



2026 Draft PLATFORM

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2025-2026 California Democratic Party Platform Committee

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Preamble

California Democrats are united in their belief that when Democrats lead, the country does better. We allow space for new ideas and differing opinions and we love a good debate. When we come together, there are certain beliefs we all share about what this party stands for. This Platform reflects our shared understanding of what defines a California Democrat.

California Democrats stand for affordable healthcare that is responsive to the needs of the patient, not the insurance company. Children deserve the best start in life with high quality education that is accessible to all, and strong gun safety laws that keep them safe, in the classroom and at home. We agree that we must meet the needs of those living in rural areas as well as our urban cities.

California Democrats stand for an immigration system that respects the dignity and legal protections of all human beings, regardless of their citizenship status. We believe in strong Labor protections in partnership with the Unions to provide every resident with a livable wage and benefits. And we agree that all Veterans and Service Members and their families should receive support and services that are reflective of their service to our country.

Business & Economy

A robust economy and business climate that creates jobs and expands opportunity for all is fundamental to the promise of the American Dream and the spirit of California. Work provides dignity and contributes to our individual and collective growth. We contribute to the tax base that funds programs and policies we champion as Democrats to advance economic justice and a fair distribution of resources. We must continue encouraging creativity and innovation that typify all parts of California and draw people from across the country and the world.

California's long-term economic strength also depends on climate resilience, ensuring that growth, innovation, and infrastructure investment prepare our communities to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

To grow jobs and assure a prosperous future for all Californians, California Democrats will:

Small Business

1. Support the sustainable growth of small businesses, which serve as the backbone of California's economy, with special consideration for the challenges faced by rural small businesses;
2. Increase opportunities in public contracting for small businesses including those owned by Black, American Indian, and People of Color (BIPOC), LGBTQ+, and women;
3. Expand mentorship, after-school care, workforce development, and microloan programs to access small businesses and entrepreneurship opportunities, particularly for women, Blacks, American Indian, and People of Color (BIPOC), LGBTQ+, and those with reduced access to business resources.
4. Promote and guarantee low-interest small business loans to provide seed capital to launch and expand small businesses;
5. Support the expansion and long-term stability of small businesses;

6. Implement tax policies that benefit small and sustainable businesses;
7. Preserve regulations that protect the public and small businesses from anti-competitive practices by large corporations;
8. Support programs and regulations that assist small businesses in complying with public-protection requirements;
9. Work to ensure all businesses provide services fully accessible to all Californians;

Banking and Access to Capital

1. Facilitate banking services that offer community banks, public and municipal banks, and credit unions incentives for implementing new technologies that benefit small businesses and consumers;
2. Support the separation of retail and investment banking freeing capital for loans to businesses and individuals and safeguarding Californians with existing deposits from speculative investment activities;
3. Support legislation to convert the California Infrastructure and Development Bank into a depository bank to expand infrastructure loans and strengthen loan guarantees for small business, and provide more stable and equitable returns on municipal and pension fund deposits;
4. Strengthen agencies that oversee and regulate the financial services industry; and,
5. Expand access capital through Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) and micro-loan programs.

Workers, Jobs, and Reindustrialization

1. Support the rights of all employees to organize, select bargaining representatives through card-check recognition,
2. Support the right to work in a safe environment, and be free from intimidation and retaliation;
3. Oppose privatization of essential government services and outsourcing of public sector jobs;
4. Promote the development and purchase of goods that are made in America;
5. Support the modification of the U.S. tax code to incentivize hiring workers in the United States;
6. Encourage an investment in California's transportation infrastructure for long-term, statewide growth including maintaining and improving California's rural roads and highways;
7. Support efforts to expand high-speed rail that improve mobility and commerce;
8. Support and fund job retraining and vocational rehabilitation programs to meet the needs of California's evolving economy;
9. Support policies that reward employers that choose to remain in California by enabling the State Treasurer and Board of Equalization to negotiate competitive-state-based fees and/or taxes packages that reduce incentives for employers to relocate out of state;
10. Oppose tax breaks for companies that move jobs out of California or overseas and support tax incentives for companies that invest in California;
11. Support fair international trade agreements that uphold human rights and labor standards.
12. Support the implementation of tax policies that provide a higher degree of equity, including a fair self-employment tax rate to support small businesses;
13. Support job-creating businesses and cooperative member/worker-owned small businesses and provide opportunities for growth of already successful businesses;

14. Support the regulation of “payday” lenders and encourage the creation of community-based, micro-lenders and municipal lending alternatives to assist people and businesses needing short-term financial assistance to meet critical needs;
15. Phase out unwarranted corporate farm subsidies to create a more equitable and local food market system;
16. Support uniform criteria for determining a “small business” and eliminate loopholes that allow large corporations to benefit from preferences intended for small businesses;
17. Encourage a pro-employment re-industrialization policy that promotes incentives favoring creation of new employment, industries, and small business ownership specifically through support of environmentally sustainable local enterprises, with priority aid to transition depressed communities;
18. Support efforts to extend federal unemployment benefits to those who have exhausted their benefits;
19. Advocate for increased public funding to advance science and technology with re-evaluation of intellectual property ownership rights for the greater good;
20. Amend the California Constitution to remove the two-thirds vote threshold for the passage of new special taxes or assessments and replace it with a 55% voter threshold;
21. Require that all corporate-owned commercial properties including manufacturing plants and massive rental properties, malls, and retail sales properties be assessed at the current market value;
22. Work with the state legislature to increase the minimum tax rate from 1% to 2% on commercial properties;
23. Work with the state legislature to find a more equitable tax structure that will provide local governments with adequate funding for the services that are needed;
24. Mitigate effects of decades-long corporate tax welfare and develop policies that require corporations to reinvest in workers and incentives that will enhance the middle class job growth with higher salaries rather than using profits to buy back stock or pay dividends;
25. Support a more progressive income tax;
26. Advocate for transparency in Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) arbitration proceedings;
27. Encourage good corporate citizenship by supporting policies that hold irresponsible corporate decision-makers personally liable for corporate criminal conduct under their watch;
28. Support efforts to protect small and medium sized businesses from cyber-attacks;
29. Support an equitable Preparedness Strategy and Response for future pandemics or crises effecting small businesses;
30. Support policies that protect small businesses from organized retail crime and vandalism;
31. Encourage continued innovation while ensuring technology remains responsive to the needs of Californians;
32. Support employee ownership of businesses through Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs) and worker-owned cooperatives by funding outreach, feasibility studies, loan guarantees, and eliminating other barriers to employee ownership;
33. Provide property tax exemptions for all non-profit developments that provide 100% affordable housing for low, very-low and extremely low income tenants to prevent homelessness and provide for our unhoused community;
34. Support full legal recognition of street and home-based businesses and the elimination of obstacles for low-income people who want to start a small business at home or on the street; and,
35. Reduce waste, avoidance, and fraud in our tax systems to improve revenue collection.

Children and Families

California Democrats understand that children and young people are integral to our society. For them to thrive, we will work to provide them with a healthy start, a solid education, and a safe community. We support the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, recognizing as a human right that children should be afforded special care and protection.

To ensure that all children and young adults have the tools to reach their full potential, California Democrats will:

1. Work to support child and community well-being through programs and agencies that promote mental and physical health, provide social services for the myriad of issues young people face, prevent child abuse, and fund programs that keep families together through services. These programs and agencies must cover all children, regardless of financial or social status;
2. Support healthcare and developmental wellness through access to timely quality health care services across all ages from pre-natal to young adults, addressing medical, mental, and behavioral services;
3. Support the providers who ensure the care of California's children, through their access to education, work, and labor representation, as children must have access to high-quality, affordable childcare, across all models;
4. Support access to quality education, healthy school meal programs, and non-toxic school buildings and materials to ensure children have a safe and healthy learning environment;
5. Work to protect the health rights of children and parents through, but not limited to, addressing perinatal care to reduce Black infant and maternal mortality and access to testing for genetic diseases in infants – especially for communities historically underserved and not served;
6. Work to end and properly address the impacts to children and young adults of sexual harassment, gender based violence, bullying, and discrimination, based on gender, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation; and,
7. Support the Governor's California Men's Service Challenge and other efforts to address mental health concerns for young men.

Support the Child Welfare System and the Courts to ensure that all children are served and protected.

1. Work to ensure that Child Protective Services and social workers utilize trauma-informed practices and have the resources needed to protect children in familial (domestic) and non-familial (institutional) environments and support foster youth;
2. Work to ensure that Child Protective Services reunify families when possible; improve the foster care system to ensure that child abuse and neglect court proceedings that protect the welfare of children are accessible, swift, and unbiased; aggressively enforce child-support payment rulings; ensure child support payments are timely paid and urge enforcement in a manner that maintains a payer's ability to pay; and encourage foster youth to successfully complete high school;
3. Support the adult guardians and children who interact with Child Protective Services, ensuring a fair and equitable legal process for all;
4. Support nonprofit child welfare and family service agencies with the financial resources necessary to meet the increasing demand for high-acuity youth stabilization in kinship/relative care homes, resource family homes (formerly known as foster family

homes) and residential care facilities known in California as Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs);

5. Work to combat the disproportionate rate at which families of color are unnecessarily reported to and involved with the Child Welfare System by working to address racial disproportionality through improved training and decision support tools to help mandated reporters and hotline operators distinguish between a parent's economic disadvantage and true neglect; and,
 6. Promote community-based family support services to keep families who could be better-served elsewhere out of the Child Welfare System, thereby freeing-up resources for those children who need to be protected and separated from dangerous situations.
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Civil Justice

California Democrats support a strong and accessible civil justice system to defend public health, safety and the environment, and to vindicate the rights of consumers, injured persons, employees, and all of our citizens equally. This is a bedrock right granted by the Seventh Amendment, which provides the "right of trial by jury" in all civil cases.

In recent years, our civil justice system has come under concerted attack by corporations shielding themselves from civil liability for wrongful conduct by using their money and power to deny everyday people fair access to the courts. This has been done under the false and misleading cloak of "tort reform."

Support Fair Justice and Allow Access to Courts

To reverse these attacks on the rights of our citizens to seek full and fair justice through the courts, California Democrats will:

1. Oppose forced arbitration and support passage of the Arbitration Fairness Act that provides that "no pre-dispute arbitration agreement shall be valid or enforceable if it requires arbitration of an employment dispute, consumer dispute, or civil rights dispute";
2. Support the right of the people to join together in class actions and condemn the U.S. Supreme Court rulings in *AT&T Mobility v. Concepcion* (2011) and *American Express Co. v. Italian Colors Restaurant* (2013) that gave corporations the right to prohibit class actions against them by consumers and employees and force such individuals to arbitrate all claims;
3. Trust juries to determine the appropriate level of compensation for a prevailing plaintiff in a lawsuit and oppose any arbitrary limits on damages for pain and suffering victims in medical malpractice;
4. Support review of raising the limits on the amount of damages an injured party can claim under current law in malpractice cases; and
5. Seek to end the use of confidentiality clauses in settlements involving matters of public health and safety.

In many instances, individuals face multiple simultaneous legal problems. California Democrats believe that reforms to civil justice must recognize overlap in the law and develop an all-encompassing approach to civil justice which supports individual litigants, whose involvement in one area of the law often spills over into others and empower such litigants to obtain justice regardless of a lack of economic resources.

Support Equal Justice and Access to All

California Democrats believe fair and equal justice requires actions to ensure this right is afforded to those most vulnerable families already in crisis. Any such delays may put such families, especially in domestic violence situations, in even more tenuous and often dangerous conditions. California Democrats will fight for culturally competent, multi-lingual, and trauma informed courts and legal assistance for people who represent themselves as well as for family law centers which provide assistance in divorce, child custody, child support, and domestic violence, in order to promote greater access to the courts for people of color, immigrants, women, and the LGBTQ+ community.

To restore fair and equal access to the civil justice system for all Californians, California Democrats will:

1. Support restoration of full funding for the courts;
2. Support reforms to the Administrative Office of the Courts that will place more resources to helping individuals and reduce managerial operations;
3. Support fair and reasonable alternatives to litigation, such as alternative dispute resolution and mediation, as long as such alternatives are fully voluntary and not coerced;
4. Support expedited trial tracks;
5. Support giving higher priority to cases involving individual and small business plaintiffs over cases involving corporate plaintiffs, including family law and probate cases, until full court funding is restored.
6. Support reforms to the attorney admissions process to reduce racial discrimination and inherent bias in the legal profession and to provide access to justice for all Californians;
7. Work to expand the availability of free or affordable civil legal services to all Californians who are unable to afford civil legal services;
8. Support law school tuition assistance and/or debt forgiveness for attorneys who agree to work in underserved areas or who dedicate thirty percent or more of their practice to providing free or affordable legal services; and,
9. Support the appointment, endorsement, and retention of diverse Democratic judicial officers who are culturally competent and representative of the communities where they live.

Criminal Justice

California Democrats are committed to public safety, while supporting a criminal justice system that provides fair and equitable treatment for all. We support efforts to reimagine public safety programs to ensure that our communities are safe and secure while protecting the rights of all residents. Crime prevention and rehabilitation must focus on evidence-based programs and investment in alternatives to incarceration.

We are committed to eliminating racial and economic disparities within the criminal justice system and to ending mass incarceration in California prisons and jails.

Criminal justice reform must incorporate every aspect of the criminal justice system, including what we choose to criminalize; the practices and behavior of law enforcement professionals; charging, sentencing, and bail; treatment of those incarcerated; diversion and rehabilitation;

and reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals into society.

Every person is endowed with inalienable human rights including the right to individual autonomy and to be free from violence and exploitation, including labor and sex trafficking.

To promote a fair and just criminal justice system, California Democrats will:

Fair and Just Laws and Equitable Enforcement

1. Oppose criminalization of persons who commit low-level offenses due to homelessness or mental illness by directing them to public health and housing services, rather than resorting to arrest;
2. Oppose homeless encampment sweeps and destruction of tents, shelters, and possessions absent a public health necessity or unless adequate health and transitional housing services are available;
3. Support equal enforcement of laws and policies that protect both women and men from sexual assault and rape;
4. Support the ongoing regulation and taxation of cannabis, while prioritizing health, education, and safety over revenue or profits;
5. Support balanced funding for public defender and district attorney agencies to achieve the promise of a constitutionally mandated defense;
6. Support reforms to the sex-offender registry that would remove those crimes, and the names of those convicted of crimes, that pose no public safety risk;
7. Oppose the use of nuisance ordinances to evict tenants in a discriminatory way;
8. Support statewide reforms to the criminal grand jury selection process to ensure that those empaneled represent the demographics of the county in which they sit so as to reduce biases, and to promote the equal application and administration of justice; and,
9. Support the decriminalization of the possession and use of small amounts of illegal drugs and implement a health-based rather than punitive-based approach to drug addiction;

Crime Prevention

1. Support investment in proven strategies to prevent crime, including providing structured preschool and afterschool programs for youth, as well as programs and policies to promote school retention and graduation to effectively end the school-to-prison pipeline;
2. Support community-based gang prevention and intervention programs; and,
3. Support implementing community policing strategies where the officers and the community work together as partners;

Law Enforcement Practices and Accountability

1. Support the implementation of de-escalation policies and practices rather than resorting to physical restraint or threat of such actions in the face of anger, disagreement, or resistance;
2. Support the recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers who are trained to work effectively in cross-cultural situations;
3. Support law enforcement officers with excellent pay and benefits and resources to work in a safe environment;
4. Support laws that will identify and hold enforcement officers accountable for misconduct, including dismissal where appropriate;

5. Encourage local governments to hold peace officers personally liable for damage awards in cases of excessive force and wrongful death where a violation of policy is found;
6. Support training programs for law enforcement officers that include de-escalation; implicit, unconscious, and explicit bias; cultural competency; interacting with people with disabilities, including individuals with mental or behavioral health challenges; and dealing with individuals under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
7. Support the creation of local civilian oversight for all law enforcement agencies and insist on independent investigators in cases of police use of deadly force or in-custody death;
8. Declare that the prevalence and impact of inequitable and inappropriate use of force by law enforcement giving rise to deaths, injuries, trauma, and stress that disproportionately affects marginalized populations is a critical public health issue;
9. Support the universal use of police body and dashboard cameras and prisoner compartment cameras;
10. Support rules requiring police officers to mitigate injuries by calling for medical assistance where requested or where a suspect has been injured during a police encounter;
11. Support prioritizing funding for labs to complete all rape kits in a timely manner;
12. Support the use of DNA testing where appropriate to protect those wrongfully accused and to set free those wrongfully convicted;
13. Challenge the use of "stop and frisk," "pretext stops," and other detention policies that disproportionately target persons of color; and support a prohibition on law enforcement officers stopping people for technical non-safety-related traffic infractions and allow law enforcement officers to request permission to search during traffic stops **only** when able to document a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of a crime;
14. Support use of mobile crisis response teams staffed by behavioral health professionals instead of law enforcement to be the first responders to mental or behavioral health-related calls that do not involve known threats of violence or medical emergencies; and,
15. Support the development of policing plans (including financial transparency) for unincorporated communities so that these residents may better advocate for their municipal needs;

Crime Survivors

1. Support victim-witness advocacy that provides therapeutic assistance, financial compensation, and support for comprehensive services for victims of crime;
2. Monitor victim-services in district attorney offices to ensure that victims are informed of progress of their cases, arraignments or plea agreements, and when a perpetrator is released from custody;
3. Support expanding victim advocacy services, ensuring timely and thorough investigations, and strengthening sentencing integrity for violent crimes; and,
4. Support statewide funding of trauma-informed programs for survivors, including parents of murdered children;

Juvenile Justice

1. Oppose youth being held in adult prisons and jails and the practice of trying juveniles as adults;
2. Support youth parole by providing review for all sentences committed before the age of 23, including sentences of Life, Life Without the Possibility of Parole, and determinate

- sentences;
3. Support increased oversight of juvenile justice agencies and implementation of trauma-responsive justice systems grounded in adolescent development to yield better outcomes for youth and reduce racial and socioeconomic inequalities; and,
 4. Work toward ending the systematic bias that disadvantages and harms students based on stereotypes surrounding disabilities, race, and socioeconomic status;

Fairness for the Accused and Rehabilitation of Offenders

1. Support the expansion of restorative justice programs in schools, universities, juvenile facilities, jails, prisons, and as diversion from criminal prosecution for both youth and adults where the victim chooses restorative justice;
2. Support effective, quality drug treatment programs that are easily accessible for every person with an alcohol or substance abuse disorder;
3. Support the establishment of a non-partisan sentencing commission that is mandated to review sentencing laws;
4. Support reducing prison overcrowding by decreasing penalties and decriminalizing certain drug and other non-violent offenses, implementing state law provisions for compassionate release and release for older, long-term prisoners, and support community service as an alternative sentence for low-risk individuals;
5. Support reforming the bail system so that persons awaiting trial do not languish in jails solely because of financial circumstances;
6. Support abolishing capital punishment and replacing it with lifetime incarceration without the possibility of parole;
7. Oppose using prisons and jails as *de facto* mental health facilities and fight to adequately fund community mental health and substance abuse programs;
8. Support requirements that all law enforcement and prison be trained on how to properly interact with those with mental health challenges;
9. Defend policies that ensure incarcerated transgender people be housed with dignity and respect and according to their gender identity or their perception of their own health and safety needs, and require that incarcerated people's self-reported gender identity, first name, and gender pronouns be recorded and used by prison staff, corrections officers, and contractors;
10. Support fair wages for use of prison labor by public agencies to help end involuntary servitude or use of prison labor by private companies;
11. Advocate that the state adopt concrete measures to eliminate the use of solitary confinement;
12. Support ending the practice of housing Californians in out-of-state jails and prisons;
13. Support comprehensive rehabilitation programs to reduce recidivism;
14. Support elimination of all private prisons, jails, and detention centers;
15. Support contact and communication between those who are incarcerated and their families because the strongest predictor of post-incarceration success is family support;
16. Support investment in programs that assist families in visitation, communication, and planning for re-entry;
17. Support trauma-informed education and programs in correctional facilities that grant high school diplomas and prepare inmates for successful re-entry;
18. Support eliminating or substantially limiting the use of the Three Strikes law by establishing a time period, after which prior offenses cannot be counted as strikes, establishing that juvenile adjudications cannot be counted as strikes, and disallowing the doubling of sentences for prior strikes when the new offense is not serious or violent, as significant steps towards reducing racial disparities in our criminal justice system;

19. Support partnerships with local building and construction trades councils to provide career training to incarcerated men and women through apprenticeship programs;
20. Support providing individuals on parole and probation with clear information about their rights and responsibilities in order to reduce parole and probation violations; and,
21. Support removing barriers to accessing public benefits for people with felony convictions, including victim services and removing unreasonable or unrelated barriers to employment based on prior incarceration or convictions;

Anti-Human Trafficking

1. Work with state and federal lawmakers to enhance to enhance anti-human trafficking efforts that do not criminalize victims and survivors;
 2. Urge lawmakers to fund direct services to aid human trafficking victims and survivors; and,
 3. Support decriminalization of sex acts committed by individuals forced into human trafficking and support providing sex trafficking victims an affirmative defense against solicitation and related charges and vacating any such prior convictions.
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Culture and the Arts

California Democrats believe in freedom of expression without compromise, public support of the arts, and the principles promoted by the California Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). We further commit to involve arts and cultural organization workers of all communities in the planning and the implementation of their artistic endeavors.

In support of the arts, California Democrats will:

1. Celebrate, encourage, and promote the honest representation and cultural diversity of our residents in all types of art, performance, and cultural practice, including Californians, past and present, and especially underrepresented groups such as California's American Indians, Black and African Americans, AAPI, Latino, and LGBTQ;
2. Work to ensure that funding and decision-making includes equal access to artists of all communities;
3. Encourage arts education in all schools through policy, financial incentives, and the incorporation of creative arts into core competency;
4. Promote multi-media public broadcasting, including community-based public radio and public access television;
5. Promote full financial inclusion for all artists for Internet use of their intellectual property and the legal protection of their work from use of Artificial Intelligence;
6. Promote the arts as a major employer and industry by recognizing the importance of creative workers to California's economy and support efforts to sustain California's international status as a center of innovation, including the film and television industry, architecture, design, technology, and the many categories of fine and performing arts;

- and,
7. Continue to support increases in funding for the California Arts Council.
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Disabilities

California Democrats believe that people with disabilities must have an active role in the formation of any legislation. Policy or program impacting their community and support their full and equitable participation in this work. California Democrats believe in full equality for people with disabilities and oppose ableism in all forms. People with disabilities have an inalienable right to participate as equals in all aspects of civic and political life. We support empowering people with disabilities to control their own lives and believe that diversity through true equity strengthens our society. California Democrats will work to break down systematic, structural and/or physical barriers preventing equality of opportunity for people with disabilities. We will work to ensure the creation of a strong social safety net by providing accessible affordable housing, quality education, job-training, increased employment, and other tools for independence. California Democrats support enforcement and funding of all federal, state, and local civil rights legislation and regulations.

To ensure equality for people with disabilities, California Democrats will;

1. Register people with disabilities to vote, and encourage all people with disabilities to exercise their right to independently cast a private ballot and work to abolish any physical, regulatory, or legislative barriers that inhibit the ability to exercise this right;
2. Expect elected officials to have one staff person well-versed in disability civil rights issues and encourage Party- endorsed candidates to engage with people and organizations well-versed in disability civil rights issues to inform their policy positions;
3. Actively support participation and employment of people with disabilities at all levels of the Party and ensure that all Party functions are fully accessible to all who wish to participate;
4. Support strengthening Democratic organizations dedicated to advocating for full inclusion of people with disabilities;
5. Support a California master plan for aging and people with disabilities of all age groups;
6. Encourage municipalities, local governments, and school districts to establish disability advisory bodies to assist in considering issues, needs, accommodations, and the unique perspectives of people with disabilities;
7. Support financial empowerment by increasing employment of people with disabilities at all levels of the workforce; increase opportunities for people with disabilities to save and create financial stability, promote training people with disabilities to become entrepreneurs; and work with unions to promote and develop alternative forms of employment for people with disabilities;
8. Ensure that disability alone is never a permissible consideration for inability to care for a child; and work to ensure that adequate resources are provided for parents with disabilities in the same manner that they are available for parents without disabilities;
9. Ensure that SSI benefits provide an income for people with disabilities at least as high as the federal poverty level and support the elimination of the marriage penalties imposed on SSI recipients, including income parameters;

10. Work for guaranteed palliative care; support improvements to the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan by amending prohibitive costs; oppose detrimental budget cuts in Medicare/ Medi-Cal; and support the principle of informed choice;
 11. Advocate for legislation to improve accessibility to respite care and in-home support services, support higher pay and training programs for home care workers, and increase transparency and responsiveness of IHSS for clients with disabilities;
 12. Support full enforcement of accessible housing construction requirements under the ADA, Fair Housing Act, Title 24, the Rehabilitation Act, and all other applicable federal and state laws and regulations;
 13. Work to broaden financial assistance for accessible housing, vehicles, and durable medical equipment to give monetary assistance for individuals to pay for improvements to their equipment beyond the Medicare/Medi-Cal rate;
 14. Fight to eliminate housing discrimination that penalizes or denies people with disabilities the right to interdependence through shared housing with a partner;
 15. Promote parity of services for mental health and substance-related disorder benefits and medical, hearing, vision, and dental health for people with developmental and other disabilities under all public and private health care delivery plans, with the inclusion of long-term care as basic coverage in all private plans;
 16. Prioritize the development and maintenance of an interconnected public transportation system and ensure public rights-of-way remain open and accessible; and oppose actions that could result in creating barriers for people with disabilities;
 17. Prioritize making California a leader in embracing inclusive educational practices and achieving successful educational outcomes for students with disabilities;
 18. Ensure that people with disabilities are prepared for disasters and have the right to be rescued with accessible services that are well-maintained and available during an emergency; and enable people with disabilities to be returned to their homes when it is deemed safe to return; and,
 19. Actively design and implement support services programs targeted toward isolated and rural communities.
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Education

We believe in a universally well-educated population. To achieve this, California students must have access to world-class pre-K – 12 public education that will prepare them to live, work, and thrive in a multicultural, multilingual, and highly connected world. We must prepare our students for post-secondary education, career technical education, and active citizenship in the 21st century. We must fully fund public education to correct years of insufficient allocations, increase funding to put California in the top states in per student spending, and equitably distribute funding to school districts most in need.

To help educate California's young leaders and to prepare them to compete for challenging jobs, California Democrats will:

PRE-K - 12

1. Work to ensure that all four-year-old children in California have access to a high-quality preschool as an integral part of the public education system;
2. Encourage stronger coordination between early learning programs and K-12 schools;

3. Advocate for supplemental services for children such as high-quality affordable childcare, preschool and early development centers, and community-based afterschool programs;
4. Strive for full proficiency in English language arts and mathematics, especially for historically low-performing demographic subgroups, such as socioeconomically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, foster youth, English language learners, Black or African American, American Indian, and Alaskan Native students, and other historically underperforming groups;
5. Provide instruction in social studies, ethnic studies, sciences, literature, art, music, foreign languages, civics, health, physical education, and career technical education;
6. Work to ensure sure that school children have current textbooks and comprehensive library books, including history books that are inclusive and historically accurate, representing diverse historical facts beyond dominant culture narratives, and books that reflect scientific consensus on issues such as climate change, evolution, and the Big Bang theory;
7. Advocate for school policies that prioritize beneficial instruction time, a variety of student engagement techniques, and minimize chronic absenteeism;
8. Support funding by enrollment rather than attendance;
9. Work to close opportunity and achievement gaps experienced by all students of all abilities and backgrounds;
10. Advocate for providing foster youth with the targeted support and services they need to succeed in school and prepare for college and/or career;
11. Advocate for federal and state governments to fully fund special education;
12. Support programs teaching life skills, such as financial and debt management, interpersonal relationships, etc. to better prepare students to succeed in life after high school;
13. Continue supporting building and sustaining proven afterschool programs and summer extended opportunities to keep children safe, improve educational opportunity, and to close achievement gaps;
14. Work to ensure all students have access to school counselors and nurses and increase the capacity of school-based health centers to provide more children with access to physical exams, including contagious disease testing, mental health, vision, hearing, and dental services;
15. Support taking a comprehensive approach to childhood obesity by providing adequate time for exercise, offering nutrition education in schools, and ensuring that school-based meals are healthy and appealing to students;
16. Support the immediate implementation of age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education, which is objective and appropriate for use with students of all races, genders, gender expression, sexual orientations, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds throughout California;
17. Work to ensure all teachers and classified staff receive wages commensurate with their experience and expertise while offering opportunities for professional growth and continuing to honor their right to collective bargaining and all other rights afforded to them by their union;
18. Work to increase access to modern jobs by requiring that all school districts offer STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) subjects and

- encouraging students, particularly those underrepresented in STEAM, to study these subjects with necessary academic support;
19. Advocate for the replacement of sworn peace officers in schools with qualified non-police personnel who are trained to work with children and teenagers, who understand that the use of force against students is unacceptable, who recognize and address persistent issues of bias, such as institutional racism and ableism in all school systems, and who understand the need for increased empathy over potential atypical reactions from students with physical, intellectual/developmental, and behavioral disabilities;
 20. Urge schools to use restorative policies and practices and to engage in regular bias training with regard to student goal setting and disciplinary practices;
 21. Support school requirements that provide a safe environment where students are free from bullying and harassment with a reporting procedure that will not risk future harassment for those who experience and report such behavior;
 22. Work to ensure that the needs of pregnant and parenting students are met, and that they are fully supported with necessary resources to complete their education through graduation as well as with respect to their parenting responsibilities;
 23. Support effective policies and responses from schools and school districts around a student's civil right of gender expression, including, but not limited to, pronouns, use of restroom facilities and dress, and their privacy to it, and eliminating gender-based violence and sexual harassment and properly addressing it when it occurs;
 24. Work to ensure that schools follow state law that all students who menstruate have access to free menstrual hygiene products on campus;
 25. Urge schools to recognize and eliminate policies and practices that feed the unjust school-to-prison pipeline: including institutional racism and ableism, zero tolerance policies, criminalizing childhood behavior, use of law enforcement with students of color and students with disabilities, the use of exclusionary punishment such as detentions, suspensions, expulsions, and the use of any type of student restraint procedures and devices;
 26. Support making California schools a sanctuary for all children regardless of immigration status or documentation;
 27. Support implementation of the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act in public education and advocate for adequate funding to train teachers and develop curriculum that incorporates the history and contributions of LGBTQ people;
 28. Support sufficient funding for ethnic studies that requires a public secondary school course with a curriculum that teaches the histories, narratives, and contributions of California's traditionally marginalized ethnic communities;
 29. Advocate for civics as a required public and private secondary school course with a recommended curriculum that covers the basic rights and responsibilities of citizenship, how government works at the local, state, and federal levels, critical analysis of the news and political communications, and what an individual can do to participate in democratic policymaking;
 30. Support public, nonsectarian charter schools where operations are directly governed by publicly elected boards; have equitable admissions; adopt fair labor practices and respect labor neutrality; and supplement, not supplant, public education programs, particularly for students in historically low performing subgroups;

31. Work to ensure that all funds earmarked for local school districts and county boards of education only fund those programs and are not used for unrelated uses;
32. Support public schools that provide additional support for Black or African American, American Indian and Alaskan Native students by increasing or improving services provided to these targeted communities;
33. Encourage K-12 schools, school districts, and universities to become climate-ready through the creation of Climate Action Plans that detail plans to electrify buses and vehicle fleets, decarbonize buildings, and prepare adaptation strategies for emergencies involving the changing climate, including heat waves, drought, flooding, and food shortages;
34. Oppose K-12 Education Savings Accounts, school vouchers, or any programs that would take away from public school funding;
35. Support educational equity to raise students to the same level of education, without lowering standards;
36. Support at-home computer and internet access for all students to improve educational opportunities; and,
37. Advocate to expand the Community Schools model integrating focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development and engagement.

Higher Education

1. Work to return to tuition-free public college and university systems for all Californians funded through progressive taxation because a college-educated workforce without debt is vital to California's future;
2. Prioritize higher education to correct years of underfunding, some \$1 billion each for UC and CSU, to restore top quality post-secondary education and ensure a place for all qualified in-state students;
3. Support learning environments that include robust Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and encourage partnerships between school districts and local building and construction trades councils through use of project labor agreements/community workforce agreements in an effort to create pathways to construction careers;
4. Support financial aid programs so that no student pursuing higher education is overburdened by debt and support financial aid for students pursuing an apprenticeship or trade school in a manner that is equitable to students pursuing college or university;
5. Advocate expanding the Cal Grant program within the community college system;
6. Advocate for increased funding for financial aid programs, such as Cal Grant and Pell Grant, to help cover non-tuition costs, such as housing and transportation, to eliminate student homelessness and food instability, and to cover full attendance cost for very low income students;
7. Support access to healthy eating in and out of school through nutrition and cooking classes that address the availability of food choices that do not increase the risk of diabetes and obesity;
8. Support negotiating contracts with local, affordable food vendors for campus food and dining options;

9. Advocate for college and university “adjunct faculty” who do the same work as full-time faculty and meet the same professional standards to receive comparable, livable wages, benefits and opportunities for advancement;
10. Encourage community colleges and other colleges and universities to use full-time faculty as practicable to provide office-hour faculty support to ensure student access to all courses and increase on-time graduation rates;
11. Support Adult Education programs, including Older Adult Education and Community College programs for lifelong learning, a part-time student framework, and access beyond traditional models;
12. Oppose tax bill provisions that would eliminate the exemption of tuition waivers from taxable income or that would repeal the student loan interest deduction or the Lifetime Learning Credit;
13. Support state funding for existing community colleges and online class systems and restrict funding for unaccredited, completely online community colleges;
14. Support the re-establishment and implementation of equitable affirmative action in admissions processes at California’s public universities and colleges;
15. Support medical school debt forgiveness for all professionals, such as teachers and doctors, who agree to work in underserved rural areas;
16. Advocate for childcare services and family resource centers for our student parents at colleges and universities to help increase success and economic security for two generations – student parents and their children;
17. Support the removal of mascots with American Indian or Alaskan Native names to more inclusive mascots;
18. Support affordable campus housing that is more cost-effective than the surrounding community;
19. Support effective policies and responses from all institutions providing post-secondary education to eliminate gender-based violence and sexual harassment and properly address it when it occurs; and,
20. Work to ensure that campus healthcare providers and insurance plans provide a full range of reproductive healthcare, including, but not limited to, access to medication abortion and referrals to external providers as appropriate or needed.

Energy & the Environment Plank

California Democrats are committed to leading the nation and the world in building a clean, resilient economy that delivers affordable, reliable energy, high-quality union jobs, healthy communities, restored ecosystems, and a safe climate for future generations. We believe the state’s transition away from fossil fuels, alongside protecting forests and natural lands, advancing sustainable agriculture, reducing pollution, and strengthening climate resilience, are not only an environmental necessity, but also an economic opportunity that should create union jobs, lower costs over time, improve public health, and reduce the pollution burden disproportionately borne by low-income communities and communities of color.

Climate Leadership & Emissions Reductions

To be a climate leader and reduce emissions, California Democrats reaffirm our commitment to achieving:

1. 100% clean electricity by 2045 or sooner, and 90% by 2035;
2. Net-zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2045;
3. Rapid emissions reductions from the electricity, transportation, buildings, and industrial sectors, using science-based pathways; and,
4. An expedited transition from fossil fuels, ensuring workers and communities are supported through training, economic diversification, and wage protections.

Reliable, Affordable & Clean Power System

California must modernize and expand its electric grid to deliver affordable, reliable clean power and support the transition to a zero-carbon economy. Therefore, California Democrats will:

1. Endorse necessary improvements in transmission and distribution grid modernization to support electrification and load growth requirements;
2. Promote faster permitting for renewable projects, storage, and transmissions;
3. Support utility accountability for affordability, reliability, and customer safety;
4. Foster expanded energy storage, demand flexibility, and smart grid technologies;
5. Reinforce investing in research and deployment of clean firm power such as geothermal and other emerging technologies;
6. Advocate for funding to maintain a reliable electrical grid that will provide connectivity to all California communities; and,
7. Prioritize the growth of distributed energy systems and microgrids that reduce energy burden and increase resiliency for all Californians, including renters and low-income families.

Transportation & Mobility for All

Transportation is California's largest source of emissions. In order to create a clean transportation future where mobility is accessible to all, California Democrats will:

1. Accelerate zero-emission vehicle adoption for passenger, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles;
2. Defend California's longstanding ability to set standards for tailpipe emissions;
3. Promote a generous cash-for-clunkers program, beginning with the worst; polluting cars, so that the working and middle class have effective incentives to trade in their older cars for clean cars;
4. Support expanding charging infrastructure statewide;
5. Encourage investing in transit, walkable communities, and bicycle networks with transit-friendly zoning;
6. Advance clean-fuel innovation for marine, aviation, freight corridors, and agriculture; and,

7. Support road-use charge alternatives to the gas tax that fund road costs fairly and protect low- and middle-income and rural drivers.

Clean and Competitive Industry

Industrial pollution is among the hardest to abate, and decarbonizing manufacturing and freight is essential to protecting communities and building a resilient economy. In order to create a clean and competitive economy, California Democrats will:

1. Uphold requirements for new large industrial customers to pay for their own marginal water and clean-energy supply rather than socializing the costs to users; and,
2. Facilitate innovation to decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors (like cement and steel), including electrification of industrial heat, thermal energy storage, clean hydrogen, renewable fuels, and clean manufacturing technologies.

Healthy Buildings, Homes & Communities

To create healthy communities, California Democrats will:

1. Encourage electrification of homes and commercial buildings as equipment is replaced, prioritizing affordability;
2. Promote energy-efficient retrofits incentives with heat pump adoption for heating, cooling, and hot water;
3. Uphold indoor air quality protections from fossil fuel combustion;
4. Promote fossil-free, net-zero construction with durable, fire-resistant, energy-efficient materials built by a skilled and trained workforce;
5. Prioritize dense infill development over suburban sprawl;
6. Encourage policies and practices that enable communities to be resilient in the event of natural and human-made disasters; and,
7. Provide green spaces and community gardens for all communities.

Environmental Justice

Frontline communities have endured the worst pollution and climate impacts, and justice demands policies that reduce harm, restore health, and invest in resilience. Clean air and safe water are fundamental rights. To champion environmental justice, California Democrats will:

1. Prioritize reducing pollution and cumulative impacts in disadvantaged and frontline communities;
2. Work toward reducing city and county dependence on fossil fuel industry tax revenue to enable local communities to phase out fossil fuel extraction;
3. Favor enforcing setbacks for industrial sites near homes and sensitive areas, and requiring polluters to mitigate and compensate impacted communities;
4. Support tribal consultation and sovereignty in climate planning;
5. Facilitate investments that ensure climate adaptation for vulnerable communities;
6. Promote the creation of a climate Superfund to hold accountable fossil fuel businesses doing business in California for damages they cause Californians;

7. Champion safe, affordable drinking water for every Californian; and,
8. Prioritize climate-resilient water strategies—including efficiency, stormwater capture, groundwater banking, and potable reuse—over desalination and new dams.

Wildfire Resilience

More extreme wildfires threaten lives, ecosystems, and infrastructure. In order to be wildfire resilient, California Democrats will:

1. Back forest and land-management strategies based in science;
2. Advance modernized emergency response systems;
3. Support hardening homes, communities, and utility infrastructure to stop the spread of fires; and,
4. Promote insurance companies testing requirements for hazardous materials after wildfires, conduct and verify remediation, and provide living support until homes and land are safe.

Environment, Nature & Public Lands

California's landscapes and natural heritage must be preserved to promote biodiversity, cultural heritage, and climate resilience. To protect the environment, California Democrats will:

1. Champion protecting California's diverse flora and fauna: support the state's goal of conserving 30 percent of the state's land and waters by the year 2030 to preserve biodiversity and the open space necessary to support the adaptation of flora and fauna to climate impacts;
2. Support protecting the coast, wetlands, oceans, and opposing offshore and onshore drilling;
3. Work toward protecting California's majestic forests by supporting sustainable forestry, opposing clearcutting, and restoring climate-resilient native species;
4. Promote protecting California's iconic desert ecosystems, safeguard aquifers, natural springs, and wetlands vital to the desert ecosystem from drainage and exploitation;
5. Encourage the protection of our treasured mountain and alpine lake ecosystems and restore the clarity and purity of their waters for future generations;
6. Support the mandate to ensure clean drinking water for Californians by fully protecting all water sources, funding the treatment systems needed to clean up existing contamination;
7. Champion California's public lands for all to appreciate and support dedicated funding for state parks and full funding of state resource agencies;
8. Support opposing sales of public forests and parklands;
9. Promote the rights of California American Indians and Tribal governments to steward sites of cultural and spiritual significance including, but not limited to, their ancestral burial, cultural, and sacred sites and, where possible, the return of lands to the jurisdiction and stewardship of American Indians and Tribal governments;
10. Align on zero-waste principles and reducing plastic pollution statewide; and,

11. Encourage research and development of recycling and product lifecycle solutions.

Agriculture & Food System

California's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities are critical partners in reducing emissions, improving soil health, and strengthening the state's food system. To ensure agricultural and rural prosperity, California Democrats will:

1. Favor regenerative agriculture and climate-smart farming;
2. Prioritize advancing solutions that cut methane and nitrous oxide emissions from agriculture through innovation, incentives, and collaboration with farmers and ranchers;
3. Encourage policies that encourage plant-based alternatives to reduce reliance on high-emissions animal agriculture and promote humane treatment of farmed animals;
4. Support reducing harmful pesticides;
5. Accelerate the expansion of local food systems, farm-to-table programs, and community gardens; and,
6. Promote strengthening rural economies in the clean-energy transition.

A Clean-Energy Economy Built on Good Jobs

A measured and orderly clean-energy transition must be powered by workforce development and strong labor standards. To promote a clean economy, California Democrats will:

1. Support economic development that ensures fossil-fuel workers and communities are not left behind;
2. Promote public-private partnerships that drive innovation and long-term productivity;
3. Support rapid deployment of the energy transition using skilled and trained workers and the highest union standards, including prevailing wage requirements; and,
4. Advocate for a public jobs program to support mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Equality of Rights and Opportunity

California Democrats take pride in and celebrate our diversity and work to foster the common values and commitments that unite all people, regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, cultural heritage, national origin, citizenship status, disability, physical attributes, socio-economic status, gender, race, or personal views on religion. We affirm our commitment to the full equality, inclusion, and acceptance of people of all gender identities and gender expressions and we support a vision of religious freedom that respects pluralism and rejects the misuse of religion to discriminate.

To fight for all people to live with dignity and equality, California Democrats will:

1. Support a just and inclusive society by speaking out with a public and unified voice against all forms of racism, classism, casteism, sexism, ageism, ableism, anti-LGBTQ+ bias, antisemitism, religious persecution, and discrimination, harassment, hatred, and violence directed at vulnerable populations;
2. Support movements that address targeted discrimination and are committed to racial, social, economic, and environmental justice;
3. Support policies that ensure equal opportunities for women, guarantee equal pay for equal work, and oppose all forms of discrimination, harassment, hatred, and violence against women at home and in the workplace;
4. Support policies that ensure equal opportunities for all persons with disabilities, guarantee equal pay for equal work, and oppose all forms of discrimination, harassment, hatred, and violence in all settings;
5. Encourage and support, diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility inclusion programs aimed at enhancing equality in employment, education, and business opportunities;
6. Affirm the right to accept or reject and express any religious belief;
7. Support the protection of the constitutional and sovereign rights of American Indian and Alaskan Native Nations and all Indigenous Peoples;
8. Support protections against discrimination based on an individual's sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, in matters of employment, housing, public spaces and services, healthcare, state and federally funded programs, credit, education, parental rights, use of facilities, and jury service;
9. Affirm the right of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals to trans healthcare and be referred to by their chosen name, gender, and pronoun;
10. Encourage and support more women, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities, and people of color to run for elected office at the local, state, and federal level;
11. Support the use of gender-neutral language;
12. Support wage and economic equality in our communities;
13. Support reparations for the lasting harms caused to African Americans by slavery; and,
14. Work to ensure that government at all levels and our legal system works for all citizens, not just the privileged.

Gun Safety

California Democrats recognize the increasing impact of gun safety, particularly in communities of color. California leads the nation with some of the most stringent gun safety laws, reducing our state's firearm mortality by 55% since 1993. Still, 3,000 Californians die as a result of gun violence every year.

To improve gun safety, California Democrats will:

1. Support a federal ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines;
2. Support federal expansion of universal criminal background checks to include the sale of every gun, ammunition, and "ghost gun" component;
3. Support legislation that would prohibit those with a history of violence, domestic abuse, or mental health concerns from purchasing or owning a weapon of any kind;
4. Support requiring educational programs on safe use and storage of firearms and ammunition before any purchase approval;
5. Support requiring all gun owners to pay an annual registration fee and carry liability insurance for each gun owned;
6. Support requiring all guns have serial numbers and all gun sales, commercial and private, are to be reported to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms or appropriate state agency;
7. Support policies that would restrict access to firearms by children, suicidal persons, and those in emotional crisis;
8. Support legislation that would hold gun owners liable for any crimes committed with their firearms for failure to follow safe storage practices;
9. Support providing necessary resources and funding to implement training and enforcement of California's existing gun laws, including the Armed Prohibited Persons System Program and the Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO), and means to trace all guns and to investigate all denied firearm purchasers;
10. Support the expansion of petitioners of GVROs to include co-workers, teachers, principals, employers, and mental health workers;
11. Support efforts to protect California's gun laws from court challenges;
12. Support the repeal of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, which protects firearms manufacturers and dealers from liability when crimes have been committed with their products;
13. Support the creation of tracking software that would trace weapons used in crimes back to the dealer who sold them;
14. Oppose any school administration with plans to arm teachers;
15. Work to ensure that California schools have adequate counseling resources to address bullying, domestic violence, suicide awareness, and trauma;
16. Support public outreach and law enforcement training for new and existing law enforcement professionals on the implementation of California's Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO);
17. Encourage candidates running for office in local, statewide, and federal elections to advocate for common-sense gun laws and to support research, community investment, safe storage, and public education focused on reducing gun violence;

18. Strongly discourage candidates from accepting campaign contributions from the National Rifle Association (NRA) or other gun-rights organizations;
 19. Urge Congress to take action by passing common-sense gun safety legislation.
 20. Support the creation, distribution and training of smart gun technology for members of Law Enforcement;
 21. Support the transition to smart gun technology for all new guns manufactured; and,
 22. Support stiffer penalties for those dealers who participate in illegal in illegal sales including straw purchases.
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Health Care

California Democrats believe that health care is a human right not a privilege. The CDP recognizes that the health and well-being of Californians cannot continue to be based on arbitrary private and public financial decisions and therefore advocates legislation to create and implement a publicly funded single payer, privately delivered, fiscally tractable, affordable, comprehensive, secure, high-quality, efficient, and sustainable health care system that provides universal coverage for all Californians. The COVID pandemic revealed long-standing health care inequities based on race, disability and socioeconomic status; exposed inadequate workplace protection and safety measures that can have lethal consequences; shown that employment-based health coverage is not reliable for all and demonstrated the need for a more robust public health system. Moreover, many public safety problems can be better treated as public health needs, addressed through expanded mental health and substance abuse services.

To build a healthy future for all Californians, Democrats will:

1. Protect the gains in health care coverage established under the Obama Administration and support the implementation of universal comprehensive health care and health coverage for all Californians regardless of income or employment status that includes medical, dental, and vision care, hearing aids, full reproductive health services that respects an individual's right to abortion, preventative services, prescription drugs, mental health and substance abuse counseling and treatment, and long-term care;
2. Support holistic healing practices and alternative medicine, particularly in those areas licensed by the state such as acupuncture and medicinal cannabis utilized to relieve intractable pain without the side effects of conventional controlled drugs;
3. Monitor legislation enacted to address adequacy of health care networks that provides for better access to services and addresses cost disparities, particularly in our rural communities;
4. Monitor legislation enacted to remedy any uncertainty concerning dispensing of medical cannabis regarding state law that will provide for rights of medicinal cannabis patients and specify means and manner of dispensing to qualified patients, even in light of the passage of cannabis for recreational use;
5. Lead the nation in providing comprehensive quality health care to all and SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program) coverage for all children in California;
6. Advocate for legislation to provide doctor-directed levels of rehabilitation for brain injuries in all private health care plans and public health care programs, including injuries sustained through repeated trauma as in sports that manifest at a much later date;

7. Work to strengthen Medi-Cal and Medicare programs and oppose efforts to privatize such safety-net programs;
8. Advocate for Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements that reflect the average cost of living index of a particular state rather than the current uniform national reimbursement rates;
9. Support simplified language and plan choices for ease of understanding to individuals making health coverage decisions;
10. Support simplified language around medical billing making it clear what charges the patient is responsible for paying out of pocket and why;
11. Support a requirement that all HMOs and health insurers obtain prior approval from the state before rates can be increased and until such time as all Californians are covered by publicly funded health care;
12. Support an independent panel free of health care industry conflict to oversee rate increases, cost-effectiveness, and quality of care;
13. Support the state in coordinating with the Federal government in regulating and controlling the cost of prescription drugs;
14. Work to ensure that loss of employment does not cause a loss of affordable health care;
15. Work to eliminate ostensible denial of coverage because of excessive rating based on pre-existing conditions;
16. Work to expand affordable health care coverage and protections for people living with HIV, AIDS and COVID;
17. Work to ensure access to necessary health care for historically marginalized LGBTQ seniors;
18. Work to ensure that home and community-based care is expanded with stable funding sources, particularly in isolated rural communities, making such care affordable to all Californians that will allow seniors and people with disabilities to live at home and in the community without having to spend down assets and live in poverty to qualify for existing programs;
19. Work to 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;
20. 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;
21. Work to ensure economic and physical access to multilingual health care services;
22. Support addressing health care disparities and promoting the goals of the Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health;
23. Support the full funding of community clinics and health centers that serve low-income and homeless populations;
24. Protect funding for health care services as mandated by voters from being transferred or redirected for any other purpose [e.g., Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63)];
25. Advocate for parity in behavioral and mental health services identical to physical health services, including timely access, universal coverage and funding, and development of a competent behavioral health workforce to address mental health and substance abuse as an alternative to prison;
26. Support re-establishment of State mental health services with an adequate supply of beds for inpatient services and provide for those with extreme mental health problems, even if involuntarily, as an alternative to prison;
27. Support enforcement of the Patient's Bill of Rights;
28. Affirm that medical decisions must be made with respect to patients' rights to privacy and freedom to have control over their lives with fully informed consent;

29. Support women and families by continuing to cover all reproductive healthcare options;
 30. Support investing in education, incentives, and other means to prevent disease and promote healthy living;
 31. Protect the right of all to Death with Dignity so any competent adult suffering intractable pain, as a consequence of a terminal illness, can obtain the assistance of medical doctors in painlessly ending one's own life with current and humane methods available;
 32. Lead the fight against diseases by supporting and expanding wellness and disease prevention using stem cell, microbiome, and other groundbreaking research; and,
 33. Demand that all artificial intelligence used in direct patient-facing care be carefully guided and overseen by a human healthcare professional.
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Housing

California Democrats affirm that housing is a fundamental human right that has become unachievable for too many Californians. In order to guarantee this right, the California Democratic Party supports policies to increase housing production to meet population demands, champion effective and compassionate solutions on homelessness, affirm the protection of tenant rights, prioritize the creation and preservation of affordable housing, and promote the American Dream of homeownership. In order to address the housing crisis, California Democrats will:

Homelessness and Supportive Services

1. Promote comprehensive homelessness solutions that treat the unhoused with dignity and respect, including direct shelter, job placement, mental health services, supportive housing with continuum-of-care, and designated safe shelter with medical and social support; and,
2. Support rental assistance programs for low-income households to keep them housing secure;

Tenant Rights and Protections

1. Advance efforts to protect tenants from harassment, displacement, and rising rents by strengthening affordability and eviction protections, rent control/stabilization, and tenant education programs;
2. Urge expanded opportunities for local authorities to enforce housing protections, the preservation rent-controlled housing, and the public purchase of at-risk units; and,
3. Champion measures that guarantee tenant rights to organize, collectively bargain, and exercise first refusal on property sales, while ensuring transparency through rent and eviction data;

Housing Development and Policy

1. Promote building more housing at all levels of affordability through investments in a diversity of housing types, including missing middle housing, publicly owned housing,

and housing that meets the needs of individuals, families, students, and multi-generational households;

2. Support removing barriers to housing construction by streamlining approvals while ensuring the payment of prevailing wage, the use of a skilled and trained workforce, and/or the incorporation of project labor agreements; and,
3. Encourage land use planning that promotes smart growth, builds energy-efficient and sustainable housing near public transportation and jobs, and allows multi-family residential uses in high opportunity areas and single-family neighborhoods.

Homeownership and Property Rights

1. Support programs that provide financing assistance for first-time and first-generation homebuyers;
2. Support efforts to protect homeowners from abuse of eminent domain and predatory lending, guarantee a homestead floor in bankruptcy, and ensure safe, secure, and healthy neighborhoods for both renters and owners; and,
3. Encourage policies to guarantee access to affordable and reliable homeowner's insurance.

Finance and Infrastructure Support

1. Support public banking to provide low-interest loans for small businesses, farmers, land trusts, and cooperative housing groups, fostering community reinvestment and infrastructure development;
2. Encourage establishing local government-based loans to improve and sustain rental property belonging to small property owners; and,
3. Promote affordable housing policies such as inclusionary zoning, limits on speculative practices like second-home tax breaks and excessive short-term rentals, and the enforcement of fair housing laws across all jurisdictions.

Immigration

California is the most diverse state in the nation and reflects the foundation of America's strength, emphasizing the fundamental principles of inclusion and national unity that respect rules of law and human dignity. We know that we can strengthen America's borders while upholding our values by honoring the tradition of providing a safe place for immigrants seeking a life of freedom and opportunity.

California Democrats believe that the American immigration system should be inclusive, fair, and just. Immigration must be consistent with American values of freedom, opportunity, compassion, and respect for human rights. Immigrants add to the rich diversity of California.

All immigrants have rights that must be protected and upheld.

As citizens of a state built upon the successes of immigrants, California Democrats will:

Immigrant Rights

1. Ensure that the fundamental rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution are applied to every person within U.S. borders or held in U.S. custody;
2. Fight inhumane treatment of undocumented individuals, including separating children from parents and other accompanying family, caging individuals, and withholding adequate food, hygiene supplies, medical care;
3. Oppose travel and immigration bans that are based solely on ethnicity, race, religion, or national origin;
4. Urge support and respect for international law and adhere to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and U.N. Convention to the Status of Refugees;
5. Oppose detention centers that detain or incarcerate based solely on ethnicity, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression;
6. Support efforts to aid in learning English and educational opportunities for cultural immersion;
7. Support efforts that maximize educational opportunities for all immigrant students, including access to public education and financial assistance as an investment for our common future;
8. Affirm the policies of the state Department of Industrial Relations and the federal EEOC (Western Region) that immigrant workers, without regard to status or documentation, are protected as to minimum wage, working conditions, and wage theft or other abuses;
9. Affirm efforts to provide equal access to housing for all immigrants and condemn conduct that denies equal housing to all, including a landlord's inquiry into the citizenship or immigration status of a tenant or a prospective tenant;
10. Support efforts to provide health care and access to insurance for all immigrants to ensure the well-being of our communities;
11. Support efforts to promote available government services to immigrant communities;
12. Support outreach efforts that promote civic engagement and participation in the political process among naturalized citizens that reflect the diversity of our communities, such as voter registration and voter education, and support effective legal safeguards and protections for access to voting and voting materials in letters, spirit, and practice;
13. Oppose scapegoating, racial profiling, religious profiling, bigotry, vigilantism, exploitation, and any xenophobic conduct that polarize communities and denounce actions by the government or individuals that keep undocumented immigrants in the shadows of our society;
14. Affirm immigration rights based on human rights and support the goals of the Violence Against Women Act, petitioners for U Visas for victims of crimes, and petitioners for T Visas for victims of human trafficking;
15. Ensure intervention for abuse, discrimination, and crime among or against immigrants and removing the fear of arrest and deportation for reporting such abuse;
16. Encourage cooperation of state and local law enforcement when serving immigrant

- communities in the interest of public safety for all;
17. Oppose law enforcement agencies that unfairly target, threaten, intimidate, or otherwise harass immigrants because of immigration status; and,
 18. Oppose local law enforcement agencies acting as federal immigration law enforcement or cooperating with federal law enforcement absent a federal judicial warrant.

Immigration and Reform

1. Demand Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers throughout the chain of command comply with all laws and the prosecution of all those who have violated the law;
2. Advocate for comprehensive immigration reform to make the process more equitable, fair and transparent;
3. Support complete and humane, bipartisan immigration reform that addresses fairness, country of origin, family reunification, and family unity, including giving full faith and credit to families of same sex marriages and same sex couples;
4. Encourage increased and expedited processing of applications for family reunification and naturalization while supporting reasonable and fair application fees;
5. Support our elected officials in seeking timely information with regard to status of immigration paperwork for constituents, particularly for those constituents who have suffered hardship from backlogs and undue delays;
6. Support efforts to provide undocumented immigrants with a transitional path to earned, legalized residency and citizenship, including methods to pay back taxes, learn English, register with the federal government for work permits, contribute to the U.S. through education, work, military service, or other community service, complete criminal and security background checks, and acquire driver licenses and insurance coverage. Work to ensure all counties have resources necessary to aid immigrants;
7. Support efforts to provide an expedited path to citizenship for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) individuals and their families;
8. Affirm birthright citizenship that children born on U.S. soil are U.S. citizens;
9. Support the creation of an immediate path to citizenship for individuals who have served in the U.S. Military or were promised U.S. citizenship for aiding U.S. Military in combat;
10. Oppose deportation of individuals who have served in the U.S. Military;
11. Support automatic citizenship to children born outside of the United States to U.S. citizens in military service;
12. Support efforts to improve the naturalization process and make citizenship more accessible and affordable by increasing transparency on application fees, providing uniform administration of the naturalization exam, implementing accommodations for immigrants with disabilities, and assisting immigrants with citizenship requirements;
13. Oppose any changes in immigration law that make it more difficult for LGBTQ individuals escaping violence and persecution from seeking asylum in the United States;
14. Oppose the expansion of I.C.E, Border Patrol, and the growing police state, which is violating the civil liberties of immigrants and citizens;

15. Oppose construction of an unnecessary border wall between the United States and Mexico;
 16. Advocate for the reform of the immigration cap system to eliminate the inequitable impact on immigrants from larger countries;
 17. Demand due process for any individuals detained by American law enforcement before deportation or incarceration in a foreign country;
 18. Demand retention of impartial judges in immigration court proceedings;
 19. Demand humane treatment of individuals being detained; and,
 20. Support community-based organizations that are working to protect and advocate for immigrant communities.
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Internet and Free Speech

The fundamental right of free speech must be vigorously protected while recognizing that the internet and advancing technologies provide both challenges and important opportunities. Free speech depends upon equal and uncensored access to all forms of wired and wireless communication infrastructure and its many applications, including voice, video, and the Internet. Accessibility to reliable and factual information requires a free and unrestrained press. At the same time, the internet and other technologies have opened the flood gates for hate speech, which should not be normalized. Moreover, no collective group of persons in the United States, regardless of their nationality, religion, race or ethnicity should be attacked, vilified or held responsible for the acts of a foreign government. To protect and advance these fundamental rights, California Democrats support policies to preserve and encourage continued innovation of open, fast, accessible, and competitive communication and Internet services for all. To promote and support free speech, civil discourse, communications, and the Internet, California Democrats will:

1. Support reclassification of ISPs (Internet Service Providers) by the FCC as common carriers and urge the promulgation and enforcement of robust net neutrality regulations to create an Internet without any speed or content access preference;
2. Combat the digital divide by advocating for broadband infrastructure in underserved and rural communities statewide;
3. Work to establish publicly owned high-speed Internet infrastructure through cities, counties, and special districts and secure state government support for such projects;
4. Advocate for greater privacy protection to include personally identifiable information of law-abiding Internet consumers;
5. Advocate for the build-out of high-speed wired and wireless networks to all homes and businesses, especially in underserved and rural areas, to ensure equal access to and ability to upload and download content at high speeds and fully participate in e-commerce, education, and digital medicine;
6. Support requiring redundant connections to the Internet throughout all parts of California to mitigate service disruption, especially in the event of natural disasters;
7. Protect American creativity and jobs by combating online piracy and enhancing cybersecurity;

8. Demand review of all communication operators transmitting over the radio spectrum to ensure that they meet their licensing obligations of serving the public interest;
9. Defend freedom of the press and not tolerate any government-sponsored infringement;
10. Defend the right to engage in First Amendment protected speech critical of the U.S. or any government by opposing all legislative and other efforts to penalize or criminalize such speech;
11. Combat disinformation in any form;
12. Ensure communications are protected from warrantless search and seizure as guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution and the California Constitution;
13. Support ongoing research and implementation of best practices that use the Internet to foster collaboration and civil discourse;
14. Protect consumers' rights by ensuring that users of technology are allowed to repair and maintain the equipment or software they have purchased;
15. Work to safeguard intellectual property rights in all mediums;
16. Combat efforts to legitimize or justify discrimination or hate speech based on gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, immigration status, religion, disability, or national origin, recognizing that discriminatory, hateful or offensive language or conduct may be perceived as such based on the experience and viewpoints of the targeted persons or groups;
17. Work to require all commercial websites meet commonly accepted accessibility standards for users with disabilities, whether or not the company has a physical location;
18. Support further and ongoing studies on the impacts of artificial intelligence (AI) as it relates to privacy, work opportunities, security concerns, and misinformation; and support the drafting of legislation mitigating the negative impacts of AI while protecting jobs, personal safety, intellectual property, and data privacy for all individuals; and,
19. Advocate for increased regulation of "deep fake" content, including but not limited to requiring prominently displayed warning labels.

Labor and Economic Justice

California Democrats believe that workers are the backbone of economic prosperity of our State. We are strong supporters of workers' rights and continue to be close partners of organized labor. We support all efforts to strengthen worker power, promote economic and social justice and build a better California by advocating for fair wages, equity, safe working conditions, and secure retirements. We believe in equality for all working Californians. We believe economic justice is rooted in robust basic human rights including access to healthy food, adequate shelter, clothing, healthcare, and education. California Democrats are committed to safeguarding these rights and strongly supporting public services designed to eliminate poverty, hunger, and homelessness, and assist youth, seniors, and people with disabilities.

Labor

To support organized labor and stand up for workers' rights, California Democrats will:

1. Support collective bargaining and the right to organize; support enforceable organizing agreements that include employer neutrality, recognition of card check, and binding arbitration for first-time contract disputes, particularly when industries request governmental approval and/or taxpayer subsidies to expand;
2. Support "Fair Share" fees which cover the costs of union representation for bargaining and enforcing workers' contracts with employers;
3. Oppose so called "Right to Work" laws;
4. Boycott employers who have permanently replaced striking workers;
5. Protect the collective bargaining rights of both public and private sector workers and support binding arbitration for police and firefighters and other workers not allowed to strike;
6. Challenge any anti-worker initiatives that undermine the ability of union leaders to carry out the will of their members and to engage in political activities;
7. Support raising statewide minimum wage indexed to consumer price index;
8. Support creating and maintaining public and private sector jobs that permanently lift the working poor out of poverty to achieve self-sufficiency and a secure retirement, including an employer-provided defined benefit pensions as an essential part of retirement security;
9. Encourage the use of firms that employ skilled and trained California workers on publicly funded public works construction projects;
10. Oppose attempts to roll back the payment of prevailing wage on publicly funded projects;
11. Promote Project Labor Agreements for private and public sector infrastructure projects that provide employment for local hires and returning veterans and that partner with viable state-approved apprenticeship and other training programs for the community;
12. Support the 8-hour workday and daily overtime and fight any efforts to repeal the 40-hour workweek; advocate for paid sick days and vacation days for all workers; and protect California's Paid Family Leave law;
13. Work to increase enforcement of worker rights and safety laws with adequate and appropriate penalties;
14. Advocate for full rights for workers employed in subcontracted or temporary work; work to end the misclassification of employees; and work to ensure that companies that subcontract are held to high standards by holding those companies jointly liable with subcontracting firms when workers' rights are violated;
15. Oppose wages set below the minimum wage for workers with disabilities;
16. Advocate for policies on A.I. and other new and emerging technologies to ensure that workers are protected through measured and orderly transitions, guaranteeing that all benefits are shared. Support the banning of union-busting tactics, including the use of captive audience meetings used by employers to compel employees to attend meetings containing anti-union propaganda, under threat of punitive action;
17. Oppose public spending that leads to poverty wages or exploitative and unfair employment practices;
18. Support public spending that creates good, union jobs, raises standards for contracting out, reduces the misuse of temporary work status, and promotes timely hiring to ensure that workers can provide quality public services;
19. Support the efforts of both academic and non-academic student workers to form unions and negotiate living wages and benefits;

20. Ensure that every California worker knows their employment rights, has the support of a union or other worker organization, and is able to participate in a democratic process to raise standards in either their individual workplace or in their industry; and,
21. Support equal pay for equal or comparable work and equal opportunity for advancement for all workers.

Economic Justice

To meet the basic economic needs and strengthen all California communities, California Democrats will:

1. Fight for public assistance programs;
2. Support policies that ensure that the working poor have equitable access to services such as health care, food stamps, and rent subsidies;
3. Support the continuation of programs and services for people transitioning from unemployment or underemployment to financial stability;
4. Support the pursuit of the American Dream and economic security through jobs that lead to strong economic standing;
5. Support strengthening California's anti-monopoly laws in order to lower prices, raise wages and benefits, narrow the wealth gap, and reduce the political power of billionaires and large corporations;
6. Push for tax policies to benefit Californians across the income spectrum, fund expanded child and family tax benefits, and eliminate ethno-racial income and wealth inequality;
7. Work to guarantee Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) for CalWORKs and Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program (SSI/SSP) recipients in state and federal budgets;
8. Support fully funding food stamp programs;
9. Promote expansion of emergency food networks and senior and school meal programs to end chronic hunger;
10. Support fully funding integrated employment programs designed to transition people with disabilities into workplaces that do not segregate people based on disability;
11. Support the use of technology to enhance working conditions and to improve workplace safety and efficiency; oppose efforts to replace workers with technology or any other efforts that cause economic instability for working people;
12. Support establishing local banks and credit unions and limit check cashing businesses, pawnshops, or other regressive financial operations; and,
13. Encourage an increase in unemployment insurance benefits for workers and fight for solvency of the unemployment insurance program.

National Security

California Democrats recognize that providing for the common defense of our nation is a foundational responsibility of the government of the United States. But national security includes an investment in diplomacy and should not solely rely on the might of our armed forces. Our party is committed to a foreign policy that holds the use of military force as the absolute last resort for national defense, used only when available diplomatic and preventative options have been exhausted.

We must do better to consider unintended consequences and the downstream effects of military

engagement and to avoid unnecessary armed conflicts to keep America safe and strong, we must look at both international and domestic threats.

To preserve, protect and defend our country and the Constitution of the United States, California Democrats will:

1. Support efforts to strengthen our defense against cyber-threats to our national security and election security while protecting individual privacy rights and civil liberties;
2. Support efforts to stop endless wars by repealing both the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) and the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF);
3. Support enhancement of federal and state law enforcement capabilities to protect the public from extremist ideologies and foreign and domestic terrorism;
4. Support strong consumer data privacy legislation and the enhancement of federal and state law enforcement agency cybersecurity capabilities to protect Americans against identity theft;
5. Support efforts to audit spending by the U.S. Department of Defense and hold the Pentagon accountable for waste, fraud and abuse identified in independent audits;
6. Support efforts to prevent preemptive war and prevent presidential authorized military action without congressional approval;
7. Increase foreign non-military aid dedicated to improving anti-terrorism capabilities, law enforcement training, investigation, information exchange, and international cooperation;
8. Support a gradual and responsible reduction in the Department of Defense (DOD) budget in line with historic drawdowns after major conflicts;
9. Rebalance our national security portfolio to prioritize nonviolent solutions to conflict and nonmilitary tools such as diplomacy, institution-building, and foreign aid;
10. Support a foreign policy that promotes democratic reforms abroad, human rights, and the rule of law;
11. Secure our ports of entry by improving information and intelligence sharing among federal, state and local law enforcement and by enhancing inspections at all airports, seaports and land crossings while protecting individual privacy rights and civil liberties;
12. Increase federal funding to states and communities for equipment, training, and improving the capabilities of first responders;
13. Support the establishment of a clear and accountable chain of command for the use of unmanned devices, such as drones, and ensure that the use of drones is consistent with U.S. obligations under international law;
14. Protect First Amendment rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association, and freedom of religion, and the historic understanding of the Fourth Amendment that protects the right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure while engaging in domestic surveillance and intelligence gathering;
15. Honor obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty framework and set a long-term policy to reduce and eventually eliminate weapons of mass destruction throughout the world;
16. Reject funding for new "low yield" and other warfighting nuclear weapons;
17. Redirect budget expenditures for wasteful and dangerous nuclear weapons development programs;

18. Advocate for policies that reduce the demand for illicit drugs and thereby decrease the influence of international narcotics traffickers;
19. Support efforts to demilitarize local law enforcement by prohibiting the military from transferring certain weapons, vehicles, and gear including grenades, mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles, and armored and weaponized drones to local law enforcement agencies;
20. Condemn practices that violate the First Amendment rights of journalists, lawyers, clergy, and activists critical of government policies under the pretext of providing “border security”; and,
21. Support efforts to deny and decrease funding of Customs and Border Patrol for any “technological wall” as it would expand intrusive border surveillance programs of all people, including U.S. Citizens, to violate human rights.

Political Reform

California Democrats believe that a healthy democracy is based on free and fair elections, with all eligible voters able to participate. Freedom to vote without obstruction and to have that vote counted are fundamental to voting rights. We oppose the culture of cronyism and corruption and support public financing of elections. We demand transparency and accountability from both our party and government. We will combat voter suppression and election subversion.

To promote honest leadership and open government, California Democrats will:

1. Work to end the doctrine of corporate persons and the idea that money is speech by actively working to overturn the decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*;
2. Encourage the continued use of independent redistricting commissions to draw districts;
3. Actively work with county registrars, college and university administrators, and lawmakers to ensure that every college campus houses precinct polling operations, voter centers, or vote-by-mail (VBM) drop-off locations easily accessible to young voters;
4. Support lowering the voting age to 17 years of age and reinstatement of civics classes as a high school graduation requirement;
5. Support and encourage the implementation of legislation for full public financing of election campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels;
6. Work for increased voter participation by declaring Election Day a holiday;
7. Support investigating and prosecuting any and all forms of voter intimidation and election fraud, including misuse of social media to purposely mislead voters;
8. Demand safeguards and transparency in voting system software and vendors;
9. Encourage a ban on any and all forms of Internet or wireless voting, and prohibition of any connection from the Internet to any component of any election, vote-counting, or tabulating system;
10. Support the ability of local communities to choose alternative voting systems, such as ranked-choice voting and instant-runoff voting;
11. Support and defend voter protection under the federal Voting Rights Act and the California Voting Rights Act;
12. Demand abolishing the Electoral College and support its replacement with a national popular vote or a system where state electors are assigned proportional to each candidate’s share of the vote;

13. Encourage the placement of polling sites in tribal communities with large populations on reservations and surrounding areas, including urban American Indian communities;
 14. Demand the end of “pay-to-play” politics by banning lobbyists from bundling sizable campaign donations;
 15. Encourage the replacement of at-large election methods with the adoption of by-district and/or alternative voting methods when it maintains the spirit of the California Voting Rights Act;
 16. Support simple majority voter thresholds for passage of revenue raising measures;
 17. Support and expand self-governance and better representation and decision making for the estimated 6,000,000 Californians who live in unincorporated areas without local municipal decision-making;
 18. Actively defend and protect existing state measures to make voting widely accessible to all Californians, including the availability of early voting, vote-by-mail, and same-day voter registration; the validity of vote-by-mail ballots postmarked by Election Day but received within a certain period afterward; and a robust and accessible method for curing defective ballots; and,
 19. Reject the unequal treatment of residents of the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U,S, territories and unequivocally support statehood for the District of Columbia.
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Rural

California draws strength from our cultural and geographical diversity. Water, timber, food, fiber, and heritage, are among the many invaluable resources coming from rural spaces that are essential to supporting robust agriculture, commercial enterprises, and industry statewide, making California the fourth largest economy in the world. Rural areas are at the heart of the social, economic, and environmental health and well-being of all Californians.

In recognition of the unique opportunities and challenges in developing policies and programs that work in rural communities, California Democrats will:

1. Encourage elected officials to consider the effect on rural California when proposing new policies or programs by evaluating whether the outcome is fair and feasible in rural communities;
2. Support legislation that invests in and protects the natural resources of rural areas, i.e., maintaining the health of rural watersheds, and funding the needed infrastructure for water storage, surface and ground water, aquifer replenishment, water conveyance, evaporation and water loss measures --and to shore up dams and levees, and secure ongoing funding in the State budget to provide safe, clean, affordable and accessible drinking water to rural communities affected by water contamination or shortage;
3. Support legislation that safeguards against water contamination from mining;
4. Support mandatory funding for Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to counties that have relinquished taxable land to the state for wildlife conservation;
5. Advocate for policies that protect against acquisitions of large swaths of rural land by private investment groups, government entities, tech firms, data centers, and foreign investors posing threats to our vital natural resources, such as water and agricultural land, to the local communities and national security;
6. Support legislation that bolsters the vibrant culture, historical significance, and the economy of rural communities;
7. Improve messaging in rural regions that will heighten awareness of the work, investment, and progress elected Democrats are making in rural communities

- and counteract disinformation promulgated by Republicans;
8. Support policies that consider limited financial capacity in rural areas when implementing state requirements, such as those for recycling, composting, hazardous waste, and storm water control; adjust compliance timelines and targets as needed; and provide funding to support such programs where the local population cannot;
 9. Support equitable distribution of state resources, programs, and tax dollars based on need, not solely population, and alleviate the disproportionate burden on rural areas, ensuring equitable investment in rural education, including: broadband in schools and on buses; community development; infrastructure, such as water, sewer, power (i.e., strengthening the electrical grid to support future needs like EV charging, solar, battery storage, renewable energy); affordable, reliable, high speed, public safety grade internet; and public transportation;
 10. Support increased funding, community education and other resources to improve access and quality of healthcare for rural populations, including medical, dental, vision and mental health services;
 11. Support strengthening the rural healthcare workforce by expanding incentives to healthcare professionals that commit to rural practice; and grow rural training partnerships;
 12. Support expanding telehealth and remote monitoring in rural areas, including addressing broadband gaps, device access, and reimbursement for virtual care;
 13. Support rural hospitals' retention of key services, like maternity & obstetrics, emergency care, behavioral health;
 14. Support funding mobile health units and outreach clinics to reach remote populations, farm workers, and underserved communities;
 15. Support policies that balance the lawful and responsible ownership of firearms for hunting, sport, and personal protection with the growing need for gun safety laws;
 16. Support a lasting and respectful relationship with Tribal Nations, and bolster efforts to support tribal sovereignty, economic development, culture, language, and restoration of ancestral land, such as the conservation efforts of Open Space Districts;
 17. Support programs which fulfill the commitment to close the "digital divide" by ensuring adequate funding in the state budget for the equitable and expeditious deployment of state owned and operated, open access, public safety grade broadband "middle mile" infrastructure, as deeply and densely as possible in rural areas, as well as "last mile" infrastructure to homes, businesses, anchor institutions such as schools, hospitals, libraries, fairgrounds, community centers, and on working agricultural lands to help farmers monitor water use and other inputs as we adapt to climate change;
 18. Support resources to improve rural election technology and voting procedures and provide funding for vote-by-mail elections in rural counties, strengthen protections of election administration in rural counties, and support policies barring governing bodies from terminating existing voting system contracts without a transition plan and a replacement contract in place that has been approved by the Secretary of State;
 19. Support increased financing, subsidy options, and tax incentives to promote new, affordable housing development, including workforce housing in rural counties; facilitate access and help smaller communities of every socio-economic status navigate the application process; and help with grant writing for such programs and funding;
 20. Support access to clean, affordable water to make new housing development viable;
 21. Support local public transit options and facilities necessary to ensure residents'

- access to economic centers, including completion of the state's High-Speed Rail (HSR) network;
22. Advocate for funding for rural economic development and encourage rural business growth to create and retain jobs;
 23. Support programs that improve rural disaster resilience by increasing vegetation management on both public and private rural roads, providing fire safe clearing on State and Federal land at the Wildland-Urban Interface ("WUI"); providing funding for emergency equipment; and fund public safety grade communications for wildfire, flood and earthquake evacuation and recovery;
 24. Support policies that provide financial incentives for private homeowners to remove biomass fuels from properties;
 25. Advocate for a stable, sustainable insurance market, modernized to adapt to climate change, that will offer affordable homeowner, commercial property and fire insurance policies, in all areas of California, including designated wildfire zones;
 26. Advocate for inclusive insurance coverage for homeowners that includes fire insurance policies, removal of the unfunded plan for the highest risk, and insurance policies that provide incentives and rebates for mitigation and hardening, and support use of CalFire modeling to cover areas within high risk that have hardened, or mitigated, or created zones of defense;
 27. Support policies that require that all utilities including PG&E and Southern California Edison invest in infrastructure such as undergrounding power lines in fire prone areas, where beneficial and feasible, and require utilities to initiate electrical services to new or existing development projects within eight weeks of governmental approval to proceed;
 28. Support policies that will make the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) Board members be free of conflicts of interests or the appearance of conflicts of interests in relation to the utilities they regulate, and support CPUC commissioners having term limits;
 29. Support a policy that will make the California Insurance Commissioner be free of conflicts of interests or the appearance of conflicts of interests in relation to the insurance entities that the commission regulates;
 30. Support an economically viable, environmentally sound, and socially responsible agriculture and food sector that works for all of California;
 31. Advocate for rapid phase out of glyphosate and other chemicals that pose threats to farm workers, consumers, pollinators, and the environment;
 32. Respect the value and cultural diversity of immigrants' contributions to California's rural and agricultural economy by mandating stronger protections for agricultural workers, such as public benefits, regulation of work hours, worker safety protection from extreme heat and unhealthy air from wildfires, ensuring clean, affordable drinking water, provisions for safe, affordable, adequate housing and health services for migrant workers, disaster relief when federal funds are inaccessible, and harassment protections;
 33. Encourage the education of farm workers and employers to enable them to assert immigrant rights;
 34. Encourage eat-local movements, small-scale farming, organic farming, community gardens, farmers' markets, and other farm-to-table programs as a means of connecting consumers to food production supporting and building rural economies;
 35. Support regenerative agricultural practices, including research into scalability, sustainability, and cost effectiveness;
 36. Support policy and legislation that encourages and educates on the use of plant-based alternatives to reduce reliance on animal agriculture, a major contributor to

- climate change, and promote humane conditions for farmed animals;
37. Support a moratorium on the construction of new commercial concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO's) and the expansion of existing ones; and,
 38. Promote the humane treatment of animals through supporting low kill/no kill animal shelters, the elimination of animal testing, and elimination of fur for fashion.
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Seniors

California Democrats are committed to ending systemic ageism in our society, and to recognize the importance of older adults and the diversity of perspective they bring to our society. As the fastest growing age group in the nation, people over the age of 65 are a strong driving force in our collective future and are deserving of respect and dignity. We recognize that people age in different ways with different needs.

California Democrats will:

1. Affirm and support the California Master Plan for Aging's goals, which will allow for lifelong opportunities for work, volunteering, engagement, education and leadership in order to be protected from isolation, discrimination, abuse, neglect, and exploitation;
 2. Support, strengthen, and preserve Medicare, Social Security, and all other government provided health, caregiving, housing (including public housing), employment, and transportation/transit programs to ensure that seniors have access, regardless of income or social status so that these programs are considered guaranteed rights;
 3. Oppose mandatory retirement and support retraining for those 55 to 65 in order to remain in the workforce, if they wish;
 4. Demand greater focus on investigating and prosecuting all crimes against seniors, including abuse, financial, and discrimination, and that all existing penalties for crimes against seniors be strictly enforced;
 5. Support universal, comprehensive, single-payer health care, and, until that is achieved, reform Medicare Part D to make it affordable and easily accessible to people of all income levels, specifically addressing eligibility problems and the private drug plan choices, as well as advocating for Medicare to negotiate drug prices with pharmaceutical companies; and,
 6. Support programs that encourage trained professionals to specialize in senior care by creating rewarding and high-quality caregiving jobs.
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Service Members, Veterans, and their Families

California is home to the largest population of U.S. active military members and veterans who have served our country in times of peace and war. Service members, veterans, and their families should receive adequate support and be treated with dignity and respect to include receiving education benefits, health care, financial assistance, and automatic citizenship. To honor the shared heritage and sacrifice of service members, veterans, and their family members, California Democrats will:

Service Members and Their Families

1. Demand that our troops be provided with state-of-the-art protective equipment, technology, weaponry, and full training prior to deployment and demand increased congressional oversight of overseas contingency operations;
2. Demand that activated reservists and National Guard members resume their jobs upon return from deployment and hold employers accountable for removing or penalizing members because of their drill or deployment obligations;
3. Demand that the federal government honor its commitment to service members and their families to provide adequate base housing, meet community economic standards, provide schools and childcare facilities on military bases, and when necessary, rebuild and repair military buildings in an expeditious manner, especially after damage from natural disasters;
4. Insist that those who complete their service as documented residents are afforded an immediate pathway to citizenship;
5. Oppose the denial of citizenship to the children of military personnel born outside of the U.S. and the denial of citizenship if one parent is not fully documented;
6. Insist that the same benefits given to Active-Duty service members are provided to all National Guard and reservists activated for federal service; and,
7. Demand that the military provide travel expenses and time off that will allow any military personnel to seek reproductive healthcare in another state if the needed medical procedure is not available in the location where they are stationed.

Veterans and Their Families

1. Support a Veterans' Bill of Rights to provide for complete benefits to veterans;
2. Insist that veterans and military families have access to medically necessary treatment in an appropriate facility as recommended by the treating physician, including the use of medicinal cannabis, where legal;
3. Support the licensing of medical psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medications if needed to treat veterans' mental health needs;
4. Advocate that veterans in isolated rural areas have ready access to physical and mental health care services within a reasonable proximity;
5. Demand that the government provide assistance to individuals exposed to Agent Orange and other toxins, including contaminated soils, in the course of their military service or as a dependent residing at a former or current military installation;
6. Advocate for veterans involuntarily discharged based on their sexual orientation to be automatically upgraded from other-than-honorable discharges to honorable discharges without the requirement that service members request it;
7. Support the elimination of homelessness among veterans by increasing funding levels for temporary, transitional, and permanent affordable housing, and therapeutic facilities, using California's state armories year-round, and provide resources to veterans;
8. Insist that all veterans in need of housing services have access to services in the county in which they reside;

9. Support tuition and fee waivers at state colleges and universities and state-funded vocational, technical, and trade schools for veterans of recent conflicts; a more comprehensive G.I. Bill;
10. Support the establishment and funding for Veterans' Courts accessible to all counties and encourage the establishment of Veterans' justice programs; and,
11. Demand quality services and support for veterans transitioning from active duty to appropriate post-service civilian employment.

Veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs

1. Insist that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provide timely access to comprehensive, quality and cost-effective wrap-around health care and mental health services to all veterans and their families, with particular attention to veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI);
2. Oppose privatization of veterans' health care services;
3. Insist that the VA fulfill its obligation to veterans by accelerating claims processing and employing veterans to perform claims processing;
4. Insist that all leases and use of VA properties, facilities, and land for non-profit and for-profit organizations, or government agencies solely benefit veterans and/or their families by providing quality services including housing, clothing, food, education, and training;
5. Demand that the government recognize equality in the armed forces and veterans' groups;
6. Support the creation of an immediate path to citizenship for veterans;
7. Oppose the deportation of veterans; and,
8. Oppose any limitations on citizenship for children born outside the United States to military service members.

Women

California is the proud home of women who have blazed new trails in business, entrepreneurship, culture, and politics. We proudly and vigorously support a woman's right to choose how to use her mind, her body and her time. California Democrats respect women as full partners in family and society.

California Democrats will:

1. Support the Violence Against Women Act, Title IX, the UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution;
2. Support the rights of all individuals to live, study, and work in a safe and professional environment free from all forms of discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment and sexual violence;
3. Demand sexual harassment and violence policies at the state and national level that provide: education about gender equity, starting with early childhood education; help for survivors; training and laws holding perpetrators personally accountable; an end to non-disclosure agreements that force survivors to bear the shame of silence; independent investigations; whistleblower protections; public and constituent access

of any allegations or findings on said allegations of public officials and their staff; no tolerance of sexual harassment/sexual assault as a condition of employment or career advancement in any form of employment;

4. Support ensuring quality sexual education; unrestricted access to health care, contraception, and abortion; workplace rights such as, but not limited to, flex time and family and maternal leave; comprehensive medical and health care coverage for every stage of a woman's life; and the recognition that freedom and protection from violence or abuse, domestic and otherwise, is a fundamental human right;
 5. Commit to addressing the systematic racism toward women from historically marginalized communities by addressing such issues as, but not limited to, the Black maternal health crisis, murdered and missing indigenous women, historic and current trafficking of women and girls, and women who were sterilized in the prison system without consent;
 6. Support increasing availability of comprehensive educational and training programs for formerly incarcerated women to enhance parenting and job skills; and acknowledge that sex workers face systemic violence that should be addressed through reform of the law enforcement and judicial system; and,
 7. Actively identify, recruit, and support candidates from underserved communities to run for office, recruiting young women to develop a pipeline for new leadership and responding to the unequal representation of Democratic women serving in elected office, particularly women from ethnic minority, LGBTQ, and disabilities communities.
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World Peace and International Relations

Trump policies are eroding America's global standing. The Administration has abdicated the US mission of promoting democracy globally. It has abandoned the American commitment to humanitarian efforts worldwide. It withdrew from the Paris Climate Accord and threatened the United Nations and NATO that the United States will not support efforts to promote peace, stability and prosperity around the globe. California Democrats recognize that all human beings are entitled to freedom, peace, and justice and are committed to a properly staffed and funded foreign service that promotes democracy and human rights around the world. We must believe that the American people will support truth over the fear mongering by our political adversaries. We must be truthful with our allies and with ourselves. We must be firm with those who threaten the American people and our democratic ideals, whether at home or abroad. And we must take the moral path as we strive to promote world peace.

To create a more secure and peaceful world, California Democrats will:

1. Stand up against the Trump Administration's actions that abdicate America's position as a world leader and work to reestablish America's position as a nation that recognizes and upholds the rule of law and the role of multilateral treaties and opposes aggression against sovereign nations;
2. Reaffirm the War Powers Act by working to return the authority to declare war to Congress and specifically including a requirement that any first use of

- nuclear weapons be preceded by a formal declaration of war by Congress and a specific authorization to use nuclear weapons;
3. Demand that our policies and our aid to other governments be based upon respect for basic human rights;
 4. Affirm the right of all people to live free from invasion, persecution, discrimination, dehumanization, and human rights abuses;
 5. Resist any movement in the world that curtails basic rights and civil liberties or undermines democratic principles and freedom of expression;
 6. Combat external threats through increased participation in, support for, and cooperation with the United Nations, other international agencies, and regional organizations;
 7. Support greater participation in peacekeeping to help prevent mass atrocities and renewed international collaborations to build government structures in states that are failing or emerging from conflict;
 8. Oppose regime change strategies as a pretext for war and/or occupation;
 9. Cooperate with other nations to eliminate terrorism, increase literacy and child survival rates, combat poverty disease and malnutrition, bolster existing and new democracies and developing nations, and reduce the support and demand for narcotics;
 10. Insist that the U.S. renew its support of the United Nations as an essential institution for the pursuit of peace and justice employing diplomacy under international law and for the crucial worldwide efforts to end poverty and prevent climate catastrophe;
 11. Support ratification and adherence to the terms of the key treaties that advance the causes of peace and human rights;
 12. Support the advancement of programs around the world that will end the cycle of violence to ultimately promote peace, rule of law, and human rights for increased security and prosperity at home;
 13. Promote establishing national institutions based on organizing principles of violence prevention and non-violent conflict resolution, using and developing a network of "best practice" peace-building policies and programs among U.N. member states and non-member nations;
 14. Urge universal adherence to the Geneva and Hague Conventions; no torture; no extraordinary renditions; no exceptions;
 15. Support efforts to prevent through diplomatic measures and ensure accountability through legal processes for actions proscribed by the Geneva Convention and established international law namely 1) war crimes - committed during armed conflict; 2) crimes against humanity - systematic acts of violence, enslavement or sexual violence during peace or wartime, and 3) genocide - acts committed with the express intent to destroy, completely or partially, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group. Work to enhance the U.N. and regional organizations and commit to the objectives of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, including eradication of extreme hunger and poverty, achievement of universal primary education, and promotion and empowerment of women;
 16. Observe both U.S. and international law and adhere to the entire Universal Declaration of Human Rights and U.N. Convention to the Status of Refugees;
 17. Work toward achieving global nuclear disarmament by urging the continuation of international negotiations regarding the reduction and elimination of weapons of mass destruction throughout the world, a recommitment to arms control

- agreements, and opposition to any first use of nuclear weapons and pre-emptive nuclear strikes;
18. Support reallocating defense expenditures in a manner commensurate with actual threats;
 19. Support enhanced efforts to deprive terrorists of weapons of mass destruction by moving multilaterally to diminish weapons stockpiles;
 20. Urge tailoring our foreign policy to eliminate poverty;
 21. Work to promote population-planning worldwide through education and support for family planning organizations without restricting a woman's autonomy over her body as part of responsible family planning;
 22. Work to make the United States a global leader in healthy and democratic economic development by designing policies that prioritize worker rights, preserve the environment, fight the climate crisis, and channel the benefit of globalization to ordinary people in all countries;
 23. Work to structure fair trade agreements that require countries to adopt and enforce internationally recognized labor standards such as the right to associate and bargain collectively and prohibitions against child labor, forced labor, and discrimination in employment;
 24. Stand in solidarity with the citizens of those countries who speak out to protect their democracies, marginalized communities, women's, labor and LGBTQ rights in their countries and to protect an independent judiciary;
 25. Oppose the use of military drones for "targeted killings" in countries with which the United States is not at war;
 26. Urge that where sanctions are warranted their use be targeted to limit impacts on local populations;
 27. Condemn the Russian government's war crimes resulting from its ongoing and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and support continuing economic sanctions targeting the Russian government as well as individuals complicit with Russian leadership in its aggression against the Ukrainian people;
 28. Proactively seek durable peace in the Middle East;
 29. Continue to work toward a solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict directly negotiated by the parties that guarantees equality, security and democracy for all; recognizes Israel's future as a secure and democratic Jewish state with recognized borders; and provides Palestinians with independence, sovereignty, and dignity, opposing efforts to undermine the prospects for two states;
 30. Support efforts among representatives of Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank to de-escalate tensions through good-faith negotiations that recognize Israel's future as a sovereign, secure, and democratic Jewish state and that can lead to security and independence for Palestinians;
 31. Recognize Israelis and Palestinians should have security, recognition, and a normal life free from terror, corruption and incitement;
 32. Recognize that Gazans should be able to rebuild without displacement, with international economic and security assistance;
 33. Recognize that Palestinians and Israelis must rebuild trust through peace-building efforts and should be free to govern themselves, each in their own viable states in peace and with dignity;
 34. Support peaceful actions to restore democracy to Burma;
 35. Encourage dialogue with the People's Republic of China to address issues, including climate change, a peaceful resolution of issues between China and Taiwan that is consistent with the will of the people of Taiwan, and the return of

- democratic freedoms to the people of Hong Kong;
36. Insist that China release all religious and ethnic minorities from all forms of detention;
 37. Support de-escalating a nuclear arms competition between the U.S. and China and support and encourage fair trade between the two nations;
 38. Support direct talks with North and South Korean leaders toward denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula; and,
 39. Promote diplomatic actions to restore citizenship equality in India, regardless of religion, race, caste, gender, or employment, or other factors.
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Young People

California Democrats understand that young people today are the first generation whose quality of life is expected to be lower than their parents. Policies to reverse this trend are desperately needed. The actions of the federal administration have disregarded this generation by ignoring the health of our economy and our planet. We are causing the crisis they will be tasked with reversing. Whether our young people choose to go straight to college, trade school or directly into employment, they deserve to start their lives with more options than currently available.

To ensure that all young adults have the tools to reach their full potential, California Democrats will:

1. Encourage policies to address college affordability including making Community College and Trade Schools free for California residents;
2. Advocate for a 3% cap on interest rates for student loans so no one is paying off their student loan with their retirement checks;
3. Advocate for financial assistance and training programs for first time home buyers that will make owning a home within reach of their budget;
4. Discourage employers from paying young adults at a lower rate or keeping them at part time because of their age;
5. Work with community groups and governmental agencies to offer financial workshops to assist young adults in managing their own finances and how to avoid predatory credit card and lending practices meant only to take advantage of them;
6. Encourage all young adults to start saving whatever they can for retirement so they can secure their future without relying on the government for their financial security;
7. Continuing the collaboration between the CA Democratic Party and the CA Young Democrats to ensure a greater voice and participation;
8. Work to strengthen the social safety net and stop the existing erosion;
9. Support robust investment in mental health services to address the mental health epidemic specific to this age group; and,
10. Advocate for the expansion of state approved apprenticeship training programs across a varied spectrum of industries.