

45th District Democrats 2008 Platform

Preamble

We, the 45th District Democrats, believe through good government we can accomplish great things for our community. We hold as our highest goal good government and pledge ourselves to being the party of the people. We cherish our American heritage of opportunity and inclusion. We pledge ourselves to justice, equality and compassion for all and commit ourselves to government that serves and protects all its people, and to protecting that which is the commons.

Security/Foreign Policy

We seek security for America and for our community through diplomacy and non-violent conflict resolution.

The Commons

We seek to build community, drawing our citizens together in neighborhood and regional groups to solve problems based on shared leadership, common interests and resources.

Economy

We seek economic policies that are just, sustainable, and responsible to the community. Fair trade and keeping good jobs in our community is our goal.

Law/Justice

We seek a judiciary free from political influence and based upon law and constitutional rights.

Human Rights

We believe the rights guaranteed by our Constitution and by international human rights law are at the heart of the American identity and should not be compromised for any reason. Their preservation requires our vigorous defense.

Environment and Energy

We believe our well-being and very survival depend on clean air, clean water, safe food and sustainable ecosystems. Environmental protections strengthen our economy. We must respect the web of life, of which we are a part, and preserve it for future generations. Government and individuals must take aggressive action now to preserve and protect our environment.

Education

We believe a free, universal public school system is the backbone of our democratic society. We support excellent-quality public education, from pre-school through university, with equal access for all.

Agriculture

We are committed to programs that recognize and support farmers as the stewards of this nation's precious agricultural lands. Such programs must preserve family farms, strengthen rural communities, ensure the availability of high-quality food, and maintain the viability of the land. Sustainable agriculture that includes crop diversity and conservation, and environmental efforts that preserve agricultural land and natural resources, are critical to the viability of food, fuel, and forest production into the future.

Government & Political Reform

We are committed to a democracy that encourages maximum participation, a voting process that is fair, transparent and open to all citizens, and a strong sense of requiring responsibility in both voters and those they elect. We strive to limit the influence of money on our political processes. Campaigns should be publicly financed so that qualified citizens have an opportunity to run for office regardless of their income level or resources.

Health Care

We believe health care is a basic human right, and our government should recognize its responsibility to assure accessible and affordable health care for all.

Human Services

We believe a caring community provides a safety net of social services to meet the basic needs of all its members, so they can attain their full potential.

Labor

We believe in the dignity of work and the right to fair wages and benefits in return. We insist on the right of all workers to join labor unions, to bargain collectively and to take part in setting their wages and working conditions.

Transportation

We support transportation and land use policies that ensure equal opportunity and a greater quality of life for all.