

Democratic Party of Wisconsin 2024 Platform

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Our Commitment to Democracy

We commit ourselves to a Nation and State which are democracies, where voters have unimpeded access to the ballot box and where their opinions are reflected by the representatives they elect.

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin strives to build a free, just, and strong society where all people have equal rights and opportunities to live meaningful, secure lives. We work actively for open, honest, and responsive government accountable to the needs and will of the people. We support democracy and work to prevent authoritarian rule.

Justice, Human Concerns, and Democracy

Every citizen is guaranteed the right to vote. We support same-day registration, multiple avenues of registration, early voting, vote by mail, automatic voter registration, drop-box voting, and making election days official holidays. We oppose voter ID requirements. We have the right and duty to inspect and count all votes and to have a voter-verifiable paper ballot that guarantees accurate vote counting. The Presidential election should be determined by popular vote.

Our goal is a government and an electoral process free of monetary corruption. We support limiting out-of-state campaign contributions and oppose unlimited political spending. The U.S. Constitution must be amended to make clear that corporations are not people; money is not speech. Wisconsin must rescind its call for an open-ended Constitutional Convention.

Empowering people in civic affairs strengthens our nation. Government must be an open institution that people trust, is compliant with open meeting and public record laws, and is elected through transparent, publicly funded state and national elections. We support fair, non-partisan redistricting processes and oversight of elections.

One of the primary duties of government is to ensure everyone can lead dignified, healthy, and fulfilling lives. We value love, commitment, stability, and the nurturing of all family members. We believe all are equal regardless of race, color, class, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, occupation, national origin, disabilities, appearance, and political beliefs. We support marriage equality for all couples. We will work to ensure basic civil liberties are forever preserved.

Government must respect, support, and protect freedom of expression. We hold sacrosanct our civil liberties, including but not limited to freedom of speech, right to privacy, presumption of innocence, the principle of *habeas corpus*, and due process under law. All human beings must be treated humanely.

We are the party of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We celebrate our differences, which are a source of strength. Everyone must have an equal opportunity to succeed, an equal voice in government, and equal treatment under the law. We must observe the separation between government and religion. We respect the religious liberties of all people. We welcome everyone. It is vital that the right to choose beliefs and philosophies remain intact.

1
2 We shall pursue legislation and cultural changes that end racial and ethnic profiling, respect Indigenous
3 Nations' sovereignty, include culturally responsive instruction on marginalized communities' histories,
4 and ensure equality among all genders. We shall work for qualified representation at all levels of
5 government that reflects our nation's diversity.

6
7 We condemn all forms of violence, discrimination, and sentiment against anyone on the basis of their
8 identity—religious, racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, ability, or otherwise. We believe Black
9 lives matter. We condemn all forms of anti-Asian sentiment and violence. We condemn all forms of
10 antisemitism.

11
12 Marginalized groups face formidable challenges including oppression, voter suppression, and
13 inadequate access to nutritious food, healthcare, education, employment, and housing. We shall work
14 to eliminate all forms of discrimination.

15
16 Access to accurate information and a diversity of viewpoints are essential to empowerment. The
17 broadcast spectrum belongs to all citizens. We will work to ensure diverse local ownership of media
18 outlets. We support public broadcasting and community-owned media outlets. We support free and
19 equal access to news media for all candidates for public office.

20
21 We advocate for comprehensive immigration reform legislation providing a reasonable path to
22 residency and citizenship. The legislation must include a fair opportunity for current undocumented
23 residents to achieve legal status.

24
25 We need affordable, quality, licensed daycare centers and government support to pay for childcare. We
26 need public health programs addressing disease prevention, substance abuse, mental health, sexual
27 health, and firearm safety.

28
29 It is essential that we expand Social Security programs for the elderly, disabled, and eligible dependents,
30 including subsidized long-term in-home or nursing home care. We oppose privatizing Social Security as
31 it threatens recipients' financial security as well as the stability of our economy.

32
33 Access to affordable, quality healthcare is a right. The best solution to our national health care crisis is a
34 single-payer system. It must provide universal access for individuals of all ages; promote preventive
35 measures; include comprehensive dental, eye, and ear care; provide medications and therapy; and cover
36 all physical and mental illnesses equally. Until that system is available, we support broader coverage
37 and increased funding for the current healthcare programs on local, state and national levels, including
38 BadgerCare, Medicare, Medicaid, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Affordable Care Act.

39
40 Personal moral, religious, and medical decisions should be left up to the individual. We believe in
41 freedom to make reproductive decisions, gender-affirming healthcare, family planning, and the right to
42 choose death with dignity including physician-assisted end-of-life. Everyone has the right to obtain
43 properly and legally prescribed medications from any licensed pharmacy on a timely basis. Funding for
44 stem-cell research should be supported on its scientific merits.

45
46 Safety is a right. We must reimagine our police and justice system. Budgeting, training, rules, and
47 systems of oversight must fight racism, build trust, prevent police brutality, and foster safety and justice
48 for all. Wisconsin's costly, high rate of imprisonment compared to other states is racially discriminatory,

1 with no evidence it makes residents safer. We support reducing prison populations through increased
2 use of probation, parole, and specialized courts to divert those suffering from substance addiction and
3 mental health issues from prison to treatment. We oppose prison privatization.

4
5 We oppose the death penalty. It is inhumane and does not deter crime. We believe in equitable
6 sentencing standards and increasing the authority of judges to modify sentences.

7
8 We must discourage dangerous drug use without criminalizing the user and provide rehabilitative
9 treatment for addicted persons. We encourage non-penal sanctions for minor drug violations.
10 Marijuana should be legal, regulated, and taxed like tobacco and alcohol.

11
12 We support the right to bear arms for their legitimate and ethical use for hunting, sport, and protection.
13 We believe reasonable safety measures must be enacted, including: banning open carry, only allowing
14 concealed carry with cause and permits, universal background checks, banning the sale or possession of
15 military weapons and ammunition, a 48-hour waiting period for all gun dealer sales, a red flag law with
16 due process, and limiting the legal capacity of magazines.

17 18 19 **Education, Labor, and Economics**

20
21 We affirm the Wisconsin Idea. Quality public education for all is critical to a healthy democracy and
22 economy. We advocate for free preschool and K-12 public education. Increased governmental funding
23 is essential for all levels of public education. Public funding for private schools, including voucher
24 programs, diverts resources from and adversely impacts public schools.

25
26 America must support worker training, affordable tuition at state-supported post-secondary institutions,
27 expanded access to grants and scholarships, and ample funding for research.

28
29 We must end the student debt crisis.

30
31 Students have the right to education in a safe, respectful, and nurturing environment, free from
32 harassment and discrimination. We support funding all curriculum content, including arts and physical
33 education. Teacher and support staff compensation, including benefits, must keep pace with inflation
34 and be competitive to comparable positions outside of education.

35
36 Revenue caps on school districts and other local governments must be eliminated. State and federal
37 governments must fully fund their mandates.

38
39 Public investment in the arts and humanities promotes healthy communities and healthy economies.
40 We support increased local, state, and federal funding of arts and humanities.

41
42 Equitable and affordable access to public transportation and high-speed internet must be provided in
43 rural and urban areas.

44
45 A strong and secure state and nation depends on sound economic policy promoting and sustaining full,
46 meaningful employment. Business, labor, and the public must work together to re-establish American
47 jobs on American soil. We support small business as a means of economic growth. We must resist

1 monopolization and outsourcing by eliminating tax breaks to employers who ship jobs overseas and
2 creating incentives to bring jobs back to the U.S.

3
4 We support development and implementation of a strategic reindustrialization plan that identifies and
5 supports domestic industrial capacity in key technologies.

6
7 The Federal Government should provide transitional jobs for all individuals who cannot find work and
8 have no unemployment compensation.

9
10 Public and private workers have a right to a living wage, gender pay equity, safe and equitable
11 workplaces, and secure benefits. Workers' rights to organize, bargain collectively, and strike without
12 fear of reprisal must be restored and strengthened. Election by card check reduces employer
13 intimidation of employees' choice of representation. Employees who benefit from union contracts
14 should pay fair-share dues. We support public employees' rights to speedy mediation and binding
15 arbitration of labor disputes. We support sectoral bargaining and prevailing wage laws.

16
17 Businesses must be held accountable for contracts with their employees. "Right-to-work" legislation
18 and the hiring of strikebreakers are anathema to a strong, justly compensated workforce. Pensions and
19 other retirement funds must be strictly safeguarded and responsibly managed through regulation. In
20 the event of bankruptcy, workers' unpaid wages must be the first claim on remaining assets.

21
22 We support a tax system based on ability to pay. The wealthy are under-taxed. The Federal Budget
23 must reflect responsible spending and fair taxation. The State Legislature must tax corporations equal
24 to or greater than the national average. Local jurisdictions must have authority to modernize their
25 taxation systems.

26
27 Financial markets should be more effectively regulated to prevent fraud, excessive speculation,
28 inappropriate compensation, predatory lending, and the need for taxpayer bailouts of mismanaged
29 firms.

30
31 Mining authorizations should provide adequate tax revenue to support the affected communities in
32 perpetuity.

33
34 American companies should be established here at home, follow our labor and environmental laws, and
35 pay taxes for the good of all. We must protect our industries from competition by enforcing tariffs
36 against nations that tolerate unfair worker conditions and environmental degradation.

37
38 America's wealth should be measured not only by GDP and the Market but also by broad measures of
39 well-being that incorporate factors like health, education, literacy, employment, wages, and
40 environmental quality.

41
42 We call for regulation of artificial intelligence technology in the public interest.

43 44 **Agriculture and Environment**

45
46
47 We must preserve responsible family farming by creating market systems that assure a fair return to
48 both farmers and processors. True cooperatives and family-farm subsidies are essential to the economic

1 viability and quality of life in rural areas. We support value-added agriculture which includes farming
2 endeavors outside traditional forms of agriculture. Regulations controlling environmental pollution
3 from agriculture, especially CAFOs, should be strengthened.
4

5 We support farming systems that are humane to animals, preserve our soil, water and forest resources,
6 and produce wholesome, safe food for consumers. We support agricultural sustainability through
7 growth in “buy fresh, buy local” practices which ensure markets for local farmers and save fuel by
8 eliminating costly transport. We also support truth in labeling of conventional, organic, and genetically
9 modified food.
10

11 We oppose seed producer patent enforcement that bars seed harvesting by farmers.
12

13 Climate change poses an existential threat to life on Earth. We support aggressive action, including
14 using the governor’s emergency powers, to decarbonize our economy by 2035 to meet the global
15 heating goals of the 2015 Paris climate agreement. Historically marginalized communities, such as low
16 income, Indigenous communities, and communities of color face the worst consequences of climate
17 change. Our leaders must pay heed to the scientific evidence of climate change and the many inequities
18 in its effects.
19

20 We support responsible environmental regulations affecting open space, wilderness areas, soil
21 conservation, forest management, industry, and toxic and hazardous waste disposal and cleanup. We
22 must maintain the integrity of our vast surface and subsurface fresh water supply, especially the Great
23 Lakes and the Lake Wisconsin aquifer. We support retaining and expanding publicly owned recreational
24 lands and wilderness. We oppose the transportation of shale and tar sands oil through Wisconsin.
25

26 We must develop clean, renewable, and sustainable energy sources without relaxing regulation of
27 nuclear energy; encourage the use of fuel-efficient and alternate-fuel vehicles; reduce urban sprawl on
28 prime agricultural land; improve and expand local, regional, and national public transportation systems;
29 and increase recycling and waste management while maintaining biodiversity.
30

31 We must prioritize public health, environmental protection, and the land and water treaty rights of
32 Indigenous communities in the planning and implementation of all mining projects, including frac sand
33 extraction. We support public, local control of municipal water and sewage systems. To ensure the
34 protection of our state's valuable natural resources, we support re-establishment of a Public
35 Intervenor's Office and an independent Department of Natural Resources.
36
37

38 **Foreign Affairs**

39

40 We stand for human rights, social and economic justice, the rule of law, and popularly adopted
41 democratic governments worldwide. Our leaders and policies must honor international law and
42 promote international agreements that provide groundwork for a just, prosperous, environmentally
43 healthy, and peaceful world. Our United Nations dues must be fully paid.
44

45 We call on our government to cooperatively and effectively lead in the pursuit of global accords to
46 improve the human condition and protect the environment. We encourage international efforts to
47 combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, discrimination, war, genocide, torture, genital mutilation,
48 human slavery and trafficking, capital punishment, pollution, and climate change.

1
2 We oppose trade and immigration policies that undermine our economy, harm working people in our
3 country and elsewhere, and harm the environment.
4

5 We oppose unfettered international arms trade, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, land mines,
6 radioactive materials in conventional munitions, ballistic missile defense systems, cluster bombs,
7 militarization of space, and American-run or funded internment camps.
8

9 We support a military sufficiently strong to safeguard national security. We must provide for the health
10 and well-being of members of the military during and after their service. We support efforts to
11 eliminate the use of National Guard troops in undeclared wars.
12

13 Our military budget is disproportionately large compared to other nations. It should be reduced. We
14 should curtail the influence of the "Military Industrial Complex." Greater emphasis should be placed on
15 economic development and diplomacy to achieve global security.
16

17 War is always a last resort. We must address grievances that foster terrorism, not fight wars that
18 perpetuate them. We must abide by the Geneva Conventions.
19

20 We oppose preemptive war, including the use of drone strikes, without verified direct threat to our
21 country.
22

23 We support refugees. We support the rights of people to seek a better life in America. Those rights
24 extend to those fleeing the effects of climate change, political persecution, and threats to their safety.
25 We support restoring America's commitment to the global community.
26
27

28 **Conclusion**

29
30 The membership of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin has crafted and adopted this platform. Our state
31 and country will become stronger and better by following the principles herein. We expect all
32 candidates supported by the Democratic Party to support this platform and to work to implement it.