JC Dems Platform

Our Platform

> *On April 13, 2024 the Convention of Johnson County Democrats adopted a new platform. It has not yet been published below. Until we get that work done, you can read it by clicking HERE.*

Johnson County Democrats generally agree with the Wyoming Democratic Party Platform.
Although Johnson County Democrats do not necessarily agree with and adopt each item in the State Platform, we do agree that it sets forth the basic ideals and beliefs of Johnson County Democrats.
This County Platform amplifies national and state platforms to include local issues.

The Johnson County Democratic Party adopts the following platform to set forth our principles.

“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America.”
– Preamble to the U.S. Constitution

- Opportunity
  - We believe public policy should foster an economic, social, and institutional environment where all individuals have the opportunity to pursue life,

liberty, and happiness.

- Educational Opportunities
    - We support equal access to fully funded public education at all levels.
    - We support investment in a strong and diverse educational system required for individual success and responsible citizenship.
    - We support the role of the University of Wyoming as an institution of open intellectual inquiry.
    - We believe in an education offering each student both breadth and depth such as will help develop thoughtful engaged citizens. To this end, we support the education of the whole student with courses including but not limited to: physical education, digital technology, vocational training, arts & humanities, and civics & government, in addition to core classes in K-12 schools, community colleges, trade schools, and the University of Wyoming.
    - We believe in education as a tool for helping students examine information critically and make informed decisions.
    - We support the right of all students to participate in public school regardless of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, national origin, or other personal identity.
    - We support safe schools for all students and school personnel, including enforcement of comprehensive anti-bullying and tolerance programs.
    - We support student loan reform to reduce student debt burdens.
    - In Johnson County we support the granting of teachers the right to negotiate collectively and to participate in the certification process to ensure

maintenance of quality standards in teaching and administrative personnel.
    - We support the continuation of adult education programs that provide training and retraining programs.
    - We support the separation of church and state within the school system and oppose requiring student participation in any religious activity that places the burden of refusal on the student.
- Health Care
    - We support accessible, quality healthcare as a universal human right, not a privilege.
    - In order to provide high quality, affordable, and accessible care to all citizens, Medicaid must be expanded. Insured health care should cover all types of treatment including:
        - Medical
        - Dental
        - Chiropractic
        - Mental health
        - Women's health
        - Preventative healthcare
        - Pediatric health
        - Substance abuse
        - And all other care that Wyoming citizens need
    - We support the government's right to negotiate for the lowest prescription drug prices, and the right of individuals to import prescription drugs.
    - We support public funding for senior centers, nursing homes, and in-home care.
    - Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid must never be privatized.
    - We support the legalization of medical marijuana.
    - We support the adoption of a nationwide single payer

healthcare system that covers all.
    - We support honoring our obligations to our armed forces and veterans by providing fully funded comprehensive medical and psychiatric care in a timely manner.
    - We support public funding for research, education, and prevention of all disease.
    - We support comprehensive sex education, pregnancy prevention services, and the full range of reproductive health care options.
    - We support public funding for additional rural community healthcare clinics.
- Employment Opportunity
    - We support the right of all workers in Johnson County to form collective bargaining units and negotiate on their own behalf.
    - We support equal pay for equal work.
    - We support payment of a living minimum wage for all workers including tipped employees.
    - We support those programs and legislation that enhance workers' safety, cooperative programs for compliance assistance, and enforce penalties for safety violations.
    - We support adequate, reasonable, and fairly administered worker compensation benefits.
    - We support the use of state and county funds to provide job training and internships to strengthen and enhance the local workforce, through state community college programs.
    - We support professionally certified, accessible, affordable, high-quality child care.
    - We encourage elected officials to work closely with public employees to develop procedures to mitigate underfunding of employee pensions. We encourage

elected officials to develop budgeting procedures ensuring all mandates, including pension funding and health care plans, are fully funded before excess funds are contributed to “rainy day” or other trust funds.
    - We support policies that protect workforce health and vitality in the face of technological change.
    - We recognize the right of every American to retire with dignity and respect.
    - We support the right of employees to scheduled reasonable time off for family leave without the threat of retribution or termination.
- Immigration
    - We oppose the adoption of local or state statutes depriving immigrants of their health, safety, and livelihood.
    - In line with our local and national history of immigration we welcome immigrants who contribute to our community and wish to ensure their health, safety, and livelihood.
    - We support Wyoming joining and participating in the Federal Refugee Resettlement Program.
- Integrity and Fairness
    - We support the Constitutions of the United States of America and Wyoming as living documents which establish the basic integrity of government and public policy.
    - Government in the United States of America is the collective will of the people in a democratic society, working together to secure and improve the lives of all citizens. All participants should be confident that the fundamental processes of election, appointment, legislation, administration, and enforcement are sound and faithfully adhered to.

        - We support dedication to the rule of law applied impartially and consistently.
- Government Process
    - We support the separation of church and state.
    - We support transparency and accountability in government at all levels including adherence to all public meeting and open government laws.
    - We support adherence to and enforcement of laws regulating ethics and conflicts of interest at all levels of government.
    - We support full lobbyist disclosure.
    - We support fiscally responsible government.
    - We support the Consumer Protection Agency in its mission to protect American citizens.
    - We support the Wyoming Office of the Consumer Advocate in its mission to protect Wyoming citizens.
    - We support the inherent rights of federally recognized tribes as Sovereign Nations (as stated in the US Constitution's Commerce Clause) to interact, communicate and find consensus with the Wyoming State Government.
    - We oppose the privatization of public services, including but not limited to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Veteran's Administration, correctional and detention facilities, and the military.
    - We strongly oppose spending taxpayer dollars to send legislators to legislative conferences financed by American Legislative Exchange Conference (ALEC) and similar organizations. We support mandatory public disclosure of any and all ALEC-written and/or sponsored legislation that is proposed by members of the Wyoming legislature.
    - We support open, comprehensive accounting of

expenditures and results of public economic development and diversification efforts.

- Taxation/Revenue
  - We support an equitable progressive tax system.
  - We support an equitable distribution of funding for Wyoming cities, towns and counties.
  - We support an expansion of Social Security to ensure solvency by eliminating the cap on taxable income.
  - We support fair compensation to the State of Wyoming for the extraction of Wyoming's non-renewable natural resources.
  - We support allocating a portion of the interest from the Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund for diversified economic development programs within Wyoming.
  - We support development of a system to share mineral royalties and severance with Wyoming counties and municipalities.
  - We support restoration of the Glass-Steagall Act.
- Judicial System
  - We support adequate funding for our judicial system at all levels.
  - We support the abolition of mandatory minimum sentences.
  - We support a criminal justice system in which individuals are held accountable for misconduct with due process of law and where the Constitutional rights of the accused are fully upheld.
  - We support enhancing the options for treatment of substance abuse and alcoholism for citizens of Wyoming in lieu of incarceration.
  - We support the decriminalization of marijuana use and possession.
  - We support a review and overhaul of the juvenile

justice system in the state of Wyoming to better address the needs of juveniles, including rehabilitation, medical interdiction, suicide prevention and education and the unique aspects of juvenile psychology and mental health issues.

- Protecting Our Democracy
  - We embrace the Declaration of Independence proclamation stating governments derive “their just powers from the consent of the governed”. To preserve the integrity of that consent, we endorse the Voting Rights Act and condemn efforts to restrict voting.
  - We support all forms and methods of voter participation and the expansion of the right and opportunity to vote.
  - We support public financing of political campaigns.
  - We support a constitutional amendment to reverse the ruling of the U. S. Supreme Court in the Citizens United case.
  - We support full reporting of all political contributions prior to elections and full disclosure of financial interest in governmental and legislative matters.
  - We support automatically restoring full voting rights to convicted felons upon their having served the imposed sentence and probationary period.
  - All Wyoming County elective offices should be non-partisan.
  - We support abolishing the electoral college in favor of the popular vote.
  - We support automatic universal voter registration.
  - We support the use of ranked choice voting and open primary elections.
  - We support an independent commission for the

determination of legislative districts.
    - We support reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine.
- Protecting Our Civil Rights
    - We endorse the freedoms embodied in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights including the right to habeas corpus. Our desires for personal and national security must not override our commitment to protect individual rights and privacy of our fellow citizens. Surveillance by the government of our private lives must be done only in the confines of constitutional law.
    - We support due process for all.
- Protecting Our Personal Rights
    - We support enactment of Wyoming hate crime legislation that affords law enforcement agencies the tools to investigate hate crimes and prosecutors the option of pursuing enhanced penalties in any crimes motivated by hate.
    - We support fair access and just treatment for all people.
    - We support legislation that fully affirms the rights of all people to marry, work, secure housing, and attend school, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, or family status. We support state legislation, city ordinances, and public school policies that prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation.
    - We condemn the use of torture, including water boarding, in domestic or foreign affairs.
    - We support the enforcement of legislation to address the increasing incidence of sexual assault against military personnel.
    - We support changes in Wyoming statutes to eliminate the use of consent as a defense for detention

officials who are charged with sexual misconduct.
    - We support the right of citizens, through their elected government, to prohibit the carrying of firearms in specified public venues including but not limited to schools.
    - In recognition of Wyoming's long history of support for the right to keep and bear arms, we urge all parties involved in the debate over our country's struggle with gun violence to begin a legitimate and constructive dialogue on methods by which we can protect both our safety and our individual rights.
    - We support funding for the CDC to collect data on gun violence and propose solutions to this problem.
    - We believe that until all of us matter, none of us matter.
- Integrity in Foreign Relations
    - We support a foreign policy reflecting and promoting the principles of freedom, human rights, and compassion.
    - We support a collaborative process among nations to affect these principles.
    - We recognize the use of force may be required to protect these fundamental principles only when all peaceful international efforts have failed.
    - While maintaining our right to sovereignty, we support the adherence to international law, especially pertaining to the use of our armed forces and national security services.
- Sustainability
    - We recognize human well-being is dependent upon the well-being of the earth.
    - We encourage a science-based, multi-generational vision for our county, Wyoming, for America, and for the world. Our goal is the development and

maintenance of social, cultural, economic, and physical environments in which we and our descendants can enjoy the peace, freedom, and community that will nurture and sustain our quality of life.

- We recognize a critical role for government in supporting careful, well-informed planning with respect to the optimal application of public funds and governmental regulation.
- We recognize that sustaining our quality of life requires an increasingly long-term perspective that often conflicts with short-term budgets, corporate profits, and political agendas.

- Energy Policy
  - We support alternate energy sources that do not cause an adverse impact on the nation and world's food supply and prices, while maintaining long-term environmental standards.
  - We support the end to subsidies and tax breaks for food-based ethanol manufacturing.
  - We support efficient-alternative residential and commercial energy and requirements for all buildings being built or upgraded at taxpayer expense to be built with energy efficient features.
- Climate Change
  - We recognize global climate change as caused by human practices. We support worldwide efforts to address human-made climate change by reducing energy use in buildings, transportation, industry, and increasing renewable energy production.
  - We support rejoining the international community by signing the Paris Climate Treaty of 2015.
- Sustainable Economies in a Rural Context
  - We support the protection of reclamation funds,

bonding requirements, employee wages and employee benefits in bankruptcy proceedings.
    - We support efforts to identify and nurture opportunities for economic diversification looking to a future in which mineral resources are but one of many anchors for our economy.
    - We support programs and policies that enhance the viability of locally owned small businesses and markets and family-owned farms and ranches.
    - We support job creation in Wyoming through the development and manufacture of alternative, renewable energy resources including solar, wind power, and geothermal energy.
    - We support the expansion of locally designed recycling programs.
- Natural Resource Management and the Environment
    - We value the importance of clean air, land and water, open spaces, abundant wildlife, and wilderness. The conservation and protection of these resources enhance our quality of life and our economy.
    - Wyoming's public land heritage is one of our greatest assets, and public lands should remain public.
    - We oppose the attempted takeover of federally-managed public lands by the states.
    - We support recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, camping and hiking on public lands.
    - We support stewardship of our national and state parks, monuments, and wildlife refuges, and environmentally responsible public access to public lands, minimizing additional roads in our national parks and forests and maintaining roadless areas.

- We support the continued protection and health of our citizens from threats posed by unclean water and polluted air by all causes including fracking.
- We support state and federal audits by companies potentially responsible for pollution.
- We believe in protecting Wyoming water rights.
- We oppose the disposal of any hazardous or radioactive wastes not generated in Wyoming.
- We support adequate protections before the disposal and storage of any in-state generated wastes.
- We support laws that inhibit the use of chemicals that cause biological and ecological harm.
- We support GMO labeling laws to protect the health of all citizens.

- Public Services
  - We believe all Wyoming residents should have access to adequate nutrition and affordable housing.
  - We support programs to ameliorate the serious issues facing children and families including poverty, mental health needs, violence, health care, and alcohol and substance abuse.
  - We support programs to address Wyoming's significant problem with suicide. We particularly support programs for youth, especially lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and gender nonconforming youth and any others who are disproportionately at risk.
  - We support funding sufficient for maintaining and improving our existing infrastructure and developing a nationwide high-speed rail system.
  - We support robust funding for public media, the visual, performing, and literary arts and encourage the Wyoming Arts Council to develop additional public/private initiatives to fund and develop local

artists.

- Law Enforcement/Regulation
    - We support law enforcement in their efforts to provide a safe environment for all Wyoming citizens.
    - Given the seriousness and prevalence of this particular social problem, we support the prevention of domestic violence and abuse and the prosecution of perpetrators.