

Carson City Proposed Platform 2020

POLITICS and POLICY

One

WHEREAS

The Nevada 2020 Presidential caucus consumed immense resources, became confusing because of external events, used problematic computer-based tools, and while generating much public interest did not include the majority of Democrats.

THEREFORE

Nevada should use a ranked choice primary election with online and mail-in voting for the 2024 presidential election cycle.

Two

WHEREAS

All citizens are encouraged to participate in the election process, early voting encourages voting, Nevada vets voter identification during voter registration and Nevada effectively prevents voter fraud.

THEREFORE

We support open and fair elections through voter protection programs. We support voting by mail. We support expanding the times and locations for early voting. We oppose photo ID requirements for voting and/or any other efforts aimed at voter suppression.

Three

WHEREAS

Campaigns can be lengthy and annoying.

THEREFORE

Shorten all campaigns to no earlier than January 1 of the election year.

Four

WHEREAS

The Center for Responsive Politics identified \$300 million in "dark money" (unreported political spending) in 2012, one quarter of which was connected to the Koch brothers. The Supreme Court has made the situation worse in *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*, Docket No. 12-536, by removing a total contribution limit for individuals. Campaign contributions and campaigns have attained incomprehensible amounts.

THEREFORE

Congress and the states should require disclosure every two weeks of all significant campaign contributions from origin through expenditure regardless of the entities in the path and timely disclosure of all other contributions.

Five

WHEREAS

Citizens of Nevada believe corporate and unaccountable money should not be part of the election process.

THEREFORE

The Supreme Court decision *Citizens United* must be overturned.

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Six

WHEREAS

There is a public concern about undue influence on elected officials.

THEREFORE

We require candidates for federal office to publish their federal income tax forms for the most recent five years.

Seven

WHEREAS

Twice this century two presidents have been elected who had a minority of the popular vote and with disastrous consequences for our nation. Does anyone believe that there would have been an Iraq war if Gore had been president? One can even speculate that Richard Clark's warning would have been heeded and 9-11 would have been prevented. We are currently living through the disaster that is our current administration. Under our current electoral college system a vote in Wyoming has 20 times the vote in California thus violating the 1 person – 1 vote principal.

THEREFORE

Be it resolved that Nevada join the interstate compact that provides that when a sufficient number of states with a majority of electoral votes join the Compact, Nevada's electoral vote will go to the candidate who wins the popular vote.

Eight

WHEREAS

The Constitution requires a count of PERSONS and not citizens in the census.

THEREFORE

The 2020 census should make every effort to count every person.

Nine

WHEREAS

The US Constitution "promotes the general welfare." The United States is the wealthiest country in the history of the world. Every developed country in the world except the USA provides some form of universal healthcare; many countries provide for the universal availability of debt free higher education and training for all citizens (Brazil, Germany, Finland, France, Norway, Slovenia and Sweden are examples). Income inequality in the United States has increased to the point that it is the highest in history and greater than that experienced in the "Gilded Age." The US is now in the lower 30% of equal distribution of income in the world (i.e. 70% of countries have a more equal distribution of both income and wealth).

THEREFORE

We support the concepts and the implementation of universal healthcare, universal funding of education, and a basic universal income.

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Ten

WHEREAS

The recently enacted Federal tax bill will increase income inequality, increases the impossible complexity of tax law, raises the Federal deficit and debt to intolerable levels and is not designed to adequately fund government.

THEREFORE

The now existing tax law must be rethought; all income earned and unearned should be subject to the same progressive tax rates and tax expenditures removed in favor of transparency in programs.

Eleven

WHEREAS

A healthy population generates a more productive society and economic growth.

THEREFORE

We need a universal care system that provides health care as a right, focuses on health care rather than health repair and emphasizes lower health care costs over health repair insurance. A universal care system can be modeled on Medicaid/Medicare to include mental health, dental, vision and hearing aid coverage along with negotiated prescription costs and allowing importation of less costly drugs.

Twelve

WHEREAS

The *Affordable Care Act* makes minimum requirements for insurance offerings, requires research to establish best practices, expands the Medicaid program and improves Medicare.

THEREFORE

Every effort should be made to educate the public with facts, as opposed to rumor and fears, to support the *Act*, to explain, fully fund, improve and support the *Act's* benefits and to forestall measures which would eliminate implementation of the *Act*.

Thirteen

WHEREAS

The *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision since 1973 has protected women's health and reproductive freedom, affirms and exemplifies the broader principle that government should not intrude on private family matters, and demonstrates that our living Constitution protects all persons.

THEREFORE

Women's health must be protected and individual freedoms must be defended. We support NRS 442.250 approved by 1992 referendum. We oppose policies that define "personhood" at a woman's expense, and that remove or limit access to a full range of reproductive healthcare including contraception and abortion. We support medically accurate and complete sexuality education for our youth.

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Fourteen

WHEREAS

Planned Parenthood offers women's health services not readily available, only offers options without prejudice to clients and competes for Medicaid funds, and uses only PRIVATE funds for few abortion services.

THEREFORE

Any blanket denial of Federal funds will deprive clients, will hinder society and must be resisted.

Fifteen

WHEREAS

Persons, especially elders, who are subject to a guardianship are susceptible to abuse.

THEREFORE

Nevada is obligated to supervise guardianships and appropriately punish abusers.

Sixteen

WHEREAS

Some persons live with disability and mental health problems.

THEREFORE

Programs such as Social Security Disability, Social Security Supplemental income, comprehensive Medicare and Medicaid must remain to benefit our society.

Seventeen

WHEREAS

Medicaid funds are decreasing while the very low-income population is increasing, the very low-income population risks requiring secondary or tertiary care absent preventive or acute care, Federal Medicaid funding supplements state funding, state Medicaid reimbursements are too low, and medical care providers may refuse Medicaid patients.

THEREFORE

Medicaid funding should be commensurate with growth in low income populations should ensure reimbursement sufficient for recruitment of physicians and mental health providers for patients.

Eighteen

WHEREAS

The mentally ill and the developmentally disabled are often unable to advocate for themselves and as a result of services that are hard to find, too costly, or of abhorrent quality (housing) are living severely diminished lives including prevalent homelessness. The cost of not providing services and support for the mentally ill and the developmentally disabled in emergency care and jail is likely beyond the cost of providing a reliable, quality system of care.

THEREFORE

Assure the existence of a multi-disciplinary approach to quality care for the mentally ill and the developmentally disabled that includes healthcare, housing and recovery treatment and support.

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Nineteen

WHEREAS

The American Medical Association believes that “achieving equity for LGBTQ people should be a near-term health goal for society” and our living Constitution protects all persons. The Trump administration has proposed to scrap policies that prohibit federal agencies, financial institutions and health care providers from discrimination based on gender, sexual identity and sexual preference.

THEREFORE

Individual rights, freedoms and health must be protected and defended. Policies must be restored and permanent regulations must be adopted.

Twenty

WHEREAS

Democracy cannot function without an “educated populace.”

THEREFORE

Legislature should enact bills that strengthen, protect and fund generously public education K – 12, colleges, universities and prohibit funding and vouchers for religious/church or private schools. Nevada should double per-pupil spending by 2022.

Twenty-one

WHEREAS

Public support for higher education (college and trade schools) has declined precipitously over the past few decades. As a result, students have assumed both private and government-guaranteed debt, and for-profit institutions have abused loan programs. Various loan-forgiveness programs are mismanaged and have charged excessive, above-market interest rates.

THEREFORE

Current funding programs must be revamped to consider economic crises, reward students for community service, improve program administration of loans, and cap interest rates. Programs such as Ameri-Core, Rural Medical Staff, and the Peace Core can be used as models, and should be expanded.

Twenty-two

WHEREAS

The level of gun violence in this country has reached intolerable levels.

THEREFORE

We support sensible gun laws regulating the purchase and distribution of firearms, universal background checks, bans on military style assault weapons and devices to make other weapons functionally the same as such assault weapons, a minimum age of 18 for purchases and initial and recurring firearms training. Ban assault rifles, automatic weapons, bump stocks and high capacity magazines and other similar lethal means.

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Twenty-three

WHEREAS

The Dickey Amendment prevents the Center for Disease Control from undertaking research relating to the effects of violent use of guns, including mass shootings and prevents the accumulation of valid information.

THEREFORE

The Dickey Amendment should be repealed, and funding provided for research.

Twenty-four

WHEREAS

HIPAA is an important mandate, it should not prevent communication among mental health, physical health care providers and law enforcement in order to prevent harm to and by the mentally ill and the developmentally disabled by having access to guns.

THEREFORE

Examine actions necessary to make mental health information known to background checks and law enforcement so that individuals who are mentally ill and/or developmentally disabled are prohibited from buying or possessing guns.

Twenty-five

WHEREAS

Whereas Nevada receives less precipitation than any other state in the nation; water is the most important resource for human, animal and plant life; the state's and the region's water sources have been stressed by drought and/or overuse; and a warmer drier climate is likely in the coming decades, further stressing the water supply.

THEREFORE

The Nevada Democratic Party supports a policy of sustainable water use to be included in all planning decisions which ensures that both human needs and environmental health can be maintained.

Twenty-six

WHEREAS

US infrastructure (e.g., roads, bridges, ports, power plants, electrical grids, water ways, aqueducts) is eroding, new infrastructure is needed, inappropriate and insufficient infrastructure limits business competitiveness, Federal borrowing is available at or below zero real interest rates, and infrastructure expenditures are counter-cyclical.

THEREFORE

Public policy should promote aggressive stimulus programs to build new infrastructure creating near-and long-term jobs. These programs should have a strong emphasis on climate change and renewable energy infrastructure/jobs .

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Twenty-seven

WHEREAS

Union membership and collective bargaining offers economic power for many, requires employers and workers to resolve mutual problems, and creates decision-making efficiencies especially where large numbers of workers are involved.

THEREFORE

Existing collective bargaining and union membership should not be degraded, and barriers to union membership should be removed including “card check” as proposed by the Employee Free Choice Act introduced in 2005, 2007 and 2009.

Twenty-eight

WHEREAS

Government employees are invaluable to a functioning, healthy and happy society and often require skills not readily available.

THEREFORE

All government workers should be compensated at least the same as comparable workers in the private sector.

Twenty-nine

WHEREAS

Climate Change is occurring at a rapid rate, the rapid increase in green house gases results from human activity, collective responses are possible through government actions and renewable fuel sources are encouraged through income tax expenditures. Fossil fuels will ultimately disappear, fossil fuel consumption adds carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, fossil fuel production is subsidized, and subsidies distort free-market decision making

THEREFORE

All direct and indirect subsidies for fossil fuel production and consumption should be eliminated. Fossil fuels should have carbon-based taxes, tax incentives should favor renewable energy resources, all resulting in market pricing encouraging the use of renewable sources over fossil resources.

Thirty

WHEREAS

Congressional budgeting decisions are not selective enough, inappropriate budget reductions harm revenue collection and do not protect programs from fraud.

THEREFORE

Congress must fully fund all audit and anti-fraud programs in the Internal Revenue Service, Medicare, Medicaid, and other programs even when program budgets are being reduced.

Thirty-one

WHEREAS

Whistleblowers and a free press provide effective oversight for government incompetence and fraud.

THEREFORE

Congress should increase protections for whistleblowers and enact a press “shield” law.

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Thirty-two

WHEREAS

Society is obligated to care for the less fortunate children.

THEREFORE

Funding for child welfare such as WIC, S-CHIP, SNAP, CASA, the Safe and Stable Families Act, and subsidies for adoption and guardianship should not be curtailed but increased.

Thirty-three

WHEREAS

Society offers multiple helping services, opioid and heroin addictions require continuous supervision, eligible recipients may not be aware of possible assistance services and also may not have personal transportation or personal communication.

THEREFORE

Local communities such as cities and counties should establish “one call” reference centers using trained professional and trained volunteers, including virtual telephone networks, single site offices and traveling outreach workers.

Thirty-four

WHEREAS

Currently Yucca Mountain is not funded for nuclear waste storage, has serious seismic and aquifer risks for long-term storage, transportation creates additional hazards and is opposed by Nevadans

THEREFORE

The Federal budget should not include Yucca Mountain for nuclear waste storage, and should not fund fuel re-processing at Yucca Mountain and as a nuclear storage site.

Thirty-five

WHEREAS

In 1983 the Greenspan Commission put the Social Security trust fund on a sustainable course by subjecting 90% of all earned income to the FICA tax. In the three decades since, the taxed proportion has slipped to 80% because of an unforeseen explosion of income inequality from globalization and technological change. Thus the Social Security trust fund is on course for depletion within perhaps 25 years (contributions no longer exceed benefits). The Social Security program pools risk, requires contributions to be eligible for benefits, protects the general fund from supporting retirees, now supports retirees, has sufficient contributions for expected benefits until 2034, has income from US bonds, and supports current general fund deficits by buying US bonds.

THEREFORE

Congress should modify the formula for calculating the FICA threshold using the Gini coefficient to compensate for growing income disparity. Phased in over time, this will gradually return the earned income subject to the FICA tax back to the 90% mark required for trust fund sustainability. We oppose privatization of Social Security and Medicare.

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Thirty-six

WHEREAS

Internet service is equivalent to a public utility, equal access to broadband services benefits users and producers, and are essential for providing education for all which means all children and households deserve Internet access.

THEREFORE

“Net neutrality” which treats all comers equally must be re-instated, maintained and enhanced. All persons should have broad-band Internet access.

Thirty-seven

WHEREAS

Society owes and promises various services to Veterans in return for their services and injuries, severely injured veterans now survive their immediate injuries, suffer traumatic brain injury (TBI), suffer post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and may require assistance over extended time periods.

THEREFORE

Congress should fund community-based outreach programs to assist veterans needing services. Funding for Veteran programs should not be diminished and increased funding is necessary for veterans whose injuries and resulting conditions are not immediately apparent and may require funding for the entire life of the veteran. All service animals should be fully paid for including emotional support animals.

Thirty-eight

WHEREAS

The Constitution is being shredded by the Patriot Act and subsequent legislation which allows indefinite and secret arrest of alleged terrorists wherever and whenever, allows extra territorial assassinations and allows the massive gathering of data without probable cause.

THEREFORE

Congress should systematically remove all statutes allowing the search, observation or seizure of persons or property including electronic materials absent a court-approved warrant and apply *habeas corpus* to any detention or arrest in any location including overseas.

Thirty-nine

WHEREAS

Military commissions besmirch the Constitution and give credence that terrorists are capable of changing US policy.

THEREFORE

Congress should allow Federal Court trials for Guantanamo Bay prisoners similar to the trials held under long-arm US statutes, undo the military commissions and thereby demonstrate that terrorism cannot change US policy.

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Forty

WHEREAS

Undocumented children brought into the US by their parents did not have the ability to consent, were educated by public and private schools, and are now becoming adults who know no other society.

THEREFORE

Congress should immediately pass the *Dream Act*, Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act allowing qualifying minors to gain residency. For the interim, continue the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Forty-one

WHEREAS

Human trafficking effects children and adults is equivalent to slavery, victims often appear to be willing participants, they are our neighbors and our neighbor's children from all classes of society.

THEREFORE

Schools, courts, employers, government and all of society must be trained to recognize human trafficking and intervene. Laws need to be strengthened and strongly enforced. The purchasers of the trafficked individuals, not the victims, must be prosecuted.

Forty-two

WHEREAS

The US Constitution provides for "... ,... the general Welfare, ..." for all persons through the National Environmental Protection Act, Clean Water Act, Water Quality Act, Wilderness Act, Endangered Species Act, Solid Waste Disposal Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and Occupational Safety and Health Act among many others.

THEREFORE

Congress must continue enforcing existing law and continue carefully reviewing changing conditions for improving existing law. Congress must reverse the current Federal administration's efforts to remove environmental protections.

Forty-three

WHEREAS

The US Postal Service is required by the Constitution, must provide universal service, has endured declining first class volumes, once offered banking services, provides last mile service for private package delivery companies, is subject direct Congressional oversight despite being a separate executive agency, is the subject of multiple studies, is required to fund in cash 75 years of post-retirement obligation and continues to have financial losses despite increasing efficiencies and newer service offerings.

THEREFORE

Congress must immediately end the mandated \$5.5 billion per year pre-funded employee retirement health benefits which is not required of ANY entity and begin again the US Postal Saving bank for persons who will never be offered banking services.

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Forty-four

WHEREAS

Libraries are fundamental to a functioning democracy, are depositories of our histories and are centers for public affordable access to knowledge.

THEREFORE

Public library funding at every level must be adequate, restored to pre-recession levels and follow inflation and cost increases.

Forty-five

WHEREAS

Public funding for the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) is supplemented by private donations, encourages PBS to rural areas, and expands the educational opportunities for a functioning democracy.

THEREFORE

Continued Federal Funding to PBS is a necessity for a viable America.

Forty-six

WHEREAS

Revenues for the consumption of resources from US owned lands are not market based, are subsidies for special interests, likely do not promote resource renewal and have not changed in decades, e.g. grazing fees, fossil fuels, timber sales, minerals etc.

THEREFORE

Congress must require all fees recover the explicit and implicit internal and external costs, promote resource renewal, provide adequate management and have a free market basis.

Forty-seven

WHEREAS

Co-operatives, e.g. employee-owned firms, worker and farm co-operatives, credit unions, provide for little served populations and provide market-based competition.

THEREFORE

Co-operative activity is encouraged, and anti-cooperative legislation is opposed.

Forty-eight

WHEREAS

Prisons are a public obligation and privately operated for profit prisons and for profit inmate services are morally wrong, expensive and ineffective.

THEREFORE

There should be no privately operated prisons and no for-profit offerings for essential prisoner/inmate services, e.g. telephone calls, toiletries, food.

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Forty-nine

WHEREAS

Prisons and jails are overpopulated and filled with low-level nonviolent drug offenders. Marijuana possession was once considered a felony in Nevada whereas today Marijuana is considered an essential service.

THEREFORE

Nevada should review and release low-level non-violent drug offenders such as marijuana offenders. Nevada can save on the cost of imprisoning these people and can instead use resources on drug rehabilitation or other helpful services.

Fifty

WHEREAS

Employment application forms often have a check box for “criminal history” and checking the box often removes the applicant from further consideration.

THEREFORE

Employment application forms must not include a check box but may include a disclaimer regarding criminal history if the applicant is further considered for employment.

Fifty-one

WHEREAS

Mandatory sentencing, “three-strikes”, inappropriately harsh drug possession “crimes” all have resulted in mass incarceration of inmates.

THEREFORE

Judges should be given the discretion to make the punishment fit the crime. Restorative justice principles should be encouraged.

Fifty-two

WHEREAS

Publicly owned land benefits all the public, attracts tourism, can provide below cost inputs for selected economic activities and provides shelter for national defense training.

THEREFORE

We oppose transferring public land for private purposes and further oppose transferring public land to states without funding for supporting the transferred land.

Fifty-three

WHEREAS

Justice delayed is justice denied, Congress does not fully fund Federal and immigration courts, the Senate does not promptly affirm or deny judicial appointments and private proceedings cannot advance the general welfare

THEREFORE

Congress must fully fund the Immigration and the Federal courts.

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Fifty-four
WHEREAS

Current immigration laws are harmful to all, and the current Federal administration has evil intent against all immigrants.

THEREFORE

Congress MUST examine and reform all current immigration laws to include a path to citizenship especially for immigration classes such as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) persons and humane criteria for asylum seekers.

Fifty-five
WHEREAS

States and the public recognize benefits from the medicinal and recreation marijuana use, marijuana continues to be a Schedule 1 drug, research on the harms and the benefits of medicinal and recreational usage is hindered and state recognized marijuana business are banned from the banking system while risking criminal attacks.

THEREFORE

Congress must promptly remove marijuana from Schedule 1 and fund research on the harms and the benefits of medicinal and recreational marijuana usage.

NEVADA

Fifty-six
WHEREAS

Nevada state employees do not receive Social Security benefits, and the Nevada Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) is a reasonable, defined-benefit retirement that is equally funded by employee and taxpayer contributions, with annual review of contribution rates to reduce unfunded liability.

THEREFORE

Nevada should continue its successful PERS program, should not close the program to new employees, should not enact any proposed alternative defined contribution plans, and should use PERS to attract and hold highly qualified employees.

Fifty-seven
WHEREAS

Nevada's recent budgets struggle with cyclical and structural deficits, and Nevada's tax system is too narrowly based.

THEREFORE

The Nevada legislature must eschew anti-tax ideology, recognize that structural reforms may encompass revenue increases and expenditure decreases and abandon tax abatements.

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Fifty-eight

WHEREAS

The Vote Builder database is a valuable tool for managing campaigns, and payment for access favors wealthy campaigns.

THEREFORE

The Nevada Democratic Party should provide access more readily to general election candidates provided that the campaign transfers its propriety data to the state party.

Fifty-nine

WHEREAS

The state of Nevada must compete for employees, the applicant pool for specialist employees is small and rigorous security requirements disqualify many applicants.

THEREFORE

The state of Nevada must avoid creating a hostile working environment, restore salaries, restore incentive pay and offer useful affordable employee and family health care plans.

Sixty

WHEREAS

Recognizing that capital punishment neither deters crime nor conforms to modern norms of public morality, eighteen states have so far abolished the death penalty: Michigan (1846), Wisconsin (1853), Maine (1887), Minnesota (1911), Alaska and Hawaii (1957), Vermont (1964), Iowa and West Virginia (1965), North Dakota (1973), Massachusetts and Rhode Island (1984), New Jersey and New York (2007), New Mexico (2009), Illinois (2011), Connecticut (2012) and Maryland (2013). Nevada incurs inordinate expense for automatic appeals, requires extraordinary and expensive trials, and Nevada does not have a viable execution chamber.

THEREFORE

Nevada should become the 19th state to abolish the death penalty.

Sixty-one

WHEREAS

Errant plastic bags find rest in trees and shrubs, bottles and cans grace pathways and roadways, Nevada presents a poor scene for visitors, and customer supplied bags will eliminate errant containers.

THEREFORE

Nevada should require a returnable deposit for recyclable containers and require a customer charge for retailer supplied bags.

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Sixty-two

WHEREAS

Educational success often requires full family participation, family poverty hinders success, students often require assistance beyond classroom work, teachers are asked to provide services far beyond school subjects, schools aggregate people, and schools are used to attack social issues.

THEREFORE

Nevada should fully fund outside of school budgets social workers at schools, the social workers will connect students and families with assistance programs, and the social workers will relieve teachers and schools from providing services not associated with classroom activities.

Sixty-three

WHEREAS

The Democratic delegate selection plan includes a provision for "un-pledged delegates" (office holders, party officials and official uncommitted delegates), which some believe to be undemocratic.

THEREFORE

Un-pledged delegates should be limited to elected public office holders. Party delegates should be pledged based on the nominees of the state vote.

Sixty-four

WHEREAS

Nevada allows bear hunting; bear hunting is desired by a minuscule population and does not reflect well on a civilized society.

THEREFORE

Nevada bear hunting requires serious and substantial review with broadly based public participation.