

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

2016 Washoe County Platform Committee Chairs and Members

NANCYANN LEEDER

WASHOE COUNTY PLATFORM COMMITTEE CHAIR

Fred Cooper, Chair

Members: Massimo Balestra
Courtenay Burns
Matt Buehler

[Education](#)

Larry Dwyer, Chair

Members: Matt Buehler
Janette Dean
Tina Nappe
Marge Sill
Travis Souza
Trish Swain
Caron Tayloe

[Energy and the Environment](#)

Jan Flanagan, Chair

Members: Massimo Balestra
Rob Benner
Carla Fells
Jon Garman
Tracy Holland
Priscilla Maloney
CJ Miller

[Immigration](#) | [Retirement Security](#) |
[Tax Policy](#) | [Wealth Inequality](#)

Jon Garman, Chair

Members: Matt Buehler
L. George Smith

[Economic Policy](#) |
[Foreign Relations & Trade Policy](#) | [Technology](#)

CJ Miller, Chair

Members: Massimo Balestra
Matt Buehler
Courtenay Burns
Mary Cooper
Don Gallimore
Daela Gibson

[Business Policy](#) | [Elections and Voting](#) |
[Employee Rights](#) | [Equality Under Law](#) |
[Government](#) | [Healthcare](#) | [Housing](#) |
[Infrastructure](#) | [Justice](#) |
[Uniformed Services, Veterans, & Military Families](#)

COURTENAY BURNS

WASHOE COUNTY PLATFORM COMMITTEE SCRIBE

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION 3

CIVIL RIGHTS AND PERSONAL LIBERTIES 3

Equality Under Law..... 3

Healthcare 4

Housing 6

Justice..... 6

DOMESTIC GOVERNANCE 7

Economic Policy 7

Elections and Voting Rights 8

Government 9

Immigration 10

Infrastructure 10

Tax Policy 11

EDUCATION 12

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT 14

FOREIGN RELATIONS AND TRADE POLICY 16

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT 18

Business Policy 18

Employee Rights 18

Pay Equity and Wealth Inequality..... 19

Retirement Security 19

TECHNOLOGY 20

UNIFORMED SERVICES, VETERANS, AND MILITARY FAMILIES 20

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

INTRODUCTION

Democrats generally have a positive view of government as a vehicle through which we continuously reformulate national, state, and local goals for our society and establish policies through which we achieve these goals. We strongly urge our elected officials to continue to promote the ideals, principles, and philosophy of the Democratic Party even in the face of intransigent opposition.

We should all work to create an economic, political, social, cultural, and physical environment in which individuals have the freedom and opportunity to achieve their individual goals and to pass on to the next generation an enhanced environment in its multiple dimensions.

CIVIL RIGHTS AND PERSONAL LIBERTIES

Equality Under Law

1. We believe that the rights of individuals as enumerated in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights must be protected and respected, and that violations must be more aggressively prosecuted to protect those rights, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, religion, income level, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, marital or family status, disability, credit history, criminal record, or political affiliation.
2. We support legislation to ban discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations on the basis of marital or family status.
3. We support the expansion of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* to include LGBT and gender identity.
4. We support the fundamental right to privacy and reproductive freedom of choice as established by *Roe v. Wade*, and believe individual women, not government, can best take responsibility for making intensely personal decisions about their own reproduction.
5. We oppose racial profiling.
6. We support the legal position that personal liberties under the Bill of Rights should only apply to natural persons, not artificial persons such as corporations.
7. We support passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.
8. We condemn indefinite detention without due process as unconstitutional and a violation of human rights.
9. We believe in the fundamental right of self-determination and the constitutional right to privacy for each individual to manage his or her own reproductive rights, decisions regarding sexuality, and decisions regarding with whom they enter into a marriage contract without government interference.
10. We support the restoration of voting rights for those with felony convictions, after the terms of their sentences have been fulfilled.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

11. We support affirmative action.
12. We support the Commission on Minority Affairs in Nevada to address the discrimination, disparity, inequity, and disadvantages that have negatively impacted minority groups in Nevada.
13. We support the citizens of Washington, D.C. having full voting representation in the United States Congress.

Healthcare

14. We believe that healthcare is a right.
15. We support access to not only health and medical care for all, but also preventive care, general physical and mental health care, elder care, long-term care, dental, vision, and hearing care, regardless of the ability to pay or any pre-existing conditions.
16. We support the continued improvement and maintenance of all public health efforts.
17. We support the expansion of health education and information to the general public, including but not limited to such topics as preventive care, exercise, nutrition, advance directive, living will, and end-of-life decisions.
18. We support the expansion of scientific research into all areas of health and medicine.
19. We support sound scientific research into public health issues related to gun violence, safety, and ownership.
20. We believe women's health must be protected against ideologically-driven policies that devalue women, such as defining fetal "personhood" at a woman's expense or policies that would remove or limit access to the full range of health care and decisions.
21. We continue to support comprehensive health care regulation that ensures affordable health care coverage for women, guarantees access to free birth control, the right to reproductive freedom, affordable preventive screenings for cancer and other life-saving tests, and protects women against gender discrimination by private insurers.
22. We support the fundamental right of women to safe, legal, affordable, and accessible reproductive healthcare, including contraception; pregnancy termination; and preventive health screenings, education, and support programs.
23. We support the continued implementation and expansion of the *Affordable Care Act*, with continued review of currently available healthcare plans to ensure true affordability for both individuals and families.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

24. We support efforts to eliminate health disparities, particularly among racial and ethnic minorities.
25. We support expanded and improved Medicare and Medicaid services, benefits, and administration.
26. We support the use of health care best practices and standards as included in the *Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act* and *Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act* (aka *HIPAA 2*) mandating electronic health records, privacy, and security.
27. We support movement toward Medicare for all.
28. We support expansion of services and funding for seniors and others requiring caregivers.
29. We support greater funding for senior-related diseases and conditions.
30. We believe substance use disorders (substance abuse) should be regarded as a public health issue and support expansion of services and funding.
31. We encourage the expansion of mental health resources in the State of Nevada.
32. We support greater funding for research into and care of those with complex disorders of brain development and brain functionality loss.
33. We support Medicare's right to negotiate for less expensive, though still high-quality prescription drugs for our citizens.
34. We support the expansion of Medicare and Medicaid coverage to include dental, vision, and hearing care.
35. We support medical research aimed at preventing and curing disease and alleviating suffering, while minimizing the use of animal experimentation or vivisection.
36. We support the establishment and regulation of medicinal marijuana dispensaries.
37. We believe that religion or personal ideologies should belong to the person only. The state and the law should give the most freedom possible and the most available options, including end-of-life decisions.
38. We support the expansion of tele-medicine programs.
39. We support parity in access to mental health and behavioral health in all public and private funding of health care.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

Housing

40. We support legislation to ban discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations.
41. We recommend that residential zoning should focus first on urban infill areas and avoid further urban sprawl.
42. We support affordable housing remaining affordable for low-income and middle-income residents.
43. We support an overall expansion of rental housing stock in the community.
44. We support legislation and funding to increase the availability of affordable housing units for seniors to meet the current and future demands.
45. We support legislation to prohibit deficiency judgments in the event of real property short sale.
46. We support a requirement that in any foreclosure proceeding in Nevada the foreclosing party must produce proper documents, including each valid assignment of the deed of trust and each valid endorsement of the promissory note, proving the status of its right to enforce.

Justice

47. We believe in a fair and just application of the civil and criminal justice systems regardless of race, national origin, sexual orientation or socio-economic status, which protects victims and defendants, promotes fair sentencing and appropriate safeguards for juvenile offenders, ensures safe prisons, and supports a comprehensive rehabilitation system to enable released prisoners to become productive members of society, and to have their civil rights restored.
48. We support the reduction of personal possession felonies to misdemeanors for all illegal and prescription drugs.
49. We support decriminalization of marijuana and that its use be regulated on an equivalent basis as alcohol.
50. We support abolition of the death penalty.
51. We oppose privatization of the penal system.
52. We oppose mandated sentencing guidelines.
53. We support sentencing guidelines that emphasize education, rehabilitation, and re- socialization.
54. We support reduction in incarceration that will result in savings that can be used for education, rehabilitation, and re-socialization.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

55. We support the enforcement of the 3-day waiting period and the requirement of criminal background checks, which include information on felony convictions, domestic violence complaints, and temporary restraining orders, in all gun purchases in Nevada, including gun shows.
56. We oppose allowing guns on college campuses, in public buildings, and in government buildings.
57. We support additional resources for defendants in mental health courts and other specialty courts.
58. We support review and modification of the "War on Drugs" as presently constituted at all levels of government because of its disparate impact on disadvantaged communities.
59. We support funding to ensure full implementation of the *Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)*, the *Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)*, and the *Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA)*.
60. We support the use of alternative sentencing for non-violent offenders.
61. We support the use of body cameras by police officers, as they protect both citizens and the officers.
62. We support the intervention, education, counseling medical services, mental health services, and shelter services for victims of crimes, including but not limited to any kind of abuse and/or human trafficking.

DOMESTIC GOVERNANCE

Economic Policy

63. We support, as means to stimulate economic growth, a priority on elements of fiscal policy that represent long-range investments such as but not limited to spending on infrastructure, education, clean energy, and scientific research.
64. We support fully funding and strengthening as well as complete implementation of regulations as required by the *Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act*.
65. We support resuming the strenuous enforcement of the *Clayton Act* and the *Sherman Anti-Trust Act* as a way to restore meaningful competition to the market as it relates to horizontal and vertical competition.
66. We support breaking apart those banks with the largest revenues into separate commercial banks and investment banks.
67. We support anti-trust action in any industry or market where the top 5 entities together are more than 50% of the market.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

68. We support the *Consumer Protection Act* and urge Congress to ensure that the spirit and intent of the Act are maintained.
69. We support increased prosecution of fraud in the financial services industry, with employees and agents at all levels held personally accountable.
70. We oppose the contracting of state services to entities that operate outside of the state or the use of state dollars to fund or subsidize companies that send jobs out of the state.
71. We support a jobs program where the government is the employer of last resort, superseding the minimum wage and unemployment insurance.
72. We urge that all sources of funding of all public projects be clearly identified and prominently displayed to the public at the project site.
73. We support the reduction of the standard pay workweek to 35 hours based upon productivity improvements over the past 40 years.
74. We support a minimum tax on profits derived from government-issued monopolies (patents).
75. We support the right of municipalities to operate publicly-owned Internet infrastructure.

Elections and Voting Rights

76. We support online voter registration.
77. We oppose photo identification requirements for voting.
78. We believe that, except for absentee ballots and provisional ballots, all votes in all elections in Nevada should be cast using electronic machines with a verifiable paper trail.
79. We support the creation of a public campaign finance system for elections at the local, state, and national levels.
80. We support efforts to overturn the *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010) decision, which allowed unlimited corporate spending in elections.
81. We support the continuance of long early voting periods and no-excuse absentee ballot procedures.
82. We support consideration of an absentee process in the state Democratic caucus.
83. We support the establishment of regional caucus locations to accommodate Nevadans with disabilities or other circumstances that may inhibit the ability to participate in the caucus process, including but not limited to the assistance of sign language interpreters, ballots in Braille, and language translators.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

84. We support restoration of the *Voting Rights Act* as it was originally enacted.
85. We support transparency at every stage with voting system software, by maintaining the official source code on deposit with the Nevada Secretary of State's office and made available for public review.
86. We support automatic voter registration for all eligible individuals.
87. We propose that city council members be elected in the primary and general election by the voters in their respective wards only.
88. We support making transparent all campaign contributions from all sources including 527s, Political Action Committees (PACs), super PACs, bundlers, et cetera.
89. We support requiring disclosure of political campaign contributors of over \$250.

Government

90. We acknowledge that when the citizens of any country or an area thereof decide that they want to move from an authoritarian government to a more democratic system, they may face many challenges in making the desired transition. If, during the difficult process, they request assistance from the United States in establishing democratic institutions and processes, we believe the United States should stand willing to provide them with consultative assistance.
91. We oppose privatization of core services, including, but not limited to: safety, security, social services, police, transportation, emergency services, prisons, education, medical services, utilities, military and veteran services, Social Security, the United States Postal Service, and Medicare and Medicaid.
92. We support and urge immediate development of a plan for funding for the improvement, maintenance, and repair of Washoe County's and the State of Nevada's infrastructure, including mass transit projects.
93. We support the continued implementation of the *Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act*, and increased monitoring and regulation of all financial institutions.
94. We support the mission of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to protect consumers from unscrupulous and fraudulent business and credit practices and reporting.
95. We support the repeal of the remaining *McCarran-Ferguson Act* that afforded the insurance industry exemption from antitrust laws, and we petition Congress to hold the insurance industry fully accountable for engaging in anti-trust practices.
96. We insist that agencies of the United States government take actions necessary to guarantee the safety of our food and drugs.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

97. We support raising the minimum wage.
98. We support a farm policy for the United States that restricts subsidies to large self-sustaining farms yet preserves the vitally needed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program.
99. We support the funding of health and medical programs, education, training, and rehabilitation programs on Indian Reservations that are consistent with the obligations the United States government incurred when signing treaties with Indian tribes.
100. We support at both the state and national levels the establishment of an objective, non-partisan panel to reestablish voting districts in order to eliminate the problems associated with the current gerrymandered voting districts.

Immigration

101. We support practical, fair, and comprehensive immigration reform and strong border security.
102. We oppose abuse of the H-1B and H-2B work visa programs.
103. We support immigration reform that allows families to stay in the United States while they apply for citizenship.
104. We support the "*Dream Act*," the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).
105. We welcome refugees as classified by the United Nations.
106. We support the State of Nevada becoming an immigration safety zone, where emergency services can be utilized without fear of reprisal based on immigration status.

Infrastructure

107. We support transportation systems that include components of bus, rail, and bicycle travel, as well as safe walkways and road crossings for pedestrians.
108. We support the rebuilding of the nation's infrastructure, which will modernize our transportation, drinking water, and waste-water systems, as well as bridges and schools.
109. We support new development to be planned and zoned with respect for the need to preserve open space and agricultural lands in a manner that conserves wildlife habitat, maintains habitat linkages, protects water quality, and reduces flood risk.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

110. We support planning and zoning to restore and maintain a jobs/housing balance within geographically distinct areas of the county, reducing long commutes, and associated negative impacts on traffic.
111. We support choice in transportation so residents are not dependent upon automobiles but also enjoy the freedom to choose among multiple modes of transport, such as bicycling, walking, and bus riding.
112. We support the development of both a comprehensive, modern intra-city and inter-city multi-modal transportation system designed to serve all segments of society.

Tax Policy

113. We support a Nevada mining depletion tax, the profits from which will be invested in a state trust to be spent on environmental remediation.
114. We urge Congress to enact legislation creating a carbon tax on industry as an incentive to reduce carbon emissions.
115. We urge Congress to fund IRS compliance enforcement.
116. We oppose corporate inversion practices.
117. We support a comprehensive review and revision of the federal tax code.
118. We support removal of the payroll tax cap.
119. We support the restoration of Senior Citizens Property Tax Assistance program.
120. We urge the United States to continue to work with other G-20 nations to formulate a tax plan that prevents corporations that operate internationally from using practices that result in tax avoidance or other unfair tax practices.
121. We oppose any move towards regressive tax structures.
122. We urge that careful analysis be given to decisions involving tax abatement and other incentives to attract new businesses to the community.
123. We support a move from the current practice of raising revenue to support our highway infrastructure via a per-gallon gasoline tax to a per-ton-mile fee assessed during the annual sticker renewal that is conducted at the state level. The fee charged would be based on the odometer reading and the gross vehicle weight of the vehicle's make and model.
124. We support stabilizing our revenue stream and working toward increased economic diversification.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

125. We support the Mining Oversight Accountability Commission in its role to determine the appropriateness of mining tax deductions and strongly encourage the state government to staff and enforce the collection and auditing of these taxes.

126. We support restoration of the corporate Alternative Minimum Tax.

EDUCATION

127. We believe a full, well-rounded education for all people is essential for success in life.

128. We believe that every student has the right to equal access to educational resources regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, religious affiliation, or the local tax base.

129. We support funding for Nevada schools at a level equal to or exceeding the national average.

130. We support long-term planning and sufficient funding for new school buildings and preventive maintenance of existing school buildings. Specifically, we support the work of Washoe County's *Public School Overcrowding and Repair Needs* committee.

131. We support a greater emphasis on and funding for Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) in our schools.

132. We support an increase in recruiting and training efforts for STEAM professionals to teach and train Nevada's students as well as enhance Nevada's diverse business community.

133. We support the availability of medically accurate, comprehensive, age-appropriate, and accessible reproductive healthcare education and resources in Nevada schools.

134. We believe all Nevada students should have the opportunity to develop social and critical thinking skills; understand core principles of personal finance; understand the principles of preventive health care; and participate in and appreciate sports, civic activities, and a multicultural education.

135. We support investment in vocational and technical education financially supported by education, labor, and business partnerships.

136. We support initiatives to train unemployed workers for new technologies leading to new careers.

137. We support educational initiatives and curricula that develop and promote sound environmental policies and green technologies, leading to new careers.

138. We support the inclusion of labor and social movement studies into the K-12 Social Studies standards and curriculum.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

139. We support the Common Core to the extent that it is supported, modified, and endorsed by the professional educational community in Nevada.
140. We believe that preparations for standardized testing should not take away from the pursuit of a well-rounded education.
141. We believe that English Language Learners (ELLs) have unique needs and should be provided with bilingual education programs to receive instruction in their heritage/native language from qualified teachers until English proficiency is achieved.
142. We support full-day, publicly funded, mandatory kindergarten for all children.
143. We believe early childhood education programs should meet educational, physical, social, mental, emotional, and nutritional needs of children.
144. We support limiting class size based on the type of students, subject area content, physical facilities, and other criteria.
145. We support the teaching of the United States Constitution and the Nevada State Constitution, the protections that they confer, and the responsibilities of citizenship to Nevada students.
146. We support the teaching of evidence-based science, unimpeded by ideological distortions, as the source of understanding of all life forms, including our own.
147. We support the teaching of climate science.
148. We oppose the teaching of any theologically based coursework in public schools.
149. We believe that every effort should be made to help engage parents/guardians in their children's education, including helping parents/guardians to understand what material is being taught, how it is being taught, and how they can help their child(ren) learn.
150. We believe in the necessity of providing affordable and accessible higher education opportunities for both new high school graduates and adults.
151. We support increased state funding for the Millennium Scholarship to ensure continuation of the program.
152. We support increasing funding for community colleges.
153. We support the maintenance and enhancement of Nevada's post-secondary academic programs.
154. We support senior citizens' attendance at state-supported college classes without charge under defined provisions.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

155. We support the implementation of age-appropriate and comprehensive anti-bullying programs in Nevada schools.
156. We oppose the distribution of public funds to private, tuition-based K-12 educational institutions.
157. We oppose efforts to privatize the K-12 education system, including any taxpayer support of private schools.
158. We support proficiency testing for private-schooled and home-schooled students to ensure they remain on-track with their public school peers.
159. We believe that Nevada schools must remain gun-free and drug-free zones.
160. We support opportunities for continuing education for all of Nevada's education professionals.
161. We believe that educators in the State of Nevada deserve to be paid competitive salaries, at or above the national average.
162. We support the training of all school officials in suicide intervention skills.
163. We believe that Nevada's teachers should be evaluated based on more than just student test scores.

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

164. We support safe and affordable communities based upon sustainable energy and environmentally sound public policies.
165. We strongly support the *Endangered Species Act*, and the *Antiquities Act*.
166. We strongly support the *Clean Air Act* and the *Clean Water Act*, extended to encompass all fossil fuel operations.
167. We support the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan and urge its implementation in Nevada.
168. We support maintaining national stewardship of our public lands and we oppose efforts to turn over public lands to the states.
169. We support adequate funding for the management of public lands, including watersheds, recreation and scenic resources, cultural resources, and open space and parks.
170. We support a higher level of protection for the Gold Butte area in order to preserve its unique cultural, scenic, and biological resources.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

171. We support sustainable water use and water policies that protect streams, wet meadows, springs, lakes, and ponds.
172. We oppose the inter-basin transfer of groundwater where it is predicted that there are significant detrimental environmental impacts on the local habitat.
173. We strongly oppose projects like Yucca Mountain that use Nevada as a dumping ground for nuclear waste, mercury, and other toxic substances.
174. We support the adoption of all reasonable measures to ensure the safety of our workers and communities affected by the transportation, handling, distribution, and disposal of hazardous materials.
175. We support the use and development of alternative energy, including solar, wind, and geothermal, as primary sources of energy for Nevada.
176. We support public funding for the development of distributed solar energy on houses, businesses, and public buildings.
177. We support income-based subsidies for energy efficiency and alternative energy projects on private residences.
178. We support programs that address global warming.
179. We support the phasing-out of fossil-fueled power plants.
180. We strongly oppose the process of fracking within the State of Nevada.
181. We support meaningful regulations on the disposal of waste fracking fluids into the subsurface, including full disclosure of the compounds used in fracking fluids.
182. We support collaborative and coordinated efforts of governmental agencies and private stakeholders to maintain and increase sage grouse populations by conserving, enhancing, and restoring sagebrush habitats.
183. We support single-stream recycling.
184. We support recycling of construction waste.
185. We support legislative action to amend the Nevada Administrative Code so that the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection will have the authority to deny an operating permit for a Class I landfill in areas clearly unsuitable for such projects.
186. We support transportation systems that include components of bus, rail, and bicycle travel, as well as safe walkways and road crossings for pedestrians.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

187. We support the use of incentives for electric vehicles; for cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicles; and for cleaner fuels.
188. We support adequate funding for the Nevada Department of Wildlife.
189. We support the inclusion of more members of the general public from different backgrounds on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners and the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.
190. We support banning recreational and commercial trapping using leghold, snare, or Conibear-style traps or similar devices on public lands in Nevada
191. We support the scientific management of healthy and sustainable wildlife populations, including predators, in Nevada.
192. We support legislation that requires use of bear-proof garbage containers in Nevada's mountain communities.
193. We support a mining depletion tax, the profits from which will be invested in a state trust to be spent on environmental remediation.
194. We urge Congress to enact legislation creating a carbon tax on industry as an incentive to reduce carbon emissions.
195. We urge Congress to pass a cap-and-trade bill for carbon emissions to deliver an environmental objective at the lowest cost to the economy.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AND TRADE POLICY

196. We believe that the most practical approach to foreign relations generally is to make our own democratic, regulated, free enterprise system work as effectively and efficiently as possible, and in doing so, to serve as a beacon to the world worthy of emulation by other nations.
197. We recommend that United States foreign policy encourage countries throughout the world to share economic gains with all their citizens as opposed to centralizing economic gains in the hands of entrenched elites.
198. We support the United States' working through the United Nations to achieve international goals of expanding access to safe drinking water, eliminating slum conditions, achieving parity in primary school enrollment between boys and girls, and expanding access to comprehensive, medically accurate health care.
199. We urge the United States to provide leadership in developing international standards and protections to eliminate fraudulent cyber activity of all types.
200. We urge every possible action be taken to ensure that any use of drones by and for the United

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

- States for any purpose be consistent with our values as a nation.
201. We urge the United States to support an international effort to move the United Nations Weapons Treaty toward becoming international law.
 202. We urge the United States to continue to discourage the spread of nuclear weapons.
 203. We urge the United States to honor its commitments to all nations.
 204. We urge that the United States work with other developed countries to help emerging nations eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve advances in education; promote gender equality and empowerment of women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; forge global partnerships among different countries and actors to achieve development goals; and work toward solutions to climate change, land degradation, ocean management, and air pollution.
 205. We urge the United States to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as a legal basis for settling maritime boundary disputes and enacting safety standards for commercial shipping.
 206. We recommend that the United States lift the trade embargo with Cuba.
 207. We urge the United States government to inform governments throughout the world whose firms supply products to the United States that they must establish and enforce laws that provide for labor, fire, and building safety or they will be faced with barriers to trade with the United States.
 208. We oppose the substance, negotiation process, and adoption of the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership involving the United States and Europe, the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) involving the United States and several Pacific-Rim nations, and the Trade in Services Agreement based upon the full public text of the TPP.
 209. We support government agencies such as the Import-Export Bank, the Commerce Department, and State Department increasing their activities in facilitating exports and constructing infrastructure projects in foreign countries by American firms to provide employment opportunities for Americans.
 210. We support the United States government working toward an agreement among China, the United States, Japan, South Korea, and other nations about rules of behavior when encountering each other in three particular domains: air, sea, and cyberspace.
 211. We believe the United States should support those countries moving into a more democratic system of government, providing diplomatic assistance upon request.
 212. We support diplomacy as the first tool of choice in resolving differences before military intervention.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

213. We strongly support programs that strive to abolish all forms of human trafficking and support organizations that work toward helping its victims. Nations that condone any form of human trafficking and/or harbor its perpetrators should face strict sanctions.

214. We support transparency of non-military foreign aid given by the United States.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

Business Policy

215. We support economic policies with the immediate goal of achieving maximum employment.

216. We support business activities, including manufacturing, in the United States; we oppose outsourcing.

217. We support retraining and re-education for the persons in our society whose current skills are not consistent with the constantly changing workplace requirements.

218. We support the strengthening and enforcement of residency requirements for workers employed on taxpayer-funded or taxpayer-subsidized projects.

219. We oppose the use of state dollars to fund or subsidize companies that send jobs out of state or overseas.

220. We believe that public policy should be aimed at expanding the economy and creating jobs that pay a living wage within the State of Nevada.

Employee Rights

221. We support legislation that protects unemployed workers from being discriminated against based on their unemployed status.

222. We oppose employment discrimination based on credit history.

223. We support the right to privacy for job applicants, thus prohibiting an employer from requiring passwords for social media accounts as a condition for employment.

224. We support the right of men and women to form and join unions in both the public and private sectors and to engage in collective bargaining.

225. We oppose efforts to pass or maintain so-called "right to work" laws.

226. We support the strengthening of the National Labor Relations Board and urge the enactment of the *Employee Free Choice Act*, both of which are aimed at protecting workers' right to organize.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

227. We oppose the misclassification of workers as independent contractors.

Pay Equity and Wealth Inequality

228. We support raising the minimum wage and indexing it to cost of living increases.

229. We support legislation to guarantee paycheck fairness: equal pay for equal work for all, including women and seniors.

230. We look forward to a time when there will be a basic income guarantee for all citizens.

231. We support all employees being given a choice between being paid by check, direct deposit, or debit card, as debit cards may come with associated fees that adversely impact the employees' wages.

232. We support subsidizing employers who hire disadvantaged youth.

233. We support business incubators and mentoring opportunities for minority and/or female-owned businesses.

234. We oppose predatory loan practices and support limits on the interest rates for all loan instruments.

235. We support strengthening prevailing wage standards.

236. We support strengthening union participation, the restoration of overtime protections for all workers, the right to form and join a union, and the freedom to bargain collectively.

237. We support paid sick leave, parental leave, family leave, and medical leave, as well as the current provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

238. We support labor protections for domestic workers and farm workers.

239. We support enforceable legislation to protect workers from wage theft.

240. We support the requirement of minimum qualifications for early childhood education professionals and compensation for them as professionals.

Retirement Security

241. We support repeal of the *Windfall Elimination Act* and the *Government Pension Offset Act*, and all attempts to short-change government employees.

242. We support protecting, expanding, and improving Medicare and Medicaid services, benefits, and administration.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

243. We believe in the preservation, integrity, and expansion of the Social Security program, which enables a dignified life for the elderly, disabled, and dependent.
244. We support defined benefit pension plans, which provide the greatest security for retirees and should be the preferred policy for both public and private sector employees.
245. We support, as an addition to the charter of the Social Security Administration, the creation of a national Retirement Trust and that this Trust would take control of all employee retirement accounts so that employers may not defund retirements to pay for adverse conditions affecting their operations.
246. We support a national strategy to stabilize pension funds.

TECHNOLOGY

247. We support the United States' creation and operation of a world-wide computer anti-malware library, to contain ALL known malware and made freely available to anti-malware software vendors in all countries, so long as they agree to place their own anti-malware library into the United States' anti-malware library.
248. We support increased investment in basic research in medicine, technology, transportation, agriculture, and energy.
249. We support modest licensing fees for profit-making entities for use of inventions covered by patents derived from United States-backed basic research.
250. We support the development of secure source identity verification extensions to the Internet Protocol.
251. We support net neutrality.

UNIFORMED SERVICES, VETERANS, AND MILITARY FAMILIES

252. We support every service member being paid a living wage sufficient to support his/her family.
253. We support continued benefits for family members of those who die or are permanently disabled in the service of this country.
254. We support zero tolerance of sexual assault in the military.
255. We support zero tolerance of sexual, physical, and emotional assault and/or abuse of members of veterans' families and military families, where those families are subject to military jurisdiction.

2016 Washoe County Democratic Party Platform

256. We support providing veterans and previously deployed reservists with prompt and appropriate help reintegrating into their communities, including but not limited to, counseling services, suicide prevention, education benefits, and disability payments for those who return with physical injuries and/or mental health problems.
257. We support the protection of the civil rights of all active duty and reserve members of the United States' armed forces, as well as all of the protections afforded to them under the *Servicemember's Civil Relief Act (SCRA)*.
258. We support efforts to protect active duty personnel and veterans from unlawful and unethical lending practices.
259. We support funding and staffing increases to allow the Veterans Administration (VA) to accomplish its mission of serving our veteran community.
260. We support the extension of VA services to rural areas.
261. We support medically-necessary services and care for all veterans, regardless of the location of the nearest Veterans Administration hospital or the ability to pay. No veteran should be denied or delayed medical or mental health care based on rank.
262. We support expansion of and greater access to GI Bill educational benefits to our veterans, their spouses, and dependents.
263. We support the VA's efforts to reduce or eliminate homelessness among veterans.
264. We strongly urge the VA to take immediate steps to improve the processing of veterans' benefit claims in Nevada.
265. We support the *VA Accountability Act of 2014*, which holds administration management accountable for its actions.
266. We support reform of the VA to eradicate substandard care of veterans at VA health facilities.
267. We support efforts to improve the capability of the VA to deliver services to veterans and their families.
268. We oppose privatization of veterans' services.
269. We support the extension of benefits to the surviving spouse of a veteran, regardless of whether marriage occurred before or after discharge.