

Clallam County Democratic Party
2018
Platform

PREAMBLE

This 2018 Clallam County Democratic Platform recognizes that change is inevitable. We acknowledge the diverse and at times fractious nature of our differences. This Party is concerned that we provide ample consideration of the spectrum of political opinion and be as inclusive as possible. In spite of our differences we believe our Party can recognize and adapt to social change and still maintain the integrity which distinguishes us as the Party of the People and For the People. We hereby commit ourselves to always seek to listen, understand and acknowledge the contributions of those who promote and advocate for our core values. From the foresight and compassion of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the concept of Lyndon Baines Johnson's "Great Society" to the embrace of diversity by Barack Obama we have made progress. This Platform's ambition is to continue to inspire our members and all Americans to support each other, to work towards a better life and honor the Dignity we all deserve.

Health

We believe healthcare is a right; government has a moral obligation to expand access to necessary health care for every citizen, regardless of the ability to pay, and regardless of gender, race or sexual orientation. We believe that the long-term solution to America's health care crisis is a single-payer national health care program. We support women's access to reproductive health services, including all forms of contraception and safe, legal abortion. We support the Reproductive Health Parity Act in Washington State. We believe the government should enact legislation to provide safe and healthy environments in public buildings, schools and work places; and legislation should address issues of air quality, working conditions, access and emergency procedures.

Economy and Jobs

We hold that all workers deserve respect and deserve the dignity of a living wage, equal pay and benefits, and safe working conditions. We support and defend the rights of workers to organize and bargain collectively. We oppose Right to Work legislation because it directly challenges organized labor. We recognize that the current federal minimum wage is starvation pay and must become a living wage. We support the movement to increase it to \$15 an hour. The best and fastest way to put people to work is to create jobs. There has been much talk for years about rebuilding our public infrastructure and we advocate for a Public Works type program which will develop and employ a skilled workforce to repair, replace and construct the necessary elements which allow transportation, commerce, flood control, energy distribution and many other public works

We believe that we must reform Wall Street and break up too-big-to-fail financial institutions. Any institution that is too-big-to-fail has acquired too much economic and political power, endangering our economy and our political process. American businesses continue to seek higher profits by moving their operations from our country. We must find ways to provide incentives for business to remain in our country. We also must dedicate resources to train our workforce to be as competitive and productive as any other in the world. We advocate for internships, apprenticeships and other paths to better paying secure jobs

We require fiscal responsibility at all levels of government, while protecting or enhancing service to all citizens in areas such as social services, education, student aid and Medicare/Medicaid. We support replacement of our state's regressive tax structure with a fairer, more equitable system that is based on ability to pay. We understand and support the need for a vibrant business community, and encourage socially and environmentally responsible business, and further insist that large corporate tax giveaways and loopholes are abolished.

Whereas substantial harm to our economy and individuals by fraudulent and exploitative business practices continues to plague us we support and advocate for consumer protections and stronger laws to dissuade such behavior

Education

We have a right as Americans to publicly-funded education provided in an egalitarian manner. Full funding of public schools and public education is an obligation of government at all levels; we support full public funding of education from Head Start through college. This is a necessity for understanding the role and responsibilities of a citizen in a democratic republic. It is necessary for development of workers to be able to compete at home and in the world marketplace. We understand that quality education provides the foundation to equal opportunity in our society. We strongly believe that public colleges and universities should be tuition free.

We oppose the use of public funds for private education. We expect schools to adopt a 21st Century science curriculum, including a study of the scientific method as it applies to all scientifically formulated theories. We believe support for the arts and humanities is central to a quality education.

We recognize the talent and dedication of the American educator. We support their individual and collective efforts to make our schools safe and inviting environments for learning. To that end we support collective bargaining by Teachers. We invite Teachers to a place at the table to contribute to policy decisions because we understand their knowledge is not limited to the subject matter they instruct but comprises a working understanding of how a school can and should function

Elections

We recognize that a hallmark of our Democracy are fair, free and secure elections that encourage maximum participation. We demand a process that is fair, transparent and open to all citizens, and elections that are conducted transparently and openly. Election fraud or voter suppression will not be tolerated. We recognize that the very processes which define our Democracy are being threatened by foreign influence. Our Nation's security and intelligence agencies have informed us there is no question that our elections are vulnerable. We call for Congress to address the problem and convene an independent study of the issue, develop policy, strategy and tools to safeguard the Vote.

We support all Americans be guaranteed an effective right to vote. We support restoring the full protections of the Voting Rights Act, expanding early voting, implementing automatic and same-day voter registration throughout Washington State; adding prepaid postage to return ballot envelopes; making Election Day a national holiday; and rigorous national standards for conducting elections that provide for sufficient polling places and drop boxes in all states, as well as a verifiable paper trail to facilitate audits and enable manual hand recounts of ballots.

A "Fair" election ensures that the playing field gives no one side the advantage. We demand that the practice of Gerrymandering be replaced by a neutral non-partisan organization to determine Voting Districts. We consider Gerrymandering a retro-grade practice which does not promote Democracy. We

support a Congressional investigation of the practice and effect of Gerrymandering and promote alternate methods which more realistically establish Districts. The ability to determine a District relies upon a correct valuation of the populace by way of the Census. We recognize the significance of conducting a properly administered Census in order to more fully capture all necessary data. We support fully funding the Census Bureau so that a true representation of the population can be reported.

Campaigns should be publicly financed so that qualified citizens have an opportunity to run for office regardless of their personal resources.

Law and Justice

We support vigilant protection of our constitutional civil rights for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, tribal affiliation, gender identification, sexual orientation, religion, age or economic means. We must enforce the laws of our nation.

We find it inconceivable that the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution has not been incorporated in that document. Although the Federal Government and all States have passed laws protecting Women's rights and from discrimination we are determined as a Party to continue to advocate for ratification of the ERA because laws and statutes are not evenly applied across all jurisdictions and the only true way to provide universal protection is to amend the Constitution to state that **"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."**

We respect and support the treaties made with Tribal nations and insist that they be honored fully. We support tribal sovereignty and recognize that Tribal nations have the right to decide on important issues that affect their communities.

We must have an election system we can trust to accurately reflect our votes. Competence, responsibility and ethical behavior should drive campaigns. Unconstitutional intrusions into our right to privacy should not be made. We support early intervention, alcohol/drug treatment programs and job training to help return nonviolent offenders to their community as responsible citizens.

We oppose the militarization of local police forces, and protest the killings of unarmed people – often racially charged killings

Public Safety and Infrastructure

We recognize a primary responsibility of government is to provide for the safety of its citizens. Cooperation and communication among communities, government agencies and individuals is necessary to implement effective security strategies. We urge all levels of government to finance, restore and maintain our infrastructure for the safety and benefit of all citizens in a fiscally responsible manner. All work associated with public funding must be required to conform to the standards of safety and oversight determined by regulatory agency and law. Furthermore, such work should allow for organized labor to participate and enjoy their rights to negotiation and contractual participation.

We join the majority of citizens who endorse universal background checks for gun sales as a means to control the access to firearms by those persons deemed most dangerous and support limiting the capacities of ammunition clips, banning any device allowing for faster discharge than what is capable by unaided means, destroying confiscated weapons and crime weapons. We support the 2008 Supreme Court decision regarding Haller vs. District of Columbia allowing for the regulation and limitation of dangerous weapons.

Environmental Stewardship

We accept responsibility as stewards for our natural world and recognize the need to develop, implement policies, and encourage lifestyles consistent with long-term sustainability and viability. We support applying the best available science to all decisions affecting our environment, so that our air, water and natural habitats are protected.

Restrictions on practices by individuals or corporations should be in accordance with protecting and conserving our environment or repairing degraded areas. We support environmental restoration and protection and oppose proposals that will exponentially increase the transshipment of coal and oil through the Salish Sea and Strait of Juan de Fuca. We urge the federal government, the state of Washington, and Clallam County to implement comprehensive, timely, climate action plans and to reduce climate disrupting activities and impacts.

We enjoin local, state, and federal governments to work with corporations to end exports of fossil fuels to other countries, and to end fracking. We request that local, state and federal governments actively promote state of the art oil spill prevention and response measures and equipment

Energy

We demand that national, state and county governments institute and expeditiously have in place renewable, sustainable, and environmentally safe program for national energy independence. We promote the creation of an electrical grid employing the latest technology designed to distribute and deliver energy in the most economical and consistent manner. We encourage the extension of rebates and tax credits for the purchase of energy efficient appliances, cars and other material designed to conserve energy. We support legislation which promotes the incorporation and expansion of rooftop solar installations and battery storage. We support an equitable and effective pricing of carbon. We acknowledge these efforts reflect our intention to limit Green House Gas emissions to help mitigate global warming and climate change.

Ethics and Politics

We insist public officials follow the laws of the land – federal, state and local; that these officials act in the public interest; and that all public business be conducted openly and transparently. Incorporate a requirement that all candidates for public office submit their past 5 years of tax returns to ensure they cannot be compromised and have been in compliance with all tax laws. We support public financing of election campaigns to promote trust and integrity in government.

We support the passage of a U.S. Constitutional amendment clarifying that corporations are not persons entitled to the human rights listed in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights; that the spending of money to influence elections is not speech under the First Amendment; and, that federal, state and local governments shall regulate, limit, or prohibit political contributions and expenditures and require their public disclosure.

Immigration

We recognize the role that immigrants from many countries have played in building our nation, and we support efforts to reform immigration law and policy to treat undocumented immigrants as economic victims rather than, without evidence, a criminal. We believe that building walls and using harsh policing tactics have proven to be ineffective in curbing immigration problems. We believe that legalization can happen before our border is secured. We believe that our border can be secure and

protect local communities through modernization and proper oversight. We urge our legislators to direct their attention toward the causes of this problem rather than the symptom of poor persons seeking to come into this country to gain work and better their lives.

National Security and International Relations

We support all efforts to resolve international disputes by diplomatic means, and consider it a binding obligation to abide by international treaties and laws we have agreed to. Military intervention should be resorted to only when all other means have failed, and should be done in concert with the United Nations.

Since Congress first approved an Authorized Use of Military Force for President George W. Bush that power has been renewed and invoked by the Executive without seeking further Congressional approval or endorsement. It was allowed because of the attacks on September 11, 2001 and served its purpose to give the President options to respond with military force in the war on terror. That expansion of the application of military force has exceeded the authority of the Executive and committed us to long term engagement of our armed forces without the oversight and control of Congress and the American People. We consider that using military force or the threat of doing so an unacceptable way to conduct a foreign policy agenda, especially without the support of the public. It should be unequivocally understood that the use of military force is waging war and that exercise of authority should reside in Congress, the People's House. We reject the notion that the Executive has a blank check to wage war without debate. We support legislation which will end the AUMF and restore Congressional authority to decide when to wage war.

We as Democrats recognize and understand our responsibility as Citizens and Patriots. We call for mandatory national service in either the military or other organization whose purpose is to strengthen the bonds of our Society, help others and promote good Citizenship. In time of War we believe all eligible to serve shall come forward to defend our Country. The only exemptions allowed shall be for disqualifying medical conditions. Only then can we truly gauge the commitment of the American People to fight a war. Only then can we determine if we believe it is a sacrifice worthy of our blood and treasure.

We consider military service to be an honorable profession, and we must treat our active-duty forces with respect. This means adequate pay, health benefits and housing for themselves and their families and up-to-date safety and military equipment in the field. All veterans shall be guaranteed complete healthcare and benefits from a grateful nation.

We support restructuring our active duty armed forces, to ensure our reserves and National Guard need not be deployed except in the most extreme circumstances. This allows those forces to remain available for the defense of the United States at home. We oppose the preemptive use of the military in the absence of an imminent threat. We encourage action to redefine our national priorities so as to abandon the role of acting as the military enforcer of international law throughout the world.

We applaud actions to reduce the danger of nuclear war and moves toward multilateral-ism.

Clallam County

a. We encourage our local governments to seek proactive, humane programs to alleviate homelessness and drug addiction;

- b. We affirm that our commitment to environmental health and the need to mitigate the effects of climate change extends to the entire North Olympic Peninsula and protection of its fishing and shellfish resources.
- c. We support the concept that high-speed telecommunications should be public and widely available;
- d. We support the installation of public charging stations for electric vehicles;
- e. We express ongoing concern over the inadequacy of storm water overflow protections;
- f. We oppose the construction of any new facilities that burn timber waste unless there is clear scientific evidence that such projects will not come at the expense of air quality and health risks;
- g. We reaffirm that agencies should continue to seek all effective means to manage designated wilderness for recreational use and to manage forest lands for responsible commercial logging;
- h. We recognize the need to revitalize and promote the downtown core of the county seat, Port Angeles, and encourage efforts to create and execute viable plans.