

# **2019 WCDCC Platform**

## **Draft Final Version**

**as Adopted by the Convention on 10/08/2019**

### **PREAMBLE**

We recognize that the inherent dignity and inalienable rights possessed by all members of humanity are the foundation of our shared freedom, of justice, and of peace in the world. We recognize our rights and responsibilities to each other as residents of our local, state, national and global communities. We recognize our environment as a system that is critical for human welfare and are dedicated to sustaining a healthy planetary environment. As Washington County Democrats we will work tirelessly to carry these values into law. We welcome all who share them to join us in our struggle for equity, openness, sustainability, and true democracy.

We commit to creating a more equal and sustainable society now and for generations to come. We condemn the long legacy of racial, religious, economic, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender, and ethnic prejudice, subjugation, segregation, and exploitation of minority communities that is still too prevalent. We strive to counteract the institutions and laws that perpetuate those many forms of hate and discrimination with specific affirmative actions.

### **ARTICLE I: CIVIL RIGHTS/SANCTUARY**

Washington County Democrats believe all persons have these rights: adequate healthy food, secure housing, quality behavioral and physical health care, clean air and water, freedom from servitude, freedom of movement and belief, quality education, personal security, opportunities to succeed, marriage to whomever they choose, and death with dignity. Oregon is a mosaic of different cultures, and we value the economic, social, and cultural benefits to society from various immigrant groups. We reject xenophobic scare tactics, religious litmus tests, and ethnically disparaging racial rhetoric. Both documented and undocumented residents have civil rights that we defend.

1. We oppose the death penalty.
2. We believe women's and non-binary gender rights are human rights.
3. We believe all minority communities, including those associated with gender and sexual identities, must be guaranteed full human rights.
4. We believe in universal and affordable access to public services.
5. We believe that no person should be subjected to arbitrary interference with their family, home, or correspondence privacy whether analog or electronic.

6. We affirm the right of all persons to self-determination without coercion, with regard to gender identity and sex.
7. We support the use of governmental funds and services, at home and abroad, to promote human rights and human welfare, protect the environment, and promote civil societies based on the rule of law.
8. We stand opposed to any attempt to compromise human civil rights domestically or abroad in the name of governmental convenience or security.
9. We support substantive discussion and action regarding reparations for situations of historical oppression and slavery.
10. We believe undocumented immigrants who have not been convicted of serious crimes should have a path to legal residency and eventual citizenship.
11. We affirm the right of Birthright Citizenship as defined in the 14th amendment of the US Constitution.
12. We support Oregon's legal sanctuary state status.
13. We believe exploitation of undocumented workers is ethically wrong, drives down wages, and degrades working conditions.
14. We oppose the privatization or for-profit operation of immigration assistance services.
15. We believe refugees of war, violence, religious persecution, and natural disasters should be welcomed by a nation as deeply rooted in immigration as ours.
16. We oppose any travel ban based on religion, ethnicity, or nationality.
17. We believe that reducing gun violence requires a holistic approach that addresses the social, economic, and public health components.
18. We believe institutional racism can and must be eliminated through anti-racism work at all levels of society.
19. We believe that all people with disabilities have a right to fulfilling work, inclusion, and a minimum standard of living.

## **ARTICLE II: ECONOMIC JUSTICE/THE ECONOMY**

Washington County Democrats value a fair economy where everyone has the opportunity for remunerative employment. We hold that all workers deserve a living wage and the right to unionize. We believe taxation and revenue expenditure policies should reflect the economic needs and conditions of our region and should be governed by the principles of transparency, fairness, equity, and efficiency. Actions to reduce taxes must consider potential impacts on education, social services, the environment, and infrastructure. We support an economy that guarantees provides equal pay for equal work and living wage jobs for all.

1. We affirm the right of all workers, public and private, to organize for collective bargaining for fair work rules and hiring practices, just cause

- protection of employment, and safe working conditions free of intimidation and coercion.
2. We believe all Oregonians have the right to a dignified and secure retirement.
  3. We believe corporations must function as ethically run, responsibly regulated, and progressively taxed entities that contribute their fair share to Oregon's economic prosperity.
  4. We recognize the importance of Oregon's agricultural, forestry, and fisheries sectors and demand sustainable management of land and natural resources.
  5. We believe in supporting small businesses by removing unnecessary barriers to starting new businesses.
  6. We believe financial institutions and large corporations that are "too big to fail" are detrimental to the sustainability and equitability of our economy.
  7. We believe in a progressive tax structure and transparent and responsible spending policies that promote the common good.
  8. We believe special tax incentives for business development must require demonstration of measurable benefits to the community.
  9. We believe taxation and spending policies should be used to promote social and economic equity.
  10. We believe that all persons with disabilities have a right to fulfilling work, inclusion, and an equitable standard of living.

### **ARTICLE III: HEALTH CARE**

Washington County Democrats believe that healthcare is a basic right and should be available to all those who need it. We believe that modern medical advancements related to disease prevention and treatment of pathologies, including holistic treatments, must be available to all people regardless of ability to pay.

1. We support the adoption of a publicly funded, equitable, high-quality, comprehensive single-payer health care system that includes general, preventative, and emergency care, plus vision, dental, hearing, and mental health services at the state and/or federal level.
2. We support treating drug addiction primarily as a health issue.
3. We believe in the importance of community health care centers.
4. We believe all school districts should provide school-based physical, dental, social work, and integrated behavioral health programs, including reproductive health services.
5. We believe that achieving equity in health care access and quality of care needs additional effort at all levels of service and support.
6. We believe that aerial spraying of herbicides and pesticides in watersheds and in the vicinity of residential areas and schools pose unacceptable health risks and should be punishable offenses.

7. We believe that people have the right to choose their doctors.

## **ARTICLE IV: EDUCATION**

Washington County Democrats value and demand equal, sound, effective, and fully funded public education for pre-K, K-12, post-secondary, and career and vocational training, available to all. We recognize that quality education increases our economic well-being, promotes civic engagement, enriches personal lives, and is necessary to adapt to technological changes. Public schools provide the skills and knowledge that are the foundation of a thriving democracy.

1. We believe public funding for education should be provided only to public schools.
2. We believe basic education and career training at public schools, colleges, and universities should be tuition-free for all Oregon residents.
3. We believe strong academic and career education policies and programs, including vocational rehabilitation, are necessary to ensure people are prepared for job opportunities in the 21<sup>st</sup>-century economy.
4. We believe our public educational systems must have sufficient, equitable, stable, and sustainable public funding to ensure a high-quality education and full curriculum for all students.
5. We support restoration of a full range of courses, programs, and support services including science, technology, engineering, arts, civics, nutrition, social sciences, the humanities, fact-based environmental studies, critical thinking, financial awareness, counseling, behavioral support, attendance support, and support for educational assistants.
6. We believe good student nutrition promotes learning and schools must provide nutrition and nutritional counseling to those needing it.
7. We insist on the full, effective protection of all student data, including mental health records, to assure information privacy and prevent exploitation.
8. We support fact-based education, e.g. evolution, at all levels.
9. We believe that all students and families deserve community-supported programs that enhance educational opportunities.
10. We believe all district and state student assessments must provide useful and timely feedback to classroom teachers that identify student strengths.
11. We believe quality universal early childhood education is essential for student success and Oregon's prosperity.
12. We strongly support evidence based human sexuality education that provides students all information recommended by educational experts.
13. We believe that no student should have to fear gun violence.
14. We believe quality education requires racially diverse and professionally licensed teachers trained in current best practices and compensated sufficiently to recruit and retain effective professionals.

15. We believe in quality, free transportation to and from school for all students.
16. We believe that class size has a major effect on student success and achievement and support a reduction of class sizes to correlate with research addressing best practices.

## **ARTICLE V: A JUST LEGAL SYSTEM**

Washington County Democrats believe that we need a justice system that equitably serves all. We recognize that weaknesses in the system have been historically exploited to systematically oppress Native Americans, communities of color, economically disadvantaged populations, immigrants, women, incarcerated populations, people with disabilities, and people with varying gender and sexual orientations. Prisons must remain public, not-for-profit, and focus on compassionate rehabilitation and re-entry services.

1. We believe an "Innocence Commission", an independent oversight body, is required for prosecutorial and law enforcement accountability.
2. We believe that case review of prosecutorial and police misconduct must be investigated thoroughly, allowing all exculpatory evidence, and should result in criminal penalties and legal mitigation, compensation, and restoration to victims.
3. We affirm that justice is better served when judges have discretion to apply sentences based on the unique and demonstrable circumstances of each offender, crime, and victim.
4. We believe that public support for experienced and qualified legal representation for low-income, marginalized, and disenfranchised populations is an integral part of criminal justice.
5. We believe neither police nor the public should be equipped with military armaments.
6. We believe that all law enforcement personnel should receive ongoing training in de-escalation, cultural and disability awareness, and due process.
7. We defend every individual's right to freedom from mass surveillance, search, seizure, and arrest, unless authorized by a specific probable cause warrant.
8. We believe that a primary goal of incarceration should be rehabilitation and support the use of a "restorative justice" model.
9. We believe rehabilitation works best when offenders are reintegrated into the community with support, supervision, and services.
10. We oppose laws that can be used for profiling, including those that mandate people carry their legal papers.
11. We believe all inmates should receive the same quality of healthcare as the general public.
12. We oppose racial profiling, prosecutorial overcharging, excessive fee and bond levels, coercive plea bargains, biased jury selection, and sentencing

practices that disproportionately impact ethnic groups and the disadvantaged.

13. We support impeachment investigations of any President who has, prima facie, significantly violated the Constitution or who has obstructed justice regarding matters of state.
14. We believe that non-violent crime sentencing should focus on returning people to the community with support services rather than incarceration.
15. We support the movement to reform cash bail and make pretrial incarceration decisions based on risk rather than financial means.

## **ARTICLE VI: GOVERNMENTAL INTEGRITY/GOVERNANCE**

Washington County Democrats believe in open and responsive government and elections that are fair, transparent, easily accessible, and publicly supported. Every citizen deserves accountable representation at every level of government. We hold the right and responsibility of all eligible persons to vote as an essential foundation of our democracy. We are committed to transparency, accountability, integrity, competence, honesty, and citizen participation in government.

1. We believe that corporations are not people and money is not speech.
2. We affirm the principle of separation of church and state.
3. We support a transition to publicly funded elections at all levels.
4. We support a direct vote for President and Vice President of the United States of America through a national popular vote.
5. We support automatic voter registration to the national level.
6. We support the one person, one vote principle in all elections.
7. We believe the right of assembly and free speech must be available to all in accessible and safe locations without undue restrictions or conditions.
8. We believe in maximizing voter participation in all levels of government and political parties.
9. We oppose gerrymandering and support a fair and politically unbiased redistricting process after each census.
10. We support federal campaign finance reform up to and including a constitutional amendment to remove the undue influence of money in politics.
11. We support a strong and independent free press.
12. We believe all presidential and vice presidential candidates should release the most recent 10 years of their federal tax returns to the public.
13. We believe that elections nationwide should have verifiable paper trails and secure voting infrastructure.

## **ARTICLE VII: SUSTAINABILITY/CLIMATE CHANGE**

Washington County Democrats understand that a healthy, sustainable, and resilient Oregon environment is essential to our high quality of life. The air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we live on deserve our protection and conservation for current and future generations. We recognize that long-term land use planning, sustainable infrastructure, and wise protection of our natural resources are critical for sustainability and livability in Washington County. We therefore believe that local, state, and federal governments should play a large and aggressive role in protecting the quality of our environment.

1. We believe climate change is a global crisis caused by human activities and that we must take immediate actions to reverse or reduce its negative impacts.
2. We support laws that require polluters to remediate the land and water to a non-toxic state.
3. We oppose the development of Oregon waterways and coastal regions for the export of fossil fuels.
4. We believe that adaptive restoration and maintenance of wildlife habitats must be a high priority in sustainable land use management.
5. We believe that water rights should not be privatized, and support efforts to optimize the efficiency of water usage in Washington County and throughout Oregon.
6. We oppose the wholesale conversion of public lands to private ownership, and support the protection of state and federally designated parks, wilderness areas, resource lands, and recreation areas.
7. We believe scientifically-based marine reserves are necessary to protect and sustain our ocean resources.
8. We believe that protections for native endangered and threatened species improve ecosystem sustainability and should be enhanced and enforced.
9. We strongly support efforts to improve water quality and habitat conditions in the Tualatin River watershed.
10. We believe there are multiple benefits to enhancing the use of sustainable sources of energy, reducing the use of fossil fuels, and increasing carbon sequestration through re-vegetation and reforestation.
11. We support investment in public transportation systems that support future needs and are safe, efficient, and accessible to all.
12. We believe in the protection of watersheds, air quality and public lands, and in the public management of water supplies, groundwater, sewage, storm water, the electromagnetic spectrum, and transportation networks are critical concerns of the commons.
13. We believe eminent domain should never be used for the benefit of a private or corporate entity in the absence of a demonstrable public need.
14. We support the basic principles of a Green New Deal which envisions a fundamental transition to a sustainable energy economy.

15. We oppose any new fossil fuel development and urge rapid and complete transition away from fossil fuels by 2030.
16. We believe the public should be educated about the hazards associated with fossil fuel extraction and transportation.

## **ARTICLE VIII: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Washington County Democrats recognize that we live in a world with a high dependence on technology and the application of science in everyday life. We believe that science must be a fundamental basis for policy. We believe in advancing science and science education for the benefit of all. We believe that open and fair access to communications technology is an essential pillar of our democracy.

1. We believe that the United States should be actively involved in space and solar system exploration and that NASA should be adequately funded for this purpose.
2. We recognize that an open and neutral internet is necessary to protect free speech and prevent the rise of despotism.
3. We recognize that we need solutions for workplace displacement caused by automation and applications of artificial intelligence.
4. We believe scientific research is essential to our society.
5. We oppose genetic patenting.
6. We believe every person should have high-speed internet access regardless of geographical location or income.
7. We believe in the Precautionary Principle in the application of biomedical, genetic engineering, artificial intelligence, facial recognition, and surveillance technologies.
8. We believe genetically engineered foods require a Precautionary Approach that includes extreme care in testing, additional scientific regulation, and full disclosure through labeling.
9. We believe that data created by a person should be owned by that person, and informed consent should be required to use that data for any purpose not intended by that person.
10. We believe that machine learning and artificial intelligence can reflect society's biases and that care should be taken to reduce those biases.
11. We support continuing technical education to create a technically adept society.

## **ARTICLE IX: GLOBAL COMMITMENTS**

Washington County Democrats recognize that our responsibilities extend beyond county, state and national boundaries and that our national interests

require global cooperation. We support the use and primacy of diplomacy and negotiation to resolve international conflicts and promote peace.

1. We support non-violent approaches to promote change in countries that are perpetuating human rights violations.
2. We support the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
3. We support high global standards for labor, environmental protections, and meaningful citizen and labor organization participation in the negotiation of trade agreements.
4. We believe Puerto Rico must be allowed to choose its own future through democratic means.
5. We support work to stop nuclear proliferation, nationally and globally.
6. We support treaties that ban chemical and biological warfare and landmines.
7. We believe the US must honor ratified treaties.
8. We support the United Nations and will work to make it more democratic.
9. We believe the US must actively oppose genocide, torture, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and religious and political persecution worldwide.
10. We reaffirm our commitment to honor the Geneva Conventions regarding torture, rendition, indefinite detention, detention without charges, and extrajudicial executions.
11. We believe that major displacements of people from their communities constitute an international humanitarian crisis that demands immediate attention.
12. We support the establishment of clearly defined and rigorously maintained standards for congressionally authorized use of military force.
13. We support requiring military procurement to be domestically sourced.
14. We support the principle that the defense budget must be in line with the military threat to the US, and therefore should be significantly reduced.
15. We oppose space militarization.
16. We believe we should significantly reduce the number of US troops stationed abroad who are not currently serving as diplomatic support or as part of a NATO or UN-backed peacekeeping mission.
17. We oppose the implementation of nation-building and regime change as foreign policies.
18. We believe the US should avoid acting unilaterally in military affairs overseas.
19. We support a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict negotiated directly by the parties.
20. We believe all people have a right to clean, drinkable water and therefore support fixing related infrastructure in schools worldwide.
21. We believe that the US must honor the sovereignty of other nations, including First Nations within the US.