



THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SANTA FE  
COUNTY PLATFORM

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# Democratic Party of Santa Fe County Platform & Resolutions Committee 2018 County Platform

*Adopted on April 28, 2018*

## I. Purpose

This Platform is adopted to inform candidates and voters alike that the assembled body of the Democratic Party of Santa Fe County's Central Committee believes that its contents represent our values, principles and legislative goals.

Candidates who seek public office and voters who support them and evaluate their performance may use this guide to help judge how well elected Democrats either unite in furtherance of our common objectives or justify their choice to not do so.

## II. Core Values

### *Preamble*<sup>1</sup>

Santa Fe County Democrats believe that every person matters. We believe that all citizens should have an equal voice in how we as a people are governed and call out the disproportionate influence by rich and powerful special interests on our government. We stand for the 99%. We affirm the ties that bind us together as one human family. We envision a New Mexico in which every person is treated with respect and every person has what it takes to live a life of dignity—secure, decent-paying jobs; a just economic system; not-for-profit universal healthcare; high quality public schools; a safe, healthy environment where the unmatched beauty of our land is preserved for future generations. As caring citizens of this county, this state, this country, and this planet, we hold these basic rights to be the natural heritage of all people. As dedicated Democrats, we band together to claim that heritage for every member of our human community, both now and in times to come.

### **Economic Development**<sup>2</sup>

Every American has the right to a job that earns enough to provide adequate food, housing, clothing, healthcare, recreation, and protection from the economic fears of old age, illness, or accidents, while ensuring adequate resources for future generations to provide equally for

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<sup>1</sup> This statement was copied from the State Platform with minor changes.

<sup>2</sup> This statement does not appear in the State Platform.

themselves. Businesses have the right to operate free from unfair competition and domination. We must support small businesses that promote, reflect, protect, and embrace Democratic values. We must increase minimum wage to \$15 an hour over the next several years to ensure that no full-time worker lives in poverty. We support a progressive tax system where all businesses and individuals pay their fair share. We will continue to ensure that women, people of color, and other marginalized communities are treated with dignity in the workplace free of discrimination including - but not limited - to pay equity and time off to care for family without fear of losing a job.

### **Labor**<sup>3</sup>

Santa Fe County Democrats will make it easier for workers, public and private, to exercise their right to organize and join unions. We recognize how unions contribute to building a stronger middle class, as well as their critical role in fighting for living wages, fair work rules and hiring practices, and safe working conditions.

### **Agriculture and Food Supply**<sup>4</sup>

We support small, local, and sustainable New Mexico agriculture that enables equal water access with water conservation efforts. These farming practices are important to help alleviate food deserts in urban and rural communities. We recognize the importance of local agriculture to include farming and ranches.

### **Public Safety**<sup>5</sup>

Santa Fe County Democrats believe everyone has a basic right to be free from coercion and violence, including domestic violence. We will support a multi-faceted strategy to public safety including law enforcement, intervention and treatment, and universal background checks for firearm purchases. We will also support comprehensive services for survivors of violence and sexual assault, and increase and support consent education efforts in our communities and on our campuses.

### **Environmental Public Safety**<sup>6</sup>

Santa Fe County Democrats support the right of everyone to live in a healthy environment with clean air, water, and land, and be protected from health and safety risks associated with environmental contamination.

### **Nuclear Public Safety**<sup>7</sup>

We believe the potential for New Mexicans to suffer harm from incidents and accidents arising from exposure to nuclear materials is high, given that our state is home to two National Laboratories (Sandia and Los Alamos) and the Waste Pilot Project (WIPP). We recognize that

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<sup>3</sup> This statement is similar to the State Platform.

<sup>4</sup> This statement was copied from the State Platform.

<sup>5</sup> This statement expands upon the State Platform.

<sup>6</sup> This statement does not appear in the State Platform.

<sup>7</sup> This statement does not appear in the State Platform.

nuclear material of all kinds (including nuclear weapons) poses inherent risks to safety and encourage stronger safety-focused oversight and accountability. We support job-driven education (including apprenticeships) that meets Labs’ needs and improved safe handling of nuclear material; and we also want to take advantage of the economic opportunities that our nuclear facilities offer to New Mexico.

### **Health Care<sup>8</sup>**

Health care is a fundamental human right. Regardless of their circumstance, everyone in New Mexico should have access to comprehensive, affordable, high-quality health care, together with comprehensive behavioral health services and reproductive care, including access to birth control, quality prenatal and postpartum care, and abortion care.

### **Energy and Environment<sup>9</sup>**

Santa Fe County Democrats support the use of clean energy and will train the workforce, create jobs, and support small businesses as we transition to a renewable energy infrastructure. We will position New Mexico as a key global hub for technology, manufacturing, and construction to join and prepare for the clean energy transition to protect air, land, and water, and stop the worst effects of climate change.

### **Affordable Housing<sup>10</sup>**

Santa Fe County Democrats believe that no one should have to spend more than 30% of their income for housing; that affordable housing should be a right, and that New Mexico should take the steps needed to assure that all residents have an affordable and safe place to live.

### **Immigration<sup>11</sup>**

Santa Fe County Democrats will continue to work toward comprehensive immigration reform that fixes our nation’s broken immigration system, improves border security, prioritizes enforcement so we are targeting criminals - not families, keeps families together, and strengthens our economy. We will work to prevent inhumane treatment of immigrants in detention centers and will stand firmly to prevent separation of families through raid operations. Santa Fe County Democrats reject attempts to impose religious tests to bar immigrants or refugees from entering the United States. Santa Fe County Democrats know the importance of our country’s history as a nation of immigrants. We honor our fundamental values by treating all people who come to the United States with dignity and respect, and we always seek to embrace — not to attack — immigrants.

### **Education<sup>12</sup>**

Santa Fe County Democrats believe that an educated populace is the cornerstone of

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<sup>8</sup> This statement was copied from the State Platform.

<sup>9</sup> This statement was copied from the State Platform.

<sup>10</sup> This statement does not appear in the State Platform.

<sup>11</sup> This statement greatly expands upon the State Platform statement.

<sup>12</sup> This statement was copied from the State Platform with the addition of debt-free college.

sustainable democracy, and the single most important driver of economic prosperity. Affordable, high-quality pre-K through college education is a basic right that is protected by many dedicated, high-quality educators. We support making debt-free college a reality for all New Mexicans. We believe that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that the public education system prepares all to participate meaningfully in society.

### **Justice for All**<sup>13</sup>

Santa Fe County Democrats are committed to reforming our criminal justice system, including mandatory minimum sentencing, eliminating mass incarceration, and closing private prisons and detention centers. Santa Fe Democrats will work to end state, and municipal contracts with for-profit private prisons and detention centers. We support promoting community-based alternatives for non-violent offenders.

### **Civil Rights**<sup>14</sup>

We acknowledge the rights of all persons to be treated equally, with dignity and respect, regardless of race, color, creed, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, physical ability, cognitive ability, or age. We must address violence waged against people of color and work to end it. We must condemn hate speech that creates a fertile climate for violence.

### **Campaign Finance Reform, Elections, and Ethics**<sup>15</sup>

A just and functioning society can only exist when all people have an equal voice. Every person of voting age residing in New Mexico has a right and should be encouraged to vote. We actively work to prevent and remove obstructions to voting in any local or federal election. We also believe that the government has the right to regulate campaign finance.

### **Women**<sup>16</sup>

Santa Fe County Democrats are committed to ensuring full equality for women in education, employment, health care, and in all other spheres of society. We value the right and ability of women to achieve their highest career potential without fear of pay inequity or the loss of their careers when they have children. Santa Fe County Democrats will not allow the Republican Party to defund Planned Parenthood. We recognize that violence against women and girls is an epidemic and stand firm in the need for a societal shift and prosecution of perpetrators. We believe that women have sovereignty of their bodies and should always have access to the reproductive health care of their choice, including birth control and/or pregnancy termination. Santa Fe County Democrats are pro-choice.

### **Media**

A free and open media with diverse ownership and multiple opposing views from independent

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<sup>13</sup> This statement expands upon the Criminal Justice Reform statement in the State Platform.

<sup>14</sup> This statement expands upon the State Platform statement.

<sup>15</sup> This statement is identical to the Ethics, Elections and Politics statement in the State Platform.

<sup>16</sup> This statement expands upon the State Platform statement.



journalists is essential to a functional democracy because voters must be informed to make sound voting decisions. We believe that the massive media mergers have the potential to stifle information by limiting the number of voices, opinions, and facts that inform our world view.

### **Arts<sup>17</sup>**

Santa Fe County Democrats recognize the role of the arts toward making our community attractive to its citizens, tourists, labor force, and business partners and we are committed to investing in the arts to continue our state's rich cultural heritage. The arts also contribute to community building and are part of communicating new ideas. Santa Fe County Democrats will continue to advocate strongly for funding of the arts in our cities, schools, and public spaces and we support public funding for arts programs.

### **International Relations<sup>18</sup>**

Santa Fe County Democrats call for the use of diplomacy, alliances, and peacebuilding interventions of non-Governmental organizations and re-fostering trust in America to resolve international conflicts, and support provision of safe haven and refuge to those fleeing the consequences of ongoing conflict. All actions of United States institutions and supporting organizations—including the military, intelligence agencies, state department, and military contractors, and any U.S. international business transactions—should reflect respect, integrity, and ethical behavior in accordance with all international norms and laws. Santa Fe County Democrats support expanded trade and international partnership opportunities to advance economic opportunities in New Mexico while opposing any trade agreement that will override our environmental and labor protections.

### **Veterans & Military Affairs<sup>19</sup>**

We believe all qualified persons who wish to serve our nation are free to do so without discrimination. Our country has a sacred, moral responsibility to keep faith with all of our veterans and wounded warriors. Santa Fe County Democrats work to keep this promise through proper funding of the VA defending it from any attempts at privatization, and pushing for more educational benefits, job training, combating chronic homelessness and combat suicide. The party that passed the G.I. Bill of Rights will always work to protect the benefits our veterans and their families have earned in service to our nation.

### **Native Americans<sup>20</sup>**

Santa Fe County Democrats acknowledge all the injustices, including but not limited to the misguided federal, state, municipal, and institutional policies and actions based on racist beliefs that resulted in the destruction of the Native American communities' economies, social, and religious systems; the taking of their lands, and the creation of intergenerational trauma that exists to this day. Santa Fe County Democrats will fulfill, honor, and strengthen to the highest

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<sup>17</sup> This statement expands upon the State Platform statement.

<sup>18</sup> This statement expands upon the State Platform statement.

<sup>19</sup> This statement expands upon the State Platform statement.

<sup>20</sup> This statement expands upon the State Platform statement.

extent possible the United States' fundamental trust responsibility grounded in the Constitution, treaties, and case law to Indigenous Peoples. Santa Fe County Democrats recognize the inherent sovereignty of Tribes, Pueblos, Bands, Villages, and Nations, and will work to enact laws and policies that are led and informed by Tribes, Pueblos, Bands, Villages, and Nations. Santa Fe County Democrats believe in the ability of an Indigenous community to reject any "development" of land that would harm and inhibit access to the land, air, water; inhibit and sovereignty; and decrease public safety.

### **Transportation & Infrastructure**<sup>21</sup>

Santa Fe County Democrats believe in state and federal investment in public infrastructure and transportation to improve our state's economic competitiveness and create jobs. There is an economic cost of not acting. Investing in infrastructure is not just about "bricks and mortar". At its core, it is about jobs and the economy. We also believe everyone should have clean water, electricity, heat, and high-speed internet.

### **Science & Technology**<sup>22</sup>

Technological growth and the supporting infrastructure should be equally accessible to all, provide equitable benefits, and ensure socially responsible development for public good. Policy makers should be informed by the best science available. We recognize that we must put money and resources toward the innovation and technology of the future economy. The government has a role to play in ensuring that New Mexicans participate in creating and marketing the next generation of technological innovation.

### **Taxes**<sup>23</sup>

Santa Fe County Democrats believe that individual and corporate successes are dependent on a robust economy of workers who have the means to participate. Everyone should be fairly taxed to supply public investment in our infrastructure, including transportation and a well-educated and healthy population. Tax policy should undergird the welfare of the poorest among us and facilitate economic sustainability for everyone. It should not provide exclusive benefits for those who are already the wealthiest Americans.

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<sup>21</sup> This statement expands upon the State Platform statement.

<sup>22</sup> This statement expands upon the State Platform statement.

<sup>23</sup> This Section does not appear in the State Platform.

### III. Economic Development - Developing an Economy that Works for Everyone<sup>24</sup>

*Every American has the right to a job that earns enough to provide adequate food, housing, clothing, healthcare, recreation, and protection from the economic fears of old age, illness, or accidents, while ensuring adequate resources for future generations to provide equally for themselves. Businesses have the right to operate free from unfair competition and domination. We must support small businesses that promote, reflect, protect, and embrace democratic values. We must establish a county-wide minimum wage of \$15 an hour over the next several years, or a living wage, whichever is higher, to ensure that no full-time worker lives in poverty. We support a progressive tax system where all businesses and individuals pay their fair share. We will continue to ensure that women, people of color, and other marginalized communities are treated with dignity in the workplace free of discrimination, including but not limited to pay equity and time off to care for family without fear of losing a job.*

#### 1. Growing the New Mexico Economy

- a. We value the partnership with government institutions and support means to increase direct hiring in education and research, public safety, national laboratories, local governments, land management, and tribal gaming. We support investing in small businesses, women-owned businesses, and minority-owned businesses and hiring locally.
- b. We value the Healthcare sector and recognize when Medicaid and Medicare are protected and expanded, all healthcare jobs are protected and expanded.
- c. We value the Renewable Energy sector and support all efforts to promote and expand it, including training for new jobs in the sector and support for start-ups and existing small businesses.
- d. We value the Hospitality sector and will:
  - i. Expand the tourism industry to build New Mexico's brand.
  - ii. Attract tourists from around the world by building New Mexico's brand as the best place to go for enchantment, adventure, open spaces, chile, margaritas, and legal cannabis products.
  - iii. Keep our dollars at home with buy-local campaigns. New Mexico businesses should have the first shot and the best shot at every contract with our large-scale public institutions; keep New Mexico tax dollars in New Mexico by contracting locally.

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<sup>24</sup> This Plank differs from the Business, Economy and Revenue Sources State Party Plank.

- e. We value the Food Service industry and believe we should foster growth in the industry to assist in higher tips and wages for these workers by reforming industry regulations to increase minimum wages, modernize liquor license quotas, and streamline the process.
- f. We support direct job creation through investments in infrastructure and transportation projects and renewable energy projects.

## **2. Getting Families Back to Work**

- a. We support a strong safety net of services for New Mexicans living in poverty, including child-care, food and nutrition support, affordable housing, free school breakfasts and lunches, job training and retraining, and comprehensive high-quality health services.
- b. We support partnerships with small businesses that:
  - i. Promote and guarantee low-interest small business loans and start-up grants to provide the seed capital to launch and expand job-creating businesses.
  - ii. Establish small business incubators to teach people with good ideas how to turn them into businesses.
  - iii. Support legislation that offers incentives for investing in technologies developed by New Mexicans.
  - iv. Implement tax policies that increase equity, including a fair self-employment tax rate and the elimination of tax loopholes that allow out-of-state corporations to benefit from preferences intended for small local businesses.
- c. We support workforce education programs in all regions of the state including investments in vocational education and training programs for all individuals interested in entering skilled trades, technical, and other hands-on careers.

## **3. Stimulating New Economic Development**

- a. We support developing the market for authentic New Mexico branded chile and an environmentally friendly agricultural sector.
- b. We support the jobs, products, and revenues from a legal industrialized hemp industry supported by a fully unionized work force.
- c. New Mexico will embrace the opportunity to be a world leader in the renewable energy revolution and the substantial growth potential by requiring utilities to include renewables in new generating facilities, increasing our Renewable Portfolio Standards, and reinstating the New Mexico solar energy tax credit while supporting an online energy trading market.

- d. We support creating an international economy by opening our markets with Mexico through direct flights, global promotion programs, and exports of energy technology services and aerospace.
- e. We support all efforts to promote economic growth in the technology sector through education, the development and promotion of advanced tech applications, and generating innovators by teaching coding in every public school.
- f. We support legalizing cannabis for adult recreational use, supported by a fully unionized workforce and contributing to a diversified tax base.

#### **4. Creating a Fair Economy that Works for Everyone**

- a. We support stabilizing the state budget through diversified revenue streams that hedge against market volatility in the oil and gas sector.
- b. We encourage the state to enact public banking as a way to increase public budget revenues without increasing taxes.
- c. We support strong oversight and regulation of big banks and other financial institutions.
- d. We oppose predatory interest rates that trap people in a cycle of debt and support government microloan and assistance programs that meet the needs of high-risk borrowers fairly and transparently.
- e. We support programs that remove barriers and create a path to a job for persons experiencing chronic unemployment including: veterans, technologically displaced people, people experiencing long-term homelessness, persons living with disabilities, and disconnected youth, including victims of human trafficking.
- f. We support efforts to give all New Mexicans access to jobs that provide them with a living wage that provides for a home, health care, education, leisure, and retirement.
- g. We oppose privatization of essential government services and outsourcing of public sector jobs.
- h. We support the development and purchase of goods made in America, and support modifying the US tax code so that corporations have incentives to hire U.S. workers.
- i. We support state and federal regulations to prevent monopolies that limit our choices and increase our costs, including media mergers.

## IV. Labor - Boosting Wages and Worker Rights<sup>25</sup>

*Santa Fe County Democrats will make it easier for workers, public and private, to exercise their right to organize and join unions. We recognize how unions have contributed to building a stronger middle class, as well as their critical role in fighting for living wages, fair work rules and hiring practices, and safe working conditions.*

***We support a range of actions to advance this overall goal, including:***

1. Reaffirming our support for the rights of workers to organize and to bargain collectively for a safe and fair working environment.
2. Supporting fair and safe labor practices.
3. Hiring local union shops and businesses that uphold the rights and dignity of workers.
4. Exposing and opposing “right-to-work” laws, which are anti-union and limit the rights and benefits of workers.
5. Eliminating unfair hiring and firing practices.
6. Ending the unfair labor practices used against part-time teachers and adjunct faculty in all state funded New Mexico educational institutions.
7. We support retirement plans for all.
8. Increasing the minimum wage to \$15/hour over the next several years to support a living wage for New Mexicans and eliminating exemptions to minimum wage laws for farm workers, tipped wait staff and others.
9. Supporting equal pay for equal work.
10. Supporting the return from other countries of jobs that once employed American workers but have been transferred overseas.
11. Enacting free trade agreements or revising existing ones to allow American businesses to compete in a global market without exploiting workers and the environment, including provisions to address unequal wages, unequal labor protections, and unequal environmental standards.

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<sup>25</sup> This Plank expands upon the Labor Plank in the State Platform.

## V. Agriculture and Food Supply<sup>26</sup>

*We support small, local, and sustainable New Mexico agriculture that enables equal water access with water conservation efforts. These farming practices are important to help alleviate food deserts in urban and rural communities. We recognize the importance of local agriculture to include farming and ranches.*

**We affirm:**

1. New Mexico is a desert and our water is extremely valuable. We should be creating a long-term plan to ensure that our state agriculture industry uses water in the most efficient way.
2. We must work to create opportunities for entrepreneurial development of grocery stores, farmers' markets, community-supported agriculture (CSAs), and similar businesses and extend the incentives offered to industrial agriculture to small local producers.
3. Genetically Modified products must be labeled as such whenever or wherever sold so consumers can make their own informed decisions about whether to consume such food; and that such food not be permitted to be exported to other countries without specific labeling.
4. Pesticides should be used responsibly with full consideration of all effects in the ecosystem.
5. We support the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard that protects farm workers from unfair wages and wage theft, and labor standards including protection from harmful pesticides and herbicides.
6. The Santa Fe County Democratic Party supports stronger agricultural worker protections including regulation of work hours, elimination of child labor, ensuring adequate housing for migrant workers, and sanitary facilities in the field.
7. There is a distinction between the definition of "local farming" that originates in New Mexico and the definition of "regional farming" that covers nearby States.

**We will:**

1. Support legislation to legalize and promote an industrial hemp industry. We should encourage cultivation of non-psychoactive cannabis for industrial use and reclassify it as a crop separate from any drug-scheduling system.
2. Support incentives for sustainable agricultural practices, agricultural water conservation, and retention of lands of agricultural production and ranching.
3. Ban the use of neonicotinoid pesticides which is critical to the survival of bees and pollinators on which we depend for our food supply.
4. Support expanding farm and ranch land protection programs.

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<sup>26</sup> This Plank expands upon the Agriculture Plank in the State Platform.

5. Support efforts to preserve and protect New Mexico's traditional heritage livestock and varieties of heirloom seeds, as well as individual property owners' ability to control their farmlands and local water rights.
6. Support protecting farmers from lawsuits by companies that produce patented genetically modified seeds, when the local farmers' crops are corrupted or cross-pollinated from nearby company fields.
7. Make it easier for individuals and communities to develop yard and community gardens through supportive land-use policies and zoning.
8. Remove the minimum wage exemption for farm workers.

## VI. Public Safety<sup>27</sup>

### 1. Reform Police Practices

***We will:***

1. Oppose the use of excessive force by law enforcement.
2. Support demilitarization of law enforcement.
3. Oppose privatization of law enforcement.
4. Support a fully funded enhanced basic training and relevant ongoing in-service training in recognition that 16 weeks of initial training is not sufficient.
5. Support increased training for de-escalation procedures for law enforcement including the use of behavioral health teams.
6. Support strong civilian community oversight of law enforcement agencies including transparency in the hiring and firing of officers, recommending disciplinary action, budgets, and policies.
7. Encourage the community policing model.
8. Strengthen the laws that prevent illegal seizure of cash and property from New Mexicans without first bringing criminal charges against them in accordance with the 4th Amendment which protects against unreasonable search and seizure.

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<sup>27</sup> This Plank expands upon the Public Safety Plank in the State Platform



## **2. Prevent Gun Violence and Improve Gun Safety Policies**

*We support every effort to restrict gun ownership to legitimate uses, including registration, limitations on ownership, “extreme risk protection orders” and similar strategies to keep guns out of the hands of people with a known potential for violence, and strong enforcement of laws on the books.*

Specifically, we support the following for New Mexico, which currently gets an “F” on gun safety from the Giffords Law Center to Control Gun Violence:

1. Require background check for every gun purchase; strengthen requirements for firearm purchases; close dangerous loopholes in our current laws.
2. Prohibit the sale of assault weapons, large capacity ammunition magazines (more than 10 rounds), bump stocks, and the like by reinstating and strengthening the assault weapons ban.
3. Prohibit ownership of assault weapons, large capacity ammunition magazines (more than 10 rounds), and bump stocks or other mechanisms capable of turning guns into high-capacity weapons.
4. Require registration of ownership of all firearms at purchase and all those already owned; institute penalties for failure to register when unregistered firearms are found.
5. Require mental health professionals to alert the authorities about at-risk patients who should not be allowed to buy a firearm.
6. Establish standards for safe handling of firearms at home.

***Further, we urge Congress and other federal actors to:***

1. Repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) that revokes dangerous legal immunity protections for firearm manufacturers and sellers.
2. Support efforts for the CDC to study the effects of gun violence as a public health issue.
3. Support the enactment and enforcement of aggressive laws against illegal gun trafficking.
4. Support a balance between responsible gun ownership and policy that maximizes public safety and ensures respect for our fundamental freedoms while protecting the public against gun violence.

## **3. Increase Freedom from Physical and Sexual Violence**

*Santa Fe County Democrats believe everyone has a basic right to be free from coercion and violence in their private and public lives, including freedom from physical and sexual abuse in whatever context it occurs and to whatever person, regardless of gender, age, disability, or race. We support enforcement of all laws regarding sexual assault and domestic violence, including*

*those designed to support survivors, that have been on the books since the early 1970s but remain poorly enforced. We support all efforts to hold institutions to account for looking the other way when people in power use their positions to abuse others. For most of human history, abused persons have been silenced while abusers go free. We are committed to doing everything possible to reverse this situation.*

We will support candidates who understand the dynamics of abuse and pledge to work towards:

1. Appropriate responses from law enforcement agencies, including giving credence to persons reporting abuse (always believe the victim and act on that belief rather than vice versa); collecting, analyzing, and retaining valid evidence of abuse; establishing circumstances of privacy for interviews; offering measures to increase the safety of abused persons; and cooperating with advocacy organizations representing abused persons.
2. Analysis of all outstanding rape kits (these are evidence collection kits that hospitals use in rape cases; with 5,000+ kits unanalyzed as of late 2016—the worst rate per population in the nation).
3. Parallel measures to those described for law enforcement, for all civilian offices entrusted with taking reports and acting on them, including but not limited to supervisors and human resources departments in businesses and nonprofits, deans on campuses and principals in public schools, and authorities in church hierarchies.
4. Appropriate actions by prosecuting attorneys, most especially following through with the large majority of cases that do not fit common stereotypes of what a “real” rape/child abuse/battering/elder abuse situation looks like. Only in this way can these stereotypes be changed.
5. Adequate levels of support for abused persons, including adequate funding of child welfare services, adult protective services, and rape and domestic violence counseling services and shelters.
6. Massive public education campaigns to help New Mexicans recognize abuse for what it is and take steps to end it. Men who are willing to stand up and condemn abuse should be involved in all such campaigns, speaking to other men about the “unmanliness” of abuse. These campaigns should be ongoing in schools, congregations, places of work, and the media.

## VII. Environmental Public Safety<sup>28</sup>

*Santa Fe County Democrats support the right of everyone to live in a healthy environment with clean air, water, and land, and be protected from health and safety risks associated with environmental contamination. Responsibility to promote a healthy environment falls on government to provide adequate standards (laws and regulations) and enforce them, and on*

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<sup>28</sup> This Plank does not appear in the State Platform.

*polluters to stop practices that put public health and safety at risk and clean up the contamination they have caused.*

We focus our platform for “environmental public safety” on measures designed to immediately and urgently protect the public from the risks to human health and safety caused by the environmental contamination from industrial waste of all kinds, including nuclear, petrochemical, and heavy metals, wherever it occurs. Risks may have been a long time in the making or of recent or probable future occurrence, but action to mitigate or eliminate them is urgent.

We include “environmental public safety” under “public safety” rather than “Energy and Environment.” Many of the “environment” platform suggestions pertain to ways the public needs to be protected from environmental contamination. We propose expanding the concept of “public safety” in the Santa Fe County Democratic Party platform to include these aspects of environmental safety and danger, both because that is what they are and because it is important for the public to see them that way, as issues of protection from corporate predation.

## **1. Protect the public from environmental contamination that threatens health and safety**

1. Control/eliminate fracking.
2. Support curtailing use, including for fracking, of water if the use results in its removal from the local water supply or limits its reuse because of pollution.
3. Support full disclosure to the appropriate government regulators as public information of all chemicals by businesses and municipalities discharged or injected into the ground or maintained on the surface.
4. Industry must be able to account for all water, from its origination source, the amount used and recovered, the quality of what water is produced, and where the water ultimately ends up. Produced water must meet surface and groundwater standards.
5. Santa Fe County Democrats are committed to closing the Halliburton loophole that strips the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of its ability to regulate hydraulic fracturing, and ensuring that tough safeguards are in place, including Safe Drinking Water Act provisions, to protect local water supplies.
6. We call on the New Mexico Legislature and the Congress of the United States to reassess all leases of public lands, especially oil shale leases, delaying the lease of any further state or federal lands for oil shale and natural gas development until environmental concerns have been satisfactorily reviewed and resolved.
7. Increase funding of the state Oil Conservation Division. Adequately staff all offices with qualified personnel at a competitive salary to oversee drilled wells, witness and verify the integrity of all well bores, and enforce state and EPA regulations. We urge civic and public involvement and

oversight of this process. The burden of this oversight, and especially of the cost of remediation and cleanup, should fall on the relevant industries and not the public.

8. Air and water quality assessments must be performed by an independent entity before, during, and after all new well drilling so that all concerns of pollution and contamination can be identified, quantified, and reclaimed.
9. Concrete well liners, wastewater ponds, and containment tanks that protect groundwater from pollution must be independently certified reliable for the entire life of the well.
10. We support a moratorium on building new nuclear facilities until a safe technology is created.
11. We believe that shipping high level toxic nuclear waste to New Mexico should be prohibited.

**2. Preserve the rights of state/local governments to establish laws, regulations, moratoriums, etc. to protect their citizens from environmental hazards by requiring more stringent controls and specifications than those established by higher levels of government**

1. Any process for extracting natural resources must not threaten public health, safety, and welfare. Local governments must have the right to ban, regulate, or issue moratoria on these processes to protect their communities
2. Support local ordinances, state legislation, and federal programs that require strict reclamation bonds and programs to ensure that industry stakeholders are directly liable for all public health, property loss, local business, water use, environmental mitigation and other costs resulting from mining and drilling operations, as well as significant penalties in the event of irreparable damage.

## VIII. Nuclear Public Safety—The Risks and Benefits of New Mexico’s Two National Laboratories (Los Alamos and Sandia) and WIPP<sup>29</sup>

*We believe the potential for New Mexicans to suffer harm from incidents and accidents arising from exposure to nuclear materials is high, given that our state is home to two National Laboratories (Sandia and Los Alamos) and the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP). We recognize that nuclear material of all kinds (including nuclear weapons) poses inherent risks to safety and encourage stronger safety-focused oversight and accountability. We support job-driven education (including apprenticeships) that meets the Labs’ needs and improved safety in handling*

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<sup>29</sup> This Plank does not appear in the State Platform.

*nuclear material. We also want to take advantage of the economic opportunities that our nuclear facilities offer to New Mexico.*

***We urge our New Mexico Congressional delegates and other public officials to:***

1. Lobby for continued public access to nuclear safety reports.
2. Support increased oversight of New Mexico nuclear facilities by the U.S. Department of Energy and New Mexico regulators.
3. Support significantly increasing fines and enforcing collection of fines for safety violations and mishaps. Number of fines should match number of significant incidents and, when appropriate, reflect cost to taxpayers.
4. Support (1) funding of higher educational programs by Labs' management contractors; (2) putting such items in management contractors' budgets; (3) Department of Energy (DOE) dispensing funds appropriately; (4) holding DOE accountable for safety violations and criticality incidents.
5. Evaluate U.S. nuclear weapons policies and the authority to use nuclear weapons.
6. Support (1) the continued reduction of nuclear warheads; (2) continued research on nuclear warheads' reliability; (3) our National Laboratories, hoping future research will be repurposed toward sustainability and other more humane projects.

## **IX. Healthcare for All<sup>30</sup>**

*The health of our citizens is essential to the strength of our nation. We affirm that health care is a right. We believe that government's policies should "promote the general Welfare and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves..." as written in the opening lines of the Constitution of the United States. We believe, as a matter of social justice, that health care for all in the United States is a basic and necessary human right, that it is essential to the security of our nation, and that it serves the common good.*

*Universal access to necessary medical services is required to preserve freedom, liberty, opportunity, and the ability to be productive. We support passage of the New Mexico Health Security Plan as a first step in the process toward a quality universal single-payer health care system that is independent of employment and focuses on patient care first and foremost.*

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<sup>30</sup> This Plank expands upon the Healthcare Plank in the State Platform.

## **1. Assure all New Mexicans of Affordable Coverage by Comprehensive Health Insurance**

1. Defend all aspects of the Affordable Care Act, including Medicaid expansion, subsidies for low income households, cost savings strategies, inclusion of anyone with a pre-existing condition, and coverage of children up to age 26 on their parents' insurance.
2. Restore the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate.
3. Pass and fund the New Mexico Health Security Plan, or other legislation that provides a statewide, unified, non-profit, universal health care payment system for New Mexico, beyond the provisions of the federal Affordable Care Act.
4. Provide full coverage for persons with pre-existing conditions.
5. Establish full portability and continuity of health care coverage that eliminates linking coverage to one's employment.
6. Create a health care financing system operated by the members, for the members, with member interest as the focus.
7. Cover all New Mexicans, unless they already have full coverage through other means (e.g., federal or military coverage).
8. Cover all children with Centennial Care for Children (SCHIP), regardless of income [currently, NM SCHIP has an income ceiling (300% FPL for kids 0-6; 240% of FPL for kids 6-19)]

## **2. Assure Access to Comprehensive, Coordinated Health Care**

1. Guarantee provision of and funding for comprehensive health care for all New Mexicans, to include but not be limited to: medical and dental care; full reproductive health services including prenatal and postnatal maternal care, that respects a woman's right to choose; prescribed drugs; mental health care (including case management); dental, vision, hearing, and speech care; rural health care; home and community-based care to avert institutionalization; long term care; chronic disease care; end of life/hospice care; preventive medicine, including chiropractic and acupuncture; physical and occupational therapy; durable medical equipment and medical supplies; laboratory and imaging services; inpatient and outpatient hospital care; drug and alcohol abuse rehabilitation.
2. Include coverage/care for conditions that manifest long after the cause/trauma/infection/exposure has happened—e.g., rehabilitation for brain injuries sustained through repeated trauma as in sports that manifest at a much later date; exposure

to harmful materials at work such as toxic chemicals, silicon, asbestos, coal dust; etc.

3. Expand and strengthen respite care and in-home support services including adequate background checks prior to licensure, and promote an in-home support services system that emphasize independence rather than institutionalization and addresses the needs of all, including people with all levels of disabilities, of any age.
4. Combat drug and alcohol addiction, including opioid addiction, by vastly expanding access to prevention and treatment, supporting recovery, helping community organizations, and promoting better practices by prescribers.
5. Continue to support the full legalized use of medical cannabis when prescribed for a patient by a physician; monitor state practice to assure that eligible residents get the medications they need.
6. Support new health care delivery models that emphasize the provision of continuous, comprehensive, and coordinated care.

### **3. Promote Provider Flexibility**

1. Maximize numbers and types of providers who can be reimbursed for providing care; relieve pressure on physicians.
2. Promote use of properly credentialed peer specialists, medical assistants, community health workers, aides, to provide routine health and wellness care.
3. Increase training opportunities in New Mexico for health care professionals at all levels.
4. Do not limit locations where care can be provided; promote out-of-office care that takes care to people, especially people with disabilities, homebound, living in remote areas, and the like.

### **4. Promote Accessibility**

1. Geographic—assure routine access to care in rural and hard-to-reach areas using mobile clinics, on-line access, other advanced techniques.
2. Cultural and linguistic—maximize likelihood that people will be seen by culturally and linguistically competent caregivers.
3. Affordable—use public funding to keep out-of-pocket costs to \$0 for all persons at or below 250% of Federal Poverty Level; sliding scale for higher incomes.

## **5. Greatly Reduce the Cost of Prescription Drugs and Medical Devices**

1. Pressure the federal government to negotiate prices for drugs and medical devices, for Medicare and Medicaid specifically, but also for all other patients in the United States.
2. Support the state in coordinating with the federal government in regulating and controlling the cost of prescription drugs and medical devices.
3. Permit the New Mexico Department of Human Services to negotiate vaccine, drug, and medical device costs directly with the relevant industries.

## **6. Promote Prevention/Healthy Living**

1. Create a health care system that proactively focuses on wellness, primary care, preventive medicine, public health, and disease prevention.
2. Base public policies about prevention and treatment of disease on scientifically sound research

## **7. Eliminate Non-Monetary Barriers to Health Care Access**

1. Ensure economic and physical access to multilingual health care services.
2. Reduce health care disparities based on race/ethnicity, gender, place of residence, disability, and other factors.
3. Support full funding for community clinics and health centers that serve low-income, rural, and homeless populations throughout the state, including prompt and accurate payment of the charges these clinics and centers submit to government agencies.
4. Facilitate and encourage the full partnership of health care providers, including nurses and home health providers, in redesigning our current health care system.
5. Encourage regional input in health care system design.
6. Eliminate discrimination in insurance coverage and healthcare for transgender and gender nonconforming individuals, as well as full coverage of all transition-related care.
7. Phase out Medicare's 2-year waiting period for SSDI benefit recipients, and eliminate it immediately for people with life-threatening illnesses.
8. Provide for the long-term solvency of Medicare, especially by addressing and reducing the cost of care. Assure full and adequate funding for Medicare and Medicaid so that many more health care providers are willing to participate than do so at present.

## **8. Provide Comprehensive Consumer Protections**

1. Hold polluting industries accountable for the costs of treatment for health conditions caused or contributed to by their pollution, and assure that funds obtained through penalties or legal settlements are used to provide health care to the injured parties (e.g., Purdue Pharma for the ravages of OxyContin).



2. Simplify language and plan choices for ease of understanding to individuals making health coverage decisions;
3. Support a requirement that all HMOs and health insurers obtain prior approval from the state before rates can be increased and when the time comes that all New Mexicans are covered by publicly funded health care, support an independent panel free of health care industry conflict to oversee rate increases, cost-effectiveness, and quality of care;
4. Enforce the Patient's Bill of Rights; affirm that medical decisions must be made with respect for patients' rights to privacy and freedom to have control over their lives with fully informed consent.
5. Recognize the physical and financial burdens of family caregivers and support legislation and programs to provide adequate training, assistive interventions, and financial safety nets such as employer savings and tax credits
6. Provide transparency, accountability, and fairness in health care
7. Guarantee a woman's right to make decisions regarding her pregnancy, including geographically feasible access to a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay. We oppose any effort to weaken or undermine that right, including limiting funding of essential female reproductive health services such as those provided by Planned Parenthood, or forcing local clinics to close.
8. Eliminate financial barriers to contraceptive services and pre- and post-natal care, such as through universal health care, which will also significantly reduce abortion rates.
9. Enact "Death with Dignity"/" Right to Die" legislation to allow terminally-ill patients and their doctors to discuss end-of-life decisions and permit medical personnel to assist terminally ill patients with ending their lives at the patient's discretion, compassionately limiting their pain and suffering.

**9. Reduce legislative/administrative barriers, diversions, misbehavior; increase accountability, improve systems**

1. Work to strengthen Centennial Care and Medicare and oppose efforts to privatize such safety net programs;
2. Monitor implementation of legislation enacted to remedy any uncertainty concerning dispensing of medical cannabis that will provide for rights of a medical cannabis patients and specify means and manner of dispensing to qualified patients;
3. Protect funding for health care services as mandated by voters from being transferred or redirected for any other purpose;
4. Create quality jobs in health and behavioral health care that stay in New Mexico because health care money stays in New Mexico, including all database operations and diagnostics as well as direct care;
5. Support increased funding and accountability for mental health care parity – improving and broadening existing mental health programs – and call for

government-funded providers to have users of services on their staff and governing boards.

6. Increase the transparency and accountability of medical costs and foster public input in decision-making bodies established to enact elements of New Mexico's plan to better evaluate both insurance and health care policies, to help improve the quality of care and reduce the cost of care.
7. Ensure that all health care models have strong cost containment measures and are transparent and accountable to the consumers and the public to significantly lower total administrative costs and improve the quality of care.
8. Eliminate profiteering in health care and health care financing.

#### 10. **Protect and Promote Public Health**

1. Invest in public health services, especially in/for poor, rural, and minority communities
2. Ensure adequate funding of public health education at the undergraduate, graduate, and medical school levels as well as adequate funding of residency training programs in public health, preventive medicine, and its subspecialties.
3. Address and correct social determinants of health such as poverty, unemployment, experience of discrimination, and housing instability.

## X. **Energy & Environment**<sup>31</sup>

### 1. **Energy Sources and Climate Mitigation**

*Climate change is the most important existential defining issue of our time. We must use every tool available to reduce emissions now. Santa Fe County Democrats support all efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and use of fossil fuels while the state and nation undertake the transition to renewable energy necessitated by climate change. Efforts must include incentives to promote renewables and disincentives for continued exploration, production, and use of fossil fuels.*

Our platform for "energy sources" focuses on production and consumption issues, preparing for the **global renewable energy transition** necessitated by the **climate change** occurring due to human production of greenhouse gases. Emphasis is on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and use of fossil fuels and increasing production and use of renewables.

### 2. **Promote Renewables**

1. Develop and enforce a statewide plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions more than 80 percent below 2005 levels and have 100% renewable electricity by 2050 (these are compatible with the goals set by the 2016 Paris Climate Accord).
2. Promote climate leadership at the local level and an active partnership with cities and rural communities through incentives, technical assistance, development of regional action networks, support for pilot projects, and development to scale.

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<sup>31</sup> This Plank does not appear in the State Platform.

3. Support all efforts to require New Mexico's public utilities (especially PNM) to work quickly and effectively to reach the goal of at least 50% renewables by 2030, increasing to 100% by 2050 (these are compatible with the goals set by the 2016 Paris Climate Accord).
4. Incentivize wind, solar, and other renewable energy production over the development of new natural gas power plants.
5. Support a requirement that all public buildings or buildings used by public agencies switch to at least 50% renewable energy use by 2030.
6. Fund researchers, industry, and non-profits to develop technologies to produce and distribute renewable energy statewide.
7. Reinstate the state Renewable Energy Tax credit and establish new rebate programs for adoption of renewable energy sources.
8. Ensure that decentralized residential and commercial solar producers throughout the state may sell the energy they produce into the grid (i.e., that public utilities must buy it, and not tax the producers).
9. Push the U.S. Department of Energy to redirect the focus of its National Laboratories, including Los Alamos and Sandia, away from nuclear production and research and toward new, more efficient, cheaper, and easier to use renewables of all types (noting that nuclear power is NOT a renewable).
10. Invest in a statewide publicly accessible electric vehicle charging network, clean public transportation, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure across our urban and rural areas.
11. Accelerate construction of new transmission lines to get low-cost renewable energy to market.

### **3. Create Powerful Disincentives for Continued Fossil Fuel Activities**

1. Support all approaches to reducing vehicular emissions, in compliance with provisions of the Paris Climate Accord
2. Tax the release of carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases high enough to incentivize corporations to reduce emissions and provide public resources to support actions to offset their costs to the community in health and safety over the long term
3. Prohibit flaring, enforce heavy fines/penalties for violations
4. Establish comprehensive environmental pollution taxes that reflect our commitment to a clean energy future by eliminating tax breaks and subsidies for polluting corporations
5. Restrict/deny access to not-yet-tapped deposits of oil, gas, and other energy-related natural resources
6. Support stringent requirements and fees for commercial access to our mineral, petroleum, forest, and water resources.

7. Update/increase the rents and royalties paid for mining oil and gas by adjusting for inflation (these royalties haven't changed since the 1920s and attempts to update them have been unsuccessful), including wasted gas and oil leakage as part of what gets paid for, and possibly adjusting the increases in value of the product since the 1920s, if not covered by inflation.
8. Establish programs and incentives to cut energy waste in American homes, schools, hospitals, and offices through energy efficient improvements; modernize our electric grid and make New Mexico manufacturing clean and efficient (see November 2017 *Green Fire Times* article, pp. 31-32 "New Mexico Ranks in the Bottom Third Nationally in Energy Efficiency," for many concrete steps New Mexico should take).
9. Encourage the goal of "Net Zero Energy Emissions" in new home construction by 2020, and "Net Zero Energy Emissions" in new commercial construction by 2030
10. Demand that the Department of Justice investigate allegations of corporate fraud on the part of fossil fuel companies accused of misleading shareholders and the public on the scientific reality of climate change.

#### **4. Environmental Conservation**

We focus our platform suggestions for "environmental conservation" on medium- and longer-term measures that **preserve, conserve, and hopefully augment** essential public resources such as water, forests, and other living species, for which action must begin now and be sustained long into the future.

##### **a. Preserve and enhance existing federal and state protective laws**

1. Work to improve, and oppose any attempt to weaken the federal Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and similar federal and state laws or regulations.
2. Eliminate exemptions/loopholes for resource extraction companies and processes from the requirements of the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Air Act, Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (superfund cleanup).

##### **b. Incentivize and Enforce New Mexico's 40-Year Water Development Plan**

1. New Mexico began revising its 40-Year Water Development Plan in 2015, and recently has made a draft of the new plan available, while considering extending the planning time frame to 100 years. Enforce it, offer technical assistance and financing for regions working to implement it, support pilot projects, *make sure it happens*.

2. Promote water policies that prioritize water conservation and careful management of limited water supplies, treating the environment's needs as equal to other interests.
3. Promote strong local and federal enforcement of the Clean Water Act that protects water purity, wetlands and wildlife ecosystems.
4. Incentivize reduction of residential, agricultural, and industrial water usage and science-based, sustainable water policies.
5. Support long-range planning and the restriction of new development for which there would be inadequate supplies of water.
6. Support the cultural heritage and historical use of acequias and other traditional irrigation practices.

**c. Assure that uses of public lands serve the public**

*Santa Fe County Democrats believe that our state lands belong to all New Mexicans and should be used to further the common good.*

1. Support the protection of natural habitats and intact ecosystems through science-based management of public lands that promotes the optimal balance between human use and the natural world, with special attention paid to protection of threatened and endangered species.
2. Support sustainable utilization and conservation of natural resources and public lands through appropriate taxation for extraction of non-renewable natural resources and thoughtful land use planning to combat suburban sprawl; reject any sale of public forestry and park lands; support dedicated funding for state parks; and, safeguard the state's forests through sustained yield best practices forestry, the elimination of clear cutting (and subsidies for roads to enable clear cutting) to preserve natural habitat diversity and connectivity, soil conservation measures, the preservation of heritage trees, and carbon sequestration technique.
3. Oppose the sale of public lands to developers or individuals which would restrict public access.
4. We support the protection and reclamation of New Mexico's public lands and natural resources from damage inflicted by extractive industries.
5. We oppose the Gila River diversion.
6. We support the protection and preservation of our National and State Parks, Forests, and Monuments, World Heritage Sites, Native American sacred sites.

7. Support the Endangered Species Act to protect threatened and endangered species.
8. Enlist farmers and ranchers as partners in promoting conservation and stewardship.

## XI. Affordable Housing<sup>32</sup>

*Throughout the United States, half of renter households are being priced out of housing. Almost 54,000 working households in New Mexico were severely cost burdened in 2014—meaning they spent **over 50%** of their income on rent. This is about 1 in 5 working households in the state. Another 1 in 5 working households spent between 30% and 50% of their income for rent. The average renter household makes \$12.53 an hour; someone making minimum wage makes \$7.50 an hour in most of the state. Unfortunately, a renter household would have to make \$16.06 an hour to afford a 2-bedroom apartment at the Fair Market Rent of \$835 a month. New Mexico has a few programs that increase housing affordability, but they don't produce enough units and they are cumbersome to use.*

Other states do more than New Mexico to provide affordable housing. We strongly support actions by the state, counties, and municipalities to increase **household-based approaches including:**

1. Providing rent subsidies for all New Mexico households paying more than 30% of their income for rent (currently, about 40% of New Mexican households pay more than 30% of their income for rent, with half of those paying over 50%, but subsidies are available to only about 1 in 10 of these cost-burdened households).
2. Offering tax incentives that racially and socioeconomically desegregate new and existing neighborhoods (i.e., mixed-use housing).
3. Creating and incentivizing neighborhood development that integrates housing, jobs in retail and other businesses, transportation, and recreation.

We also support adoption in New Mexico, by the state, counties, and municipalities, of any or all the following **housing production** strategies:

1. Developing a *statewide plan* that (a) establishes a “fair share” of housing for every municipality in the state, (b) is enforceable, and (c), uses collaboration in all aspects, planning and production—New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maine, Illinois, Minnesota, and Arizona
2. Reducing regulatory barriers created by zoning, construction and other codes to expedite creation of new units that revitalize deteriorating neighborhoods and communities; these allow smoother processing, one-stop applications even though multiple jurisdictions are affected, expedited approval processes—these practices have cut housing development costs by 10 to 40 percent in New Jersey; other states using

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these practices include Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New York, Rhode Island, and Texas.

3. Incentivizing housing development that follows transportation lines, jobs creation (New Jersey, Massachusetts, others).
4. Pursuing multiple goals simultaneously (e.g., economic development plus housing—Oregon, New Jersey) and partnering with overlapping interests—special needs, elderly, rural, child welfare—Minnesota, Michigan, Rhode Island.
5. Using state funds to support Housing Trust Funds and affordable housing tax credits that parallel federal programs—to finance general affordable housing and special needs housing.
6. Establishing a special tax on luxury development, with collections going into a Housing Trust Fund or other mechanism that then funds new unit construction in areas of high need—Santa Fe tried to establish such a tax in 2015—called the Workforce Housing Funding Initiative—but it didn’t pass. Nevertheless, Santa Fe does have an “impact fee” imposed on development that is used for a variety of activities that make it less expensive for developers to produce reasonably-priced housing, such as roads and other infrastructure in areas being developed.
7. Establishing a Deep Subsidy Program, to invest more state funds in projects that aim to serve households with incomes below 30 percent of area median income (about the federal poverty level).
8. Creating programs to acquire land in high priority areas, including brownfields and other contaminated land, and make it available to developers to clean up and create affordable housing.
9. Creating a loan program specifically for small rental projects (5-25 units) suitable for “in-fill” in already-developed neighborhoods.
10. Following the practice of many states to establish a housing preservation program to assure that currently affordable housing units that way.
11. Enacting zoning ordinances whereby a portion of new development housing is set aside for low and middle-income households, called “Inclusionary Zoning,” but be sure they are not vitiated by allowing developers to “buy out” at levels insufficient to support production of affordable housing elsewhere.

At the Santa Fe County level, we support the following strategies:

1. Support zoning densities high enough to allow affordable multi-family development to address current rental housing crisis.
2. Create formal and comprehensive midtown redevelopment plans that include housing strategies likely to increase the scores achieved in applications for Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) for projects at the SFUAD site and surrounding areas.
3. Support infill affordable housing that is located near transit and existing infrastructure.
4. Advocate for permanent funding sources for Santa Fe’s Affordable Housing Trust Fund of not less than \$2 million per year.

5. Advocate for annual applications of LIHTC projects by working with affordable housing non-profits, predicated on city donations of land, in-kind contributions, and bridge loans from city Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
6. Advocate opening the Community Development Committee to a more transparent process and encourage media coverage of decisions
7. Advocate for more equitable distribution of LIHTC funds countywide.

## XII. Immigration<sup>33</sup>

*Santa Fe County Democrats will continue to work toward comprehensive immigration reform that fixes our nation's broken immigration system, improves border security, prioritizes enforcement so we are targeting criminals - not families, keeps families together, and strengthens our economy. We will work to prevent inhumane treatment of immigrants in detention centers and will stand firmly to prevent separation of families through raid operations. Santa Fe County Democrats reject attempts to impose religious tests to bar immigrants or refugees from entering the United States. Santa Fe County Democrats know the importance of our country's history as a nation of immigrants. We honor our fundamental values by treating all people who come to the United States with dignity and respect, and we always seek to embrace, not to attack, immigrants.*

### **We affirm that:**

1. Immigration is a defining aspect of the American character and our shared history, not a problem to be solved.
2. Unifying and keeping immigrant families intact is good for people, families and our country.
3. We reject the narrative that immigrants can simply "get in line" and apply for legal US citizenship because the current pathway is extremely restrictive and prevents most from becoming citizens.
4. The basic rights of every person living or working in the United States, regardless of citizenship status must be ensured.
5. Harassment, seizures and other abuses of undocumented immigrants must cease
  - a. Enforcement of immigration laws must be reasonable, humane, and compassionate.
  - b. There should be no religious test for immigrants or refugees to enter the United States.
  - c. Immigration policies should not be racist.
  - d. Border communities are some of the safest, culturally rich, and economically vibrant areas in our nation.
  - e. We already have the largest border enforcement infrastructure in history that, with 18,000 armed agents, technology, drones, border walls, and fences, does not require additional resources.

### **We will:**

1. Support immigration policies that allow all immigrants, including refugees, to make this country their home, as we have done in previous generations

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<sup>33</sup> This Plank was copied from the State Platform with additions.



2. Support policies that provide immigrants a path to citizenship and promote their quality of life.
3. Encourage the development, adoption and enforcement of reasonable, humane and compassionate immigration laws and regulations.
4. Oppose the deportations of immigrants who served in our armed forces and create a faster path for such veterans to citizenship.
5. Defend and support President Obama’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans executive actions (or similar laws) that will help DREAMers, parents of citizens, and lawful permanent residents avoid deportation and pursue a pathway to citizenship.
6. Support the improvement of temporary worker programs.
7. Support Sanctuary cities, counties and states and oppose using local law enforcement for immigration enforcement, a federal responsibility.
8. Support bills to codify in law the definition of Sensitive Locations (including courthouses) and the limits of access to those locations by agencies such as ICE.
9. Oppose use of for-profit immigrant detention centers since this encourages enforcement based on corporate interests, not public policy.
10. Work to prevent inhumane treatment of immigrants in detention centers.
11. Oppose the funding, building, or maintaining of border walls.
12. Challenge and reject the divisive and derogatory language of Donald Trump toward immigrants because his offensive comments about immigrants and other communities have no place in our society.
13. Fight against wage theft
14. Eliminate mandated bed quotas which are the mandatory detaining of immigrants for profit and mandatory minimum sentences.
15. Deny the use of private prisons for immigration detentions and deportations.
16. Limit spending on border patrol and ICE agencies that are used to split families.
17. Require Border Patrol to comply with the same 4th Amendment Search and Seizure laws as other law enforcement agencies.
18. Oppose excessive profiteering from border enforcement.

### XIII. Education - Educating Our Citizens to Create a Better Society and Attract Investment in New Mexico<sup>34</sup>

*Santa Fe County Democrats believe that an educated populace is the cornerstone of sustainable democracy, and the single most important driver of economic prosperity. Affordable, high-quality pre-K through college education is a basic right that is protected by many dedicated, high-quality educators. We support making debt-free college a reality for all New Mexicans. We believe that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that the public education system prepares all to participate meaningfully in society.*

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<sup>34</sup> This Plank originated with SF-PARC and was adopted, with changes, by the State Platform

## **1. Ensuring access to the dream of a quality education**

- a. We believe that a high quality public education is a basic right and a sound investment with real and tangible returns for our citizens and economy and is a necessary component of a healthy democracy.
- b. We support fully funded, free public education for every student from high quality affordable pre-kindergarten education through vocational and/or post-secondary education.
- c. We support proficiency in second languages including coding as a requirement for graduation from any state-accredited high school in New Mexico
- d. We support LGBTQIA-inclusive comprehensive sex education.
- e. We support concrete measures to increase racial harmony within schools to reduce the impediments to student performance, to include cultural sensitivity training for staff, board members, and students; and supports for translating what is learned in trainings into concrete lesson plans that are actually used.
- f. We support training programs around the state to prepare workers for solar and wind technology, installation, and maintenance.
- g. We support the establishment of Registered Apprenticeship Programs in New Mexico, and strongly urge Congress to pass the CHANCE-in-Tech Act.
- h. We support resources for the diversification of curricula for students with specific needs including but not limited to special education and gifted, high and low achieving students, low income, and English as second language.
- i. We support the rights of teachers and parents to influence their own curricula.
- j. We encourage and support programs for anti-bullying, mental and behavioral health, and conflict resolution in the schools, including recovery from substance with family participation.
- k. We support programs for prisoner reform through education that is uniform statewide including obtaining a GED, a high school diploma, an advanced degree, or vocational training.
- l. We support having an RN present in every public school.
- m. We support every classroom having access to an appropriately trained teaching assistant.
- n. We support the NGSS Standards and Framework in their entirety. We also encourage the additions of categories that will augment deficiencies in content to ensure all graduates are capable of understanding and critically evaluating the scientific basis for the phenomenon called Global Warming and being qualified to work toward solutions.
- o. We support having at least one social worker in every public school, based on school enrollment.

## **2. Investing in education and securing our future**

- a. We urge our New Mexico legislators to find additional and diversified sources of revenue to protect the public education system from volatility in the oil and gas market.
- b. We must adequately fund and incentivize advanced research in our Universities and National Laboratories to restore our country's scientific edge and global competitiveness.
- c. New Mexico teachers face special challenges related to the high proportion (61%) of English Language Learners in our schools. Special training is needed to assure that teachers can help students achieve language and mathematical proficiency; adequate compensation is needed to assure that New Mexico schools can hire qualified teachers. We believe that New Mexico should meet or exceed the nationwide average salary and benefits for educational professionals, which currently it does not do. Specifically, we

support legislation that assures staff unit values for the State Equalization Guarantee (based on the 1974 Public School Finance Act) are set at a level that meets or exceeds median pays scales throughout the rest of the United States.

- d. We support actions needed to narrow New Mexico subject area certification requirements to reflect the best practices displayed by higher performing states, rather than continued in their current, broadly interpretable manner (i.e. Secondary Science certification verses Physics, Chemistry level specificity). We believe New Mexico should start to use subject-specific certifications for all newly hired teaching staff, while employing a clear, timeline determined, equitable pathway for equal certificate specificity for those teaching staff already employed within our public schools.
- e. We support increasing the distribution from the Land Grant Permanent Fund to support high quality early childhood education.
- f. We support intensive immersion programs in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and foreign languages for all students.
- g. We support community college education and other opportunities to ensure all citizens can be trained and certified to work in the evolving job markets of the future.
- h. We support rescinding the waiver for oversized classrooms and restoring class sizes to their pre-shortfall levels by hiring more teachers.
- i. We believe that a capitalist democracy which depends upon an informed public should prioritize financial literacy, critical thinking, and civics as a means of sustaining, stewarding, and strengthening American democracy.
- j. We support restoring dignity and balance to the use of standardized tests in our classrooms.
- k. We understand that teachers are highly dedicated and motivated and reject punitive impacts to their evaluations and impacts to the reputations and grades of community schools based on standardized test data that does not adequately quantify the quality of education provided.
- l. PARCC data should be used to inform where to direct additional resources and support and should not be used to evaluate a teacher's performance, effort, or commitment.
- m. We support the development of a teacher evaluation model that uses multiple indicators based on classroom and school evidence.
- n. We resist federal programs that weaken schools by funding private school vouchers with public school money.
- o. We believe Secretary of Education should be appointed by the Public Education Commission and have a New Mexico Education Administration Certification.

## XIV. Justice for All<sup>35</sup>

### 1. Protect Our Kids and Shut Down the School to Prison Pipeline

*We will shut down the School to Prison Pipeline by investing in your kids, not prisons. We believe in prevention and making sure that your kids have viable non-criminal options. We want diplomas, not rap sheets, for our kids. We will invest in education and jobs, not jails, for our kids, by providing linkages to apprenticeships, work opportunities, and mentoring programs for our youth. We will invest in school retention, graduation and workforce integration policies for our kids.*

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<sup>35</sup> This Plank originated with SF-PARC and was adopted, with minor changes, by the State Platform.

**We will:**

1. Shut down the school-to-prison pipeline.
2. Invest in jobs and education for young people, not more jails and incarceration.
3. Invest in school retention and graduation policies for our youth.
4. Eliminate life without possibility of parole for youthful offenders.
5. Raise the age of criminal responsibility for non-violent youthful offenders.
6. Ban the imprisonment of youth in adult facilities.
7. Provide medical, mental health, educational and rehabilitative services to incarcerated youth.
8. Remove juveniles who are adjudicated delinquent from sex offender registries.

## **2. End Mass Incarceration**

*We are opposed to mass incarceration and support common sense sentencing reforms. We reject bumper-sticker solutions to complex social problems. We recognize that prison is not the answer to every problem and we support meaningful changes in our sentencing rules. We will work to substantially reduce our prison population and transmit those savings to more effective prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programs.*

*We will promote and expand alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders, such as drug courts, veteran's courts, and other diversionary programs. We will prioritize prevention, treatment and rehabilitation over incarceration for non-violent offenders.*

***Santa Fe County Democrats will work toward the following goals:***

1. End mass incarceration.
2. Revise sentencing guidelines for non-violent offenders.
3. Prioritize prevention, treatment and rehabilitation over incarceration for non-violent offenders.
4. Abolish sentence enhancements for non-violent offenders.
5. Continue to ban the death penalty in New Mexico.
6. Promote community-based alternatives for non-violent offenders.
7. Ban solitary confinement.
8. Adopt smart on crime policies to reduce the prison population
9. Ban private prisons and detention facilities.
10. Install close circuit TV cameras throughout all jails and prisons.
11. Support visitation and communication with incarcerated individuals.
12. End the use of county jail as a mental health facility.
13. Provide proper medical care and mental health services to all inmates.
14. Regulate the cost of collect calls from inmates to prevent price gouging of inmate's families.
15. Abolish Jim Crow-era prison labor programs and replace with job training and educational programs.

## **3. Remove Roadblocks to Reentry for Ex-Offenders**

*Released prisoners should be allowed to move forward with their lives after they have done their time and paid their debt to society. We will provide released prisoners with a fair chance to start their lives over by removing unjust roadblocks to reentry. We are committed to ending the system*

*of perpetual punishment and we will work tirelessly to reduce recidivism rates for stronger families and communities in New Mexico.*

*We will undertake a systematic, wide-ranging and thorough review of all New Mexico laws that unjustly impose collateral consequences upon a criminal conviction (e.g., restrictions on housing options, high risk of unemployment, restrictions on eligibility for public benefits, prohibitions on voting), to substantially reduce recidivism and provide for the effective re-integration of prisoners into our communities.*

*We will adopt a fair, comprehensive and effective criminal record expungement statute to assist with the positive reintegration into our society of ex-offenders.*

**We will:**

1. End the system of perpetual punishment of ex-offenders.
2. Support the full restoration of all civil rights by ex-offenders who have served their term of incarceration and supervision.
3. Support comprehensive re-entry services for ex-offenders to prevent recidivism.
4. Adopt criminal record expungement legislation for non-violent offenders, veterans and victims of human trafficking.
5. Support “ban the box” legislation, to remove checkboxes on employment applications asking about criminal convictions.
6. Limit the number of collateral consequences to a criminal conviction for non-violent offenders (collateral consequences include *restrictions on housing options, high risk of unemployment, restrictions on eligibility for public benefits, prohibitions on voting*).
7. Legalize, regulate and tax marijuana for recreational use.
8. Provide drug treatment for every person with an alcohol or substance abuse disorder.
9. Reallocate cost savings from reducing incarceration to education and job training programs.
10. Divert low-level drug offenders from lengthy prison terms.

#### **4. Courts and Prosecutors**

*Equal justice for all is not just a slogan, it is the foundation of our Democracy.*

**We will:**

1. Provide balanced funding for District Attorney and Public Defender agencies.
2. Support Drug Courts, Veteran’s Courts and other diversionary programs.
3. Create an Independent Wrongful Conviction Review Commission.
4. End the practice of stacking charges by District Attorneys.
5. Continue reforming the cash bail system.
6. End the war on the poor and abolish debtor’s prisons for unpaid justice debts.
7. Prioritize funding for labs to complete all rape kits in a timely manner.
8. Support the use of DNA testing to protect the wrongfully accused and set free the wrongfully convicted.
9. Support the implementation of restorative justice practices.

## XV. Civil Rights

*We acknowledge the rights of all persons to be treated equally, with dignity and respect, regardless of race, color, creed, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, physical ability, cognitive ability, or age.*

We affirm that:

1. The rights of free speech, free press, peaceful assembly, due process, and habeas corpus must be defended and upheld.
2. Personal choices, including reproductive choice, domestic partnership, end of life options, religious choice, including freedom from and of religion, and marriage equality, are fundamental rights.
3. We oppose unreasonable searches and domestic surveillance including the USA Patriot Act.

We will:

1. Protect the Establishment Clause, which is the separation of church and state, in all local, state, and federal government institutions including the military and the public schools.
2. Improve conditions and defend human rights for the incarcerated.
3. Embrace racial and socio-economic equality and counter discrimination in hiring practices and ongoing employment, including use of affirmative action as part of academic admissions.

*We must address violence waged against people of color and advocate to end it. We must condemn hate speech that creates a fertile climate for violence.*

We will:

1. Promote civility and speak out against bigotry and other forms of intolerance that have entered our political discourse, including opposing white supremacy and Nazism in all of its forms.
2. Call out the national trend of the disproportionate use of the death penalty against people of color and other disenfranchised people.

## XVI. Campaign Finance Reform, Elections & Ethics

*A just and functioning society can only exist when all people have an equal voice. Every person of voting age residing in New Mexico has a right and should be encouraged to vote. We actively work to prevent and remove obstructions to voting in any local or federal election. We also believe that the government has the right to regulate campaign finance. Santa Fe County Democrats believe we must advocate to preserve the essence of the longest standing democracy in the world: a government that represents the American people, not just a handful of politically influential special interests.*

### **1. Campaign Finance Reform**

**We will:**

1. Work to overturn *Citizens United*.
2. Require full disclosure of all major contributions in political and issue campaigns.

3. Work for campaign finance reform and repeal laws that enable secret money in politics.
4. Work to eliminate super PACs.
5. Create competitive public campaign financing to stop the influence of big donors and special interest groups.
6. Promote the ability of the average citizen to run for the legislature by paying legislators a fair salary.
7. Use modern technology for real-time disclosure of hard money campaign contributions & expenditures.
8. Adopt strict forfeiture of office and forfeiture of pension penalties for willful violators of campaign finance reporting laws.

**2. Ensure election systems are transparent, verifiable, safe from interference, and archived**

***We will:***

1. Urge the Federal Government to defend and protect New Mexican residents from all threats to our electoral system, including strengthening cyber security.
2. Recognize that Americans' right to vote is sacred and fundamental.
3. Restore the sections of the Voting Rights Act recently gutted by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder*.
4. Support ranked choice voting to make democracy more fair and functional in all elections.
5. Demand up-to-date election processes that guarantee transparency, integrity, and accountability in the voter software, and equipment with archived paper ballots.
6. End gerrymandering that gives unfair advantage to one political party over others; establish a nonpartisan commission to draw district boundaries, following California's example of giving priority to geographical continuity and fair representation for "communities of interest" (groups of people with similar interests) while adhering to Voting Rights Act requirements.
7. Create and give authority to an independent redistricting commission separate from the legislative process.
8. Fight against voter suppression tactics such as Voter ID Laws and limited polling sites, days, hours.
9. Promote early voting.
10. Adopt registration reforms such as same-day registration, automatic registration when obtaining drivers licenses or IDs, or Oregon's approach (now adopted by 5 additional states), mailing a card to eligible voters notifying them of their automatic registration (to affiliate with a party, voters return the card with party indicated).
11. Increase voter participation by expanding voting hours and days and by establishing voting convenience centers
12. Sign on as a state supporting a constitutional amendment to end the Electoral College, or, alternatively, adopt the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact for Electoral College Reform, so that the winner of the national popular vote becomes president.
13. Provide convenient polling sites in all tribal communities.
14. Support the ability for New Mexico voters to use straight-ticket, party-preference voting.
15. Repeal all voting disenfranchisement laws.

### **3. Clean government requires that we prohibit real or perceived conflicts of interest by public officials.**

***We will:***

1. Require disclosure of authors and their affiliations, of significant portions of legislation.
2. Stop the revolving door between industry and government employment.
3. Require full financial disclosure by all elected officials and paid lobbyists/consultants.
4. Advocate for the creation of an independent ethics commission amendment to the New Mexico constitution.

## **XVII. Women**

*Santa Fe County Democrats are committed to ensuring full equality for women in education, employment, health care, and in all other spheres of society. We value the right and ability of women to achieve their highest career potential without fear of pay inequity or the loss of their careers when they have children. Santa Fe County Democrats will not allow the Republican Party to defund Planned Parenthood. We recognize that violence against women and girls is an epidemic and stand firm in the need for a societal shift and prosecution of perpetrators. We believe that women have sovereignty over their bodies and should always have access to the reproductive health care of their choice, including birth control and/or pregnancy termination. Santa Fe County Democrats are pro-choice.*

***We will:***

1. Support ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing equal rights for all citizens regardless of gender
2. Work to secure equal pay for women to ensure women's economic independence and power, which will benefit all women and their families, particularly women of color who are disproportionately impacted by discriminatory pay practices, and against other factors that contribute to the wage gap.
3. Work to end gender discrimination in all areas by combatting biases across economic, educational, political, and social life that hold women and girls back and limit their opportunities — tackling specific challenges facing women of color.
4. Call for our political leaders to set the precedent to address any form of sexual harassment and sexual violence wherever it occurs; and to end non-disclosure agreements that silence women and others who have suffered sexual harassment and violence. We will promote civility and speak out against sexism and other forms of intolerance that have entered our political discourse
5. Demand funding to Planned Parenthood health centers, which provide critical health services to millions of people.
6. Repeal the Hyde Amendment that impede a woman's access to abortion.
7. Ensuring all women have full and equal access, within reasonable proximity, to comprehensive healthcare and insurance, including reproductive healthcare services, cancer prevention, screening, and treatment.



8. Strongly and unequivocally support a woman’s right to choose to have a child or end a pregnancy as affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade*. This includes ensuring access to safe abortion services. It also includes ensuring access to services that promote a safe and healthy pregnancy and childbirth. We will also work to provide services during pregnancy and after the birth of a child, including paid maternity and family leave, affordable childcare, adoption and social support services, and protections for women against pregnancy discrimination.
9. End the scourge of violence against women and girls wherever it occurs — in our homes, streets, schools, military installations, or elsewhere. We condemn and fight against human trafficking in all its forms. We believe FDR’s vision of Freedom from Fear should apply equally to women so that women can live full lives without fear of gender-based violence.
10. Support the Violence Against Women Act to provide law enforcement with the tools it needs to combat this problem. We commit to ending the backlog of processing rape kits.

## XVIII. Media

*A free and open media with diverse ownership and multiple opposing views from independent journalists is essential to a functional democracy because voters must be informed to make sound voting decisions. We believe that the massive media mergers have the potential to stifle information by limiting the number of voices, opinions, and facts that inform our world view.*

### **We will:**

1. Fight for Net Neutrality so that all internet content is equally accessible without favoring or blocking specific content, charging differential rates, or providing different upload/download speeds. The internet must remain open and uncensored.
2. Urge the New Mexico Legislature to join other states in passing legislation to protect New Mexicans from being affected by differential access to the Internet and different charges for different levels of access.
3. Urge the New Mexico Attorney General to join other states in suing FCC to negate its decision to end net neutrality, for the protection and economic opportunity and well-being of all New Mexicans.
4. Support programs that ensure all New Mexicans, including rural New Mexicans, will have access to high-speed, affordable Internet.
5. Commit to giving candidates free and equal media time and coverage during elections.
6. Enforce the “Sherman Anti-Trust” Act to break the monopoly on information in individual media markets.
7. Dismantle media companies that are monopolies in various geographic areas.
8. Guarantee continued support and funding for NPR, PBS and other progressive public media.
9. Protect journalists and media organizations from intimidation and resist efforts to marginalize and undermine objective media sources.
10. Encourage accurate portrayals of people of color in the media to counteract the systemic racism that people of color experience collectively.
11. Support a NM film industry that creates movies, tv shows, and commercials that have people of all races, ethnicities, nationalities, religions, and gender identities, as reflected in the diverse demographics of our State.
12. Support programs that educate people to identify fake news.
13. Ensure that social media providers provide robust protection of private data.

**We affirm that:**

1. Public figures in the media should treat all women with respect and dignity. We call for eliminating the objectification of women and men in press, radio, film, tv, and news as a means of acquiring status or employment.

## **XIX. Arts**

*Santa Fe County Democrats recognize the role of the arts toward making a community attractive to its citizens, tourists, labor force, and business partners and are committed to investing in the arts to continue our state's rich cultural heritage. The arts also contribute to community building and are part of communicating new ideas. Santa Fe County Democrats will continue to advocate strongly for funding of the arts in our cities, schools, and public spaces and support public funding for arts programs.*

**We will:**

1. Support the arts through government funding, grants, marketing assistance, training, and increased market access.
2. Build awareness of entrepreneurial services and support such as small business development centers within the arts community.
3. Fight to restore public funding for the U.S. National Endowment for the Arts and for the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities, both government agencies.
4. Ensure that arts and music are included within all public school curricula across New Mexico.
5. Connect with the film industry; ensuring arts participation in the New Mexico film industry.
6. Make sure that government and other funding is adequately distributed to organizations as well as directly to the individual-emerging artists in New Mexico.
7. Bolster New Mexico's reputation as an arts hub and tourist destination.
8. Globally brand of New Mexico as a destination for domestic and international tourism.
9. Portray our State's beautiful terrain, public lands and monuments, opportunities for adventure, wildlife, and our majority Native American, Hispanic, and multi-cultural identity.
10. Protect freedom of expression and speech.
11. Protect artists' freedom of expression and defend the rights of artists to question authority and inspire our people to continue to fight for a better world.
12. Provide intellectual property protections for iconic cultural images that originate in New Mexico.

## **XX. International Relations**

*Santa Fe County Democrats call for the use of diplomacy, alliances, and peacebuilding interventions of non-governmental organizations and re-fostering trust in America to resolve international conflicts, and support provision of safe haven and refuge to those fleeing the consequences of ongoing conflict. All actions of United States institutions and supporting organizations—including the military, intelligence agencies, state department, and military contractors, and any U.S. international business transactions —should reflect respect, integrity, and ethical behavior in accordance with all international norms and laws. Santa Fe County*

*Democrats support expanded trade and international partnership opportunities to advance economic opportunities in New Mexico while opposing any trade agreement that will override our environmental and labor protections.*

***We will:***

1. Honor agreements to naturalize non-citizen service members following discharge.
2. Oppose privatizing the military, the use of contract mercenaries, and war profiteering.
3. Support open and transparent trade policy that has representation of labor, environmentalists, economists, and public opinion.
4. We oppose investor-state dispute provisions that circumvent U.S. sovereign law and undermine local power to adjudicate disputes with foreign corporations.
5. Condemn the use of torture.
6. Support providing exit strategies from nations already devastated by current military operations that hire and train locals rather than global corporate-government contractors in target nations.
7. For the health and safety of the people of Afghanistan, we support a plan for the safe withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Afghanistan.
8. Support resolution of conflicts and promotion of human rights and self-determination through strengthening the rule of law, and prioritizing diplomacy, conventions and treaties, and demilitarization over use of force.
9. Oppose any unilateral, unprovoked war against any nation that does not attack or invade the U.S.
10. Urge Congress and U.S. government officials to evaluate nuclear weapons policies and the authorization to use nuclear weapons, with the intent of reducing the risk of their use.
11. Urge our government officials to continue to: (1) reduce nuclear warheads; (2) research our nuclear warheads' safety, security, and reliability; and (3) reprioritize and reinstate funding and hiring for research in renewable energy research and development at Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico.

***We affirm:***

1. We condemn all acts of terrorism. Terrorism is not just a Muslim issue and no exceptions or distinctions should be made for members of any race or religious group who commit an act of murder to express hate or political ideology.
2. We must defeat ISIS, al Qaeda, and their affiliates, and prevent other groups from emerging in their place. Democrats will continue to lead a broad coalition of allies and partners to destroy ISIS strongholds in Iraq and Syria.
3. We reject the Republican party's vilification of Muslims and Islam. It violates the religious freedom that is a fundamental value of our country and feeds into ISIS' vile narrative.
4. We must neutralize North Korea's ability to make nuclear weapons and eliminate their pathways for acquiring nuclear material.
5. We support foreign aid models that ensure transparency, accountability, and local participation (where possible) in emergency humanitarian aid delivery. We support foreign development aid models that open market access and investment to local small businesses in the target area and provide training in modernized entrepreneurial skills to facilitate stable economic development in target nations.

## XXI. Veterans' Affairs

*We support the right of all qualified persons who wish to serve our nation to do so without discrimination. Our country has a sacred, moral responsibility to keep faith with all our veterans and wounded warriors. Santa Fe County Democrats work to keep this promise through proper funding of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), defending it from any attempts at privatization, and pushing for more educational benefits, job training, combating chronic homelessness, and preventing suicide and the conditions leading to it. The party that passed the G.I. Bill of Rights will always work to protect the benefits our veterans and their families have earned in service to our nation.*

**We affirm:**

1. Any person, regardless of immigration status, who served and was honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces must receive citizenship upon completion of service.
2. We are proud of the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell and we commit ourselves to ensuring fair treatment for LGBTQ veterans, including by proactively reviewing and upgrading discharge records for veterans who were discharged because of their sexual orientation.
3. We are proud of the opening of combat positions to women.
4. Our military is strongest when people of all races, religions, sexual orientations, and gender identities are honored for their service to our country.
5. Our country has a moral responsibility to support all our veterans because they have put their lives on the line to defend us.
6. We support full federal funding for comprehensive veteran-centric systems to fulfill our commitment to all veterans by meeting their needs upon discharge, with an emphasis on suicide prevention, employment, housing, family support, reintegration, comprehensive healthcare, and legal assistance
7. The VA must be fully resourced so that every veteran gets the care that he or she has earned and deserves, including those suffering from sexual assault, mental illness and other injuries or ailments
8. We reject attempts to privatize the VA.
9. The VA should take responsibility to identify all unserved and underserved veterans including those that are homeless.
10. War is THE LAST resort. The only reason we will ever put anyone through war is because we have exhausted all other options and our safety is in peril.
11. Santa Fe County Democrats are committed to addressing the scourge of military sexual assault. We must increase efforts to prevent sexual assault and rape, and aggressively investigate and prosecute allegations. And we must make sure victims receive timely, appropriate and comprehensive treatment for physical, emotional, and psychological trauma resulting from sexual assault.

**We will:**

1. Provide support to care for our military family members, especially for the spouses, partners, and children who must rebuild their lives after the loss of a loved one or life-altering injury or disability.
2. Push for more educational benefits, job training, and protect and preserve the post-9/11 GI Bill for future generations.

3. Ensure that reservists and Guard members are treated fairly when it comes to employment, health, education benefits, deployment, and reintegration.
4. Fight for every veteran to have timely access to high-quality health care including mental health care and timely processing of claims and appeals.
5. Look for more ways to make certain the VA provides veteran-centric care, such as providing women and transgender with full and equal treatment, including reproductive health services; expanding mental health programs; continuing efforts to identify and treat invisible, latent, and toxic wounds of war; treating post-traumatic stress; and expanding the post-9/11 veteran's caregiver program to include all veterans.
6. Support making comprehensive dental care available to all veterans at the VA.
7. Support closing loopholes in the for-profit school industry that exploits veterans, and support strengthening programs that help veterans choose the best educational programs possible.
8. Prioritize military readiness by making sure our Active, Reserve, and National Guard remain the best trained and equipped in the world.
9. Support our troops currently committed to the conflicts our nation is engaged in by taking them out of harm's way, compensating them commensurate with that commitment, and adopting peace as a guiding principle.
10. Support a smart, predictable defense budget that meets the strategic challenges we face and seek an economy that does not require resources from hostile regions
11. Seek to create a strategic approach to evaluate military deployments.
12. Oppose contractors who promote and profit from war.

## XXII. Native Americans<sup>36</sup>

*Santa Fe Democrats recognize tribal sovereignty and acknowledge the fundamental trust responsibility of the United States government to American Indian People and tribal governments as grounded and embedded in treaties, laws and court decisions. With that understanding, Santa Fe Democrats will honor, strengthen and fulfill the sovereign, inherent rights of Tribes and Pueblos in New Mexico by working to enact laws, policies, and political processes that are led and informed by the Tribes and Pueblos of New Mexico. Santa Fe Democrats will seek to ensure that New Mexico Tribes and Pueblos have access to clean air, land, and water; and will consistently defend their sovereign rights to protect their natural and cultural resources, sacred sites, economic interests, cultural identity, Indigenous languages and rights to self-determination.*

***We affirm:***

1. We must respect and honor the history of the Tribes and Pueblos of New Mexico, understand their unique political, economic, social, cultural strengths, and challenges, and recognize their contributions to the growth, advancement, and development of our state.

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<sup>36</sup> This Plank was copied from the State Platform and was included in the County Platform by an amendment approved on April 28, 2018.

2. We must require that all levels of state and local government work with Tribes and Pueblos to develop formal and informed processes whereby tribal leadership and stakeholders can exercise their right to self-determination and have a voice in the process of developing and enacting laws and policies that affect them.

3. We must actively recruit and engage members of our State's Tribes and Pueblos into the Santa Fe County Democratic Party and actively encourage participation in all Party proceedings and leadership roles.

4. We will work and invest in tribal communities to provide voter outreach and education to increase awareness of their voting rights and responsibilities and encourage their participation in the election process.

***We will:***

1. Recognize, honor, and protect the sovereignty and capacity for self-governance of the Tribes and Pueblos of New Mexico;

2. Support and assist New Mexico Tribes and Pueblos in obtaining sufficient and meaningful resources to bolster and strengthen economic development and self-determination in sustainable and culturally sensitive ways; this includes sound infrastructure development, access to internet connectivity, broadband deployment, utility accessibility, and road improvements;

3. Support and protect the past and present homelands of Tribes and Pueblos and help ensure that water, air, land, cultural resources and sacred sites are protected from damage, disturbance, and contamination utilizing existing state and federal laws. In addition, provide support for existing tribal and Pueblo agricultural practices that includes the protection of seed-saving and other cultural traditions;

4. Support and assist Tribes and Pueblos in obtaining affordable and accessible quality healthcare through delivery systems that include the Indian Health Service (IHS), Medicare, and Medicaid and will help in: protecting funding streams that enable Tribes and Pueblos to procure multi-level health care services for their members; providing sufficient funding for eldercare services such as nutrition and caregiver programs in tribal communities; and, preventing Medicaid funding based on a block grant formula;

5. Assist and support sound educational programs that comply with state and federal accountability standards with an emphasis on high quality instruction, effective professional teacher development, recruitment, and retention, and the development of culturally sensitive curricula including Native language retention and instruction. Will work to effectuate meaningful education policy change that includes: collaborating with the Bureau of Indian Education; supplementing and not supplanting federal Impact Aid funding; strengthening self-determination by enabling culturally inclusive learning techniques unique to each tribal nation; furnishing and funding tribal libraries; fostering the advancement of higher education that includes the re-introduction of vocational education; creating and developing a literate, highly skilled and well-educated work force within tribal communities; and, providing childcare, nutrition, and early childhood education programs in tribal communities.

6. Protect existing laws and intergovernmental agreements benefitting tribal interests in the areas of taxation, education, voting, healthcare, and cultural resources, with the understanding that intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration benefits the entire state of New Mexico.
7. Invite New Mexico's Tribes and Pueblos to participate and comment on all legislation affecting tribal interests as early as possible in the legislative process including interim periods and legislative sessions.
8. Ensure the development of efficient and practical methods of communication and consultation between branches of government and New Mexico's Tribes and Pueblos by adopting protocols embedded in laws such as the State Tribal Collaboration Act, which has framed state-tribal relations and assured a continuous and productive government-to-government relationship.

## XXIII. Transportation – Infrastructure<sup>37</sup>

*Santa Fe County Democrats believe in state and federal investment in public infrastructure and transportation to improve our state's economic competitiveness and create jobs. There is an economic cost of not acting. Investing in infrastructure is not just about "bricks and mortar." At its core, it is about jobs and the economy. We also believe everyone should have clean water, electricity, heat, and high-speed internet.*

### ***We affirm:***

Advanced technology is 21st century infrastructure and we support more robust technology, including high-speed broadband networks across New Mexico.

### ***We will:***

1. Hire locally to:
  - a. Restore roads and bridges to address decades of neglect
  - b. Build the infrastructure for affordable public transportation, electric cars, and bicycle routes
  - c. Modernize our schools, and expand high-speed broadband networks.
  - d. Install the infrastructure so that high-speed broadband networks can be a reality for New Mexico.
  - e. Modernize all public buildings at all levels of government to be powered by solar and wind.
2. Develop and implement statewide plan for land use and infrastructure growth
3. Protect communities from the impact of climate change and help them to mitigate its effects by incentivizing renewable energy utilities.

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<sup>37</sup> This Plank was copied from the State Platform with minor changes.

4. Focus water use on sustainable human needs over industrial waste.
5. Encourage the reduction of residential and industrial water usage by providing, sustainable water policies including aquifer protection, water-supply planning, consumptive water-use permitting, and resource protection programs.
6. Protect public health and safety by modernizing drinking and wastewater systems including technology to recycle water.
7. Minimize the industrial waste of water.

## XXIV. Science and Technology<sup>38</sup>

*Technological growth and the supporting infrastructure should be equally accessible to all, provide equitable benefits, and ensure socially responsible development for public good. Policy makers should be informed by the best science available. We recognize that we must put money and resources toward the innovation and technology of the future economy. The government has a role to play in ensuring that New Mexicans participate in creating and marketing the next generation of technological innovation.*

### **We affirm:**

1. High-speed internet is a necessity for 21st century success in all sectors of the economy (including agriculture), social mobility, education, health care, and public safety in both urban and rural areas. We demand strong net neutrality rules that permanently protect the rights of every single person being able to get the same access and distribution without a fee.
2. That ambitious public and private investments in local science, technology, and research is key to economic growth in New Mexico. Such publicly funded Research and Development should reflect our Democratic values.
3. The government should hire and keep qualified scientists and research staff in all regulatory and policy-making bodies that use or oversee science and technology. Decisions by these bodies on funding Science and Technology Research and Development should not be politicized or censored, and policy makers should be aware of any potential conflicts of interests in scientific results used as the basis of policy.
4. There should be transparency and accountability in autonomous technology developed by the private sector and its use in the public sector.
5. As “disruptive technologies” -- i.e., technologies that drastically change our economic and social landscape -- emerge, we need to create more opportunities for local workers, local industries, and local entrepreneurs to participate.

### **We will:**

1. Secure financing and providers for affordable, high-speed, high-quality internet and cellular service in all areas of New Mexico, especially rural.
2. Support municipal and locally provided and managed Wifi to facilitate inexpensive, high-quality, universally accessible, and readily available high-speed internet.

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<sup>38</sup> This Plank was copied from the State Platform with minor changes.



3. Support training, education, and policies that encourage technology transfer, entrepreneurship, and small business creation in NM in all types of innovation sectors and leverages the science and technology base of the universities and national labs in NM.
4. Recruit companies and directly hire state workers to put New Mexico at the forefront of deploying next generation science and technologies and enable New Mexicans to benefit and profit from transformative technologies.
5. Protect the intellectual property rights of artists, creators, and inventors at home and abroad
6. Support patent reform that allows for fair protections of innovations and fair use of common science and technology.
7. Strengthen partnerships with space commerce companies to create new demand for space technologies and launch new missions to space, including space travel.
8. Undo Republican roll backs of net neutrality rules by the Federal Communications Commission.
9. Support local entrepreneurship and promote inclusion in the digital economy;
10. Attract and retain talented people from all over the world; and invest in research and development, innovation hubs, as well as in getting ideas to market.
11. Ensure that all students are offered STEM courses throughout their K-12 education and learn Information Technology by the time they graduate high school.

## XXV. Taxes<sup>39</sup>

*Santa Fe County Democrats believe that individual and corporate successes are dependent on a robust economy of workers who have the means to participate. Everyone should be fairly taxed to supply public investment in our infrastructure, including transportation and a well-educated and healthy population. Tax policy should undergird the welfare of the poorest among us and facilitate economic sustainability for everyone. It should not provide exclusive benefits for those who are already the wealthiest Americans.*

***We urge our federal representatives to:***

Remove the income cap from the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (Social Security) to require that Social Security contributions be paid on the same basis by all income earning Americans.

***We support legislation for New Mexico that:***

1. Updates our Tax Code to reflect the income levels enjoyed by modern New Mexicans. Santa Fe County Democrats believe that the services needed by today's society must be underwritten by taxes reflective of today's incomes. Tax rates adopted in 1978 can reasonably be modernized.
2. Increases the Earned Income Tax Credit that benefits the working poor and offsets the cost of doing so by eliminating the Capital Gains Tax Deduction that benefits the wealthy.
3. Establishes a Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax. Santa Fe County Democrats believe that corporations that can afford tax code lobbyists to reduce or eliminate entirely their tax liability should in return pay an Alternative Minimum Tax to at least partially pay for the security, infrastructure, work force capacity and favorable business climate that the public provides for them.

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<sup>39</sup> This Plank does not appear in the State Platform.