and all other life choices;
- police accountability and reform;
- a person's constitutional right to choose abortion, as protected by Roe v. Wade, which should not be restricted by age or ability to pay;
- strong affirmative action laws to ensure that prejudice does not prevent qualified persons from obtaining education, employment, promotion, housing, insurance, or any other social good;
- strong legislation, treatment programs, and education designed to reduce domestic violence, child abuse and abuse in all forms;

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- the individual's right to choose their own gender identity and expression and to not face discrimination on behalf of these identities, including the use of public facilities, licensing and name changing;
- equal treatment and respect of men and women in the workplace.

## **We oppose:**

- discrimination in voting, employment, housing, public accommodations, healthcare, military service and veterans' status, insurance, licensing, or education based on race, ethnicity, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, size, LFO status, socioeconomic status, political affiliation, national origin, and/or military service and veterans status;
- any laws that protect or promote discriminatory practices based on religious beliefs and cultural traditions;
- any law, regulation, or government action restricting legal rights and private matters regarding one's reproductive functions;
- discrimination toward individuals by continued misgendering and refusal to use their pronouns after being informed.

## **Government and Political Reform**

We believe free and fair elections are a cornerstone of our democracy. We support equitable access to the political process for all Americans. We believe in a government that is both accountable and transparent to the people, operating in a fiscally sound manner.

## **We support:**

- public financing of election campaigns;
- enforcement of all open meeting laws;
- the separation of church and state;
- measures that prevent privatizing, or offshoring of governmental public services;
- limits on private and corporate funding of campaigns;
- transparency and open disclosure of campaign donations;
- funding and resources addressing the problem of homelessness in our communities;
- redistricting reform;
- vote by mail with prepaid postage for primary and general election ballots;
- same-day voter registration;
- automatic voter registration;
- voter pre-registration for 16 and 17-year olds;
- full voting rights to all Washington residents regardless of incarceration status, felony status, LFO repayment status, or community supervision status;
- clear and transparent elections throughout the government, and at all levels of the Democratic Party;
- a fair, equitable, and progressive tax system;
- the opportunity to vote on all new local taxes.

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### **We oppose:**

- voter suppression and intimidation;
- political gerrymandering;
- abusive attempts to purge voter registration rolls.

## **Healthcare**

We believe everyone deserves affordable accessible healthcare. Mental and physical healthcare should be treated equally.

### **We support:**

- government funded, not-for-profit, public option, *comprehensive* health, hearing, vision, dental, and mental care preserving consumer choice;
- amending the Medicare prescription drug benefit to require pricing negotiations with pharmaceutical manufacturers;
- improving Medicaid benefits to adequately cover homecare and facility care services;
- regulation, accountability, and inspection of institutional and residential health care systems to assure quality care;
- making “aging in place” and at-home living by those with chronic conditions and disabilities safe and comfortable;
- extended coverage for all veterans, especially those with service-connected disabilities;
- cutting the costs of prescription drugs through means such as importation, Medicare, collective bargaining, and universal health care;
- the medical necessity of gender confirmation procedures and believe that insurance providers should provide equity to all individuals;
- the idea that mental health is as important as physical health and we support parity in healthcare coverage and efforts to de-stigmatize mental illness and neurodiversity and the issues surrounding appropriate treatment and access to treatment.

### **We oppose:**

- discrimination in health care services and research, including in cases of gender identity;
- insurance companies making medical decisions.

## **Immigration**

We believe in the principle of E Pluribus Unum: From many, one. That unofficial motto of the US boldly proclaims immigration is and has always been integral to the foundation of our country. Immigrants strengthen America.

### **We support:**

- the “Dream” act (DACA);

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- full human rights for all immigrants and a fair, safe, and timely path to legal status;
- fair, respectful, and dignified treatment for all people, regardless of their country of origin or their legal status;
- healthcare and education for all children regardless of immigration status;
- safe and adequate housing and sanitary facilities for migrant workers;
- family unity as a priority for all policies;
- a simple pathway to citizenship;
- protecting migrant workers and giving them the same rights and benefits that are enjoyed by all other people living within the boundaries of the United States;
- the right to timely bail hearings and representation for immigration detainees.

## **We oppose:**

- mass deportations and detention centers;
- indefinite detentions.

## **Indian Tribes and Treaties (Tribal affairs)**

We believe tribal sovereignty and culture are to be respected and preserved. The rights, privileges, and treaties of tribes should not be infringed upon.

## **We support:**

- adequate funding of tribal governmental services for education, health care, transportation and law enforcement;
- resources to reduce crime on Indian reservations, especially to combat drug trafficking, sex trafficking, domestic violence and sexual assault;
- increasing funds for Indian Health Services;
- tribes as sovereign nations and treating them as such.

## **Infrastructure**

We believe that American infrastructure is decaying, investment for our schools, water systems, bridges, roads, and public transportation is necessary for a productive society. It's time for a 21st century New Deal.

## **We support:**

- the funding, implementation, construction, and maintenance of roads, bridges, rails, and airports serving remote and urban areas;
- investments in public infrastructure that reduce dependence on the automobile;
- improved facilities and sidewalks for wheelchair, pedestrian and non-motorized movement;
- public involvement in developing transportation plans and systems;
- use of alternative fuel, electric and hybrid vehicles;
- enhancement of arterials that discourages inappropriate land use and development;

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- managing our rails to prevent coal and oil domination of shipping, at the expense of our passenger service, and shipping for local agriculture and manufacturing;
- Funding for completion of the North-South freeway.

We Oppose:

- private ownership of roads and public infrastructure

## Labor and Economic Justice

We believe our economic system should serve everyone, not just the wealthy few. Labor unions are necessary for achieving economic justice. Safe, fair, and organized working conditions are essential to a prosperous middle class and key to a healthy economy.

**We support:**

- unions and organized labor;
- The AFL-CIO 2017 Workers' Bill of Rights
- the rights of workers to a safe and healthy work environment;
- all public and private workers' rights to organize, use mediation, arbitration, or strikes when necessary to resolve disputes without fear of reprisal or replacement;
- creating and maintaining a minimum wage that is a living wage;
- equal pay for equal work;
- paid sick, familial, and safe leave;
- non-discrimination protections for queer & trans people in the workplace;
- full workers compensation and medical treatment for on the job injuries;
- appropriate regulation of the financial industry to move towards a fairer and more equitable economy;
- unemployment and retraining benefits for workers laid off or locked out by employers;
- a declaration that minimum wage should not include tips;
- access to quality affordable childcare;
- a closing of sub-minimum wage loopholes in state, county, and local levels for people with disabilities;
- the ending of 14(c) certifications under the minimum wage.
- paying anyone working in prison, or on work release, at least minimum wage.

**We oppose:**

- right-to-work laws;
- any intimidation or retaliation by employers, especially when they attempt to unionize or discuss workplace conditions or compensation;
- the use of permanent replacement workers during strikes;
- the exclusion of agriculture workers from overtime pay and minimum wage laws;
- training wages and any other exceptions to the minimum wage;
- abuses of the H1B visa program.

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## Law and Justice

We believe the government has the responsibility to prevent crime in a constitutional manner that respects the rights of all people, including rights to due process and equal protections under the law.

### We support:

- proper funding for law enforcement and first responders;
- mental health and de-escalation training for law enforcement officers;
- the individual's right to record and/or document the police and have access to law enforcement camera footage;
- the philosophy of community policing and restorative justice;
- the abolition of capital punishment;
- a rehabilitation-focused criminal justice system rather than punishment;
- all civil rights being restored after they have completed their rehabilitation program;
- the legalization, accessibility, regulation, and taxation of marijuana;
- the housing of inmates according to their gender identity;
- humane treatment of all incarcerated persons and the abolition of solitary confinement;
- ending the Prison Industrial Complex;
- drastic reduction of the prison population and of the disproportionate imprisonment of people of color;
- civilian oversight of the police force;
- legislation to ensure testing of backlogged rape kits;
- combating addiction and substance abuse by focusing on treatment and education;
- efforts to promote law and justice by alleviating social conditions;
- ban the box legislation;
- second amendment gun rights with evidence-based restrictions;
- gun registration and licensing, mandatory safety training for gun owners, background checks on all gun sales, a minimum waiting period, and closing the gun show loophole;
- safety locks on handguns, prohibition of importation and ownership of fully-automatic weapons by individuals, and strengthening of laws holding adults responsible for safeguarding guns at home;
- a citizen's constitutional right to own firearms and use them for legal purposes;
- equal treatment under the law for officers and ordinary citizens.
- survivors and believe their stories should be honored, respected, and met with the assumption of credibility
- banning sales of semi-automatic weapons to those under 21 years old

### We oppose:

- racial, ethnic, religious, and gender identity profiling, and support the implementation of continuing education programs for these issues;
- the War on Drugs;

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- withholding necessary treatments from trans and gender nonconforming inmates;
- mandatory minimum sentencing.

## Military and Veterans

We believe veterans deserve to be rewarded when they come home and receive the services and respect they have earned. Democrats have always answered our country's call to duty and are proud of our military contributions to the nation.

### We support:

- expanding coverage, including psychiatric services, for veterans suffering from service-related disorders;
- preservation and complete funding of all VA hospitals and medical treatment facilities;
- the right for military retirees to declare service injuries after a term of service;
- full training of all American personnel in the mission to which they are deployed;
- the right to serve free of sexual harassment and sexual assault;
- the right of each woman in the military to make her own reproductive decisions;
- the mission of Fairchild Air Force Base.

## Media

We believe a free and open press is critical to a stable democracy. Internet access should be affordable, accessible, and free of corporate influence.

### We support:

- internet neutrality;
- a diversity of media ownership because it benefits a free society;
- laws requiring all major media outlets provide free and equal access for political candidates;
- encouraging minority and community media ownership;
- funding for public broadcasting, nonprofit, and non-commercial radio and TV;
- affordable access to broadband internet in all areas;
- equal and accurate representation of marginalized groups;
- publication of accurate and verifiable content.

### We oppose:

- government official's attacking the press;
- foreign nation's undermining trust in media;

## Washington State Reforms

We believe there are reforms that should be enacted in the state of Washington in order to make our great state better than it already is.

### We support:

- open government reforms that treat the legislature like other public agencies;

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- reforms that decrease our dependence on sales tax and property tax;
- the enactment of 'Louie Louie' as the Washington state song;
- increased funding for our state highway systems.