

Texas Democratic Party Platform

2026 - 2028

THE TRUST OF THE PEOPLE IS EARNED, NOT GRANTED

“The imperative is to find what is right and do it.”

Text of keynote address by Congresswoman Barbara Jordan at the "The Great Society: A Twenty-Year Critique" event held in Austin on April 18-19, 1985. Congresswoman Jordan discusses the virtues of President Lyndon B. Johnson's vision for the American people.

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TEXAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM

PREAMBLE

The State Party Platform is a distillation of broad ideals shared by all Democrats across the State of Texas. Individual campaigns raise individual voices across the Democratic ideological spectrum...Despite differences, these things unite us.

Texas Democrats have faith that democracy, built on the honored values of family, privacy, freedom, and fairness, can (and should) afford every Texan, without exception, the opportunity to achieve their inherent potential.

*A well-functioning government acts for the benefit of the people, not of itself.
A well-functioning government acts for the benefit of the many, not the few.
A well-functioning government acts, based on facts and evidence, to promote
diversity, safety, equality, and opportunity for every person.*

The Success of Texas depends upon Texans giving enough of ourselves so that none of us fail. It was true then; it is true now. While rising tides raise all boats, our greatest standard of success is the quality of life of those of us who have the least.

*Texas deserves a government that utilizes science and empirical data to empower
Texans to survive and thrive.*

Now, Texans unite to preserve Democracy, through the responsibility and advocacy of voters, to hold to account our Local, State, and National legislators.

Texas voters must examine the work, and vote out of office those legislators whose bill signatures fail to favor people first, or fail to support, uphold, and defend their responsibilities and duties under the United States and Texas Constitutions. Texas Legislators and elected officials must protect our Nation, State, and Territories from all threats, foreign or domestic, tyrannical, authoritarian, or otherwise destructive.

Every campaign gives its candidate a voice.

The Platform speaks for us all.

Executive Summary

Based on Texas Democrats' belief in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, we recommend specific policy goals, programs, and actions to establish and ensure more equal justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.

Every Texan has inalienable rights that even a majority may not take away:

- The right to vote;
- The right to fair and open participation and representation in the democratic process;
- The right to quality public education;
- The right to affordable quality healthcare;
- The right to due process, unbiased and fair justice;
- The right to a clean and healthy planet;
- The right to privacy.

Texas Democrats believe in freedom:

- The right to privacy;
- Limited government interference in our private lives and personal decisions;
- Civil and human rights;
- Religion and individual conscience;
- No favoring of a religion or prohibiting of the free exercise of religion.

Texas Democrats believe in responsibility:

- That religion and individual conscience can never serve to excuse hatred and discrimination;
- That people are responsible for their actions;
- That we, who have benefited so greatly from our state and country, have a responsibility to support and give back to our communities and public institutions;
- That corporations are not people and should not be used to shield individuals from the responsibilities of their actions.

Texas Democrats believe in equal rights:

- Equality under the law guaranteed in Section 3a of the Texas Bill of Rights
- No state may deny any person equal protection of the laws or due process under the law as guaranteed in the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Texas Democrats believe in equal opportunity for all Texans:

- To receive a quality public education, from early childhood through college;
- To have access to affordable health care;
- To find a good job with dignity;
- To buy or rent a good home in a safe community;
- To breathe clean air and drink clean water; &
- To have our voices heard and not be drowned out by the power of unlimited money to influence or buy elections and legislation.

Texas Democrats believe:

- A growing economy should benefit all Texans;
- The people who work in a business are as important as those who invest in it;
- That every person should be paid a living wage;
- No person who works full-time should be paid a wage below the poverty level;
- Good businesses offer fair deals for customers;
- Businesses have a responsibility to the communities in which they do business;
- That regulation of unfair practices and rates is necessary
- That the burden of taxes should be fairly distributed; &
- That government policy should not favor corporations that seek offshore tax shelters, exploit workers, or pollute our environment.

Texas Democrats believe that our lives, homes, communities, and country are secured:

- By appropriately staffed & trained law enforcement & emergency personnel;
- By retirement and pension security;
- By encouraging job security where it is possible and providing appropriate assistance and retraining when it is not;
- By the preservation of our precious natural resources and quality of life;
- By compassionate policies that offer a safety net for those most vulnerable and in need; &
- Family values are promoted through policies that value all our families.

Texas Democrats believe in an America:

- Where the government must be of the people, by the people, and for the people;
- Where the goal of government is to establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty;
- Made stronger by the men and women who put their lives on the line when it is necessary to engage our military to secure our nation;
- Made more secure by competent diplomatic leadership that utilize the moral, ethical, and economic assets of a powerful, free nation to avoid unnecessary military conflict; &
- Where we must constantly strive to form a more perfect union.

Texas Democrats believe in a Texas:

- Made stronger by the contributions of our diverse population, and the equitable inclusion of all our people;
- Blessed with economic opportunities provided by agriculture, “old” and “new” energy sources, renowned medical and research institutions, strong unions, and high-tech industries; &
- With an honest, ethical state government that serves the public interest, not the special interests of those who “pay-to-play.”

Affordability

To lower the cost of living, we must invest in infrastructure such as roads, bridges, utilities, internet services, water supply and flood control, schools, ports, parks, and public buildings. All working Texans should be able to afford a decent, accommodating home within a reasonably commutable distance from their workplace.

The State of Texas should return governing authority to local communities on issues where local authority best serves the community's health and safety.

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Lower inflation, and protect Texans from the impacts of inflation;
- Lower grocery costs by enforcing affordable pricing, fair market, and anti-trust laws;
- Lower housing costs by removing arbitrary barriers to housing supply growth, and fighting artificial rent and price hikes;
- Lower healthcare costs by breaking up monopolized markets, and keeping Pharmacy Benefit Managers from price-gouging patients;
- Lower transportation costs by fully funding transportation projects to alleviate congestion, promote public transportation, and improve roadway safety;
- Lower taxes for working families by increasing income tax returns, and shifting tax burdens back onto the wealthiest; &
- Lower utility bills by returning local tax dollars to communities in need of water infrastructure upgrades whose lack of the same are driving up utility rates.

Increasing Grocery Affordability

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Lower grocery costs by enforcing laws to protect locally-owned small businesses from being driven out of business by anti-competitive price discrimination;
- Outlaw surveillance pricing that rig prices using our personal data;
- Lower meat prices by increasing market transparency and protecting meatpacking workers by enforcing the [Packers and Stockyards Act](#);
- Break up food monopolies that artificially inflate prices and limit choices;
- Invest in solutions that address food insecurity; &
- Eliminate food deserts by lowering barriers to entry in grocery markets.

Increasing Housing Affordability

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Lower rents by banning the use of monopolistic algorithms to rig rent prices;
- Lower home prices by limiting ownership of single-family homes by Wall Street, private equity firms, hedge funds, and other financial institutions;
- Lower building costs by expanding access to credit for small builders to compete against Big Builders that are driving price inflation;
- Eliminate unfair mortgage underwriting;
- Require insurance companies to justify rates;
- Create new pathways, and ease existing barriers to, homeownership for working Texans;
- Incentivize the creation of mixed-use developments and Transit-Oriented Development;
- Increasing affordable housing stock through zoning reforms, reducing the number of windows and forums for objecting to projects, other process reforms, and removing arbitrary barriers that delay building permits for housing and improvement, such as pre-approved housing plans;

- Develop comprehensive plans that mitigate environmental impacts, include green areas, shade trees, adequate water run-off, and consider impacts to public infrastructure, for purposes to streamline construction processes;
- Increase funding for both public and affordable housing programs;
- Disincentivize increased costs and gentrification in existing neighborhoods;
- Encourage and manage growth in urban areas through infill development, downtown revitalization, and urban redevelopment projects.
- End racially motivated exclusionary forms of zoning;
- Undo segregation-era land use restrictions that divide communities, drive displacement, and fuel rising housing costs; &
- Empower counties by increasing development authority outside of incorporated cities.

Lower Taxes

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Increase income tax returns for workers by taxing billionaires, expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit, and making the Child Tax Credit fully refundable;
- Reduce tax incentives for businesses that shift tax burdens onto residents and prohibit “corporate welfare” incentives that pit communities against each other;
- Entitle voters with the right to petition and vote for a flat-dollar homestead exemption, while preserving public service funding by shifting the tax burden onto wealthy landlords;
- Entitle renters with exchangeable homestead exemptions to secure rent relief;
- Temporarily freeze rising residential property tax appraisals to keep people from being taxed out of their homes, while preserving public school funding from the Property Value Study;
- Require buyers, sellers, or agents to disclose the final sale price of a property to the public to ensure more accurate data when determining appraisal values;
- Enforce uniform appraisals to ensure that commercial, industrial, and open space properties are taxed at market value to reduce the current shift onto residential property; &
- Tax all residential property based on current use rather than highest and best use, with claw-backs after the property is sold;

Lower Utility Bills

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Allow voters to reclaim local sales taxes from the State to cover the cost of improving water infrastructure via a petition process;
- Redirect foreign war spending to instead improve domestic water supplies;
- Require the Public Utility Commission to mandate all utility providers describe their products and policies transparently regarding bill calculations and rate history; &
- Give Texans more control over their utility rates by making the Public Utilities Commission an elected body.

Increasing the Affordability of Transportation

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Recognize access to public transportation and walkability as a right that should be afforded to all Texans;
- Invest in high-speed rail projects with the potential for matching federal funds;
- Support increased funding for safe sidewalks, curb cutouts, bicycle lanes, and crossing islands,

- Enact an equitable way to adequately pay for road and highway infrastructure;
- Review and revamp creative and innovative transportation programs, like buses and bus rapid transit on shoulders of major highways, charging stations for electric vehicles, and dedicated lanes for high-occupancy vehicles;
- Prevent infrastructure built with public funds from being owned by private entities;
- Prohibit the conversion of public highways, freeways, or roads into a toll road, and plan to convert all existing toll road infrastructure built on public roads to free and non-tolled use;
- Require TxDOT to include “induced demand” concepts in their planning;
- Encourage alternatives to freeway expansion, and discourage construction or expansion through historically divided and redlined neighborhoods and neighborhoods of color; &
- Encourage multi-modal transit and increase walkability by investing in accessibility to, and infrastructure for, alternative modes of transportation.

Increasing Fiscal Responsibility

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Utilize the “Rainy-Day Fund” to ensure the continuation of appropriate services during economic downturns, as well as to recover from natural disasters;
- Appropriate assistance to Texans and Texas communities still attempting to recover from flooding and other extreme weather events, with management at the local level;
- Reform franchise taxes to provide fairness to all economic sectors, such as small businesses;
- Prioritize local labor and businesses for local government projects to improve local economies;
- Conduct regular audits of state contracts and impose and enforce fines and/or debarment for organizations receiving contracts that fail to deliver on their contractual obligations;
- End unfunded mandates by the State which drive up county property tax rates;
- Require government procurement contracts and taxpayer-funded incentives to target, whenever possible, historically underutilized small businesses; &
- Prevent the continued use of the Texas Enterprise Fund as a corporate slush fund that rewards businesses owned by political cronies and contributors.

Public Employees & Pensions

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Protect the defined benefits pension systems paid into already by employees;
- Fully fund and repair the pension systems without cutting benefit amounts;
- Eliminate bans on striking or strategic work stoppages by public employees;
- Guarantee an annual or biennial cost-of-living salary adjustment (COLA) to public school, first responder, and other public employees and their pensions;
- Protect responsible investing and repeal or oppose any legislation, rule, or order requiring divestment of our retirees’ pension funds from companies that were arbitrarily blacklisted, for their responsible investing initiatives;
- Retain public control, and operation of, public services;
- Oppose any attempts to outsource or privatize existing public services;
- Oppose the privatization of the U.S. Postal Service, &
- Fully fund the U.S. Postal Service’s operations.

Good Jobs & Workers' Rights

Texas Democrats believe in the right to Collectively Bargain, and to a living wage that supports their families during times of both prosperity and economic distress.

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Protect existing jobs;
- Create new jobs in emerging industries and public works;
- Promote jobs with good wages, benefits, and safe working conditions;
- Expand access to affordable housing;
- Reward hard work and innovation;
- Expand and protect workers' rights; &
- Improve Texans' overall standard of living.

Good Jobs

Texas Democrats support:

- Texas workers receiving a living wage, indexed to the Consumer Price Index;
- Protecting individual dignity and safety in the workplace;
- Raising the federal tipped minimum-wage to be commensurate with the general federal minimum-wage, indexed to the Consumer Price Index;
- Repealing state pre-emption of local minimum-wage ordinances and support the right of cities and counties to set wages above the state minimum;
- Fair trade deals that protect and bring back American jobs; &
- Strengthening existing protections and creating meaningful consequences for employers who commit literal wage theft, as defined by the National Employment Law Project such as creating a private right of action for workers, imposing criminal felony penalties for repeat offenders, and providing state funding for wage theft enforcement units in major metropolitan areas.

Workers' Rights and Protections

Texas Democrats support:

- Repealing the ironically named "right-to-work" laws that allow employers to fire a worker for nearly any reason, and are designed to weaken labor unions;
- Protecting & expanding workers' right to join a union, organize and collectively bargain for better compensation, benefits, & working conditions without intimidation, retaliation, or interference;
- Guaranteeing equal pay for equal work;
- Guaranteeing safe and dignified working conditions and workplace environments;
- Regular cost-of-living increases that keep pace with inflation;
- Workplace accommodations for child nursing;
- Payment of prevailing wages for public projects;
- Requiring employers to carry Workers' Compensation insurance in Texas;
- Ending misclassification of workers as independent contractors and of non-exempt employees as exempt employees to ensure proper access to pay and benefits;
- Codifying protections against union-busting attacks or punishing prohibitions on payroll, deduction of union dues, etc.;
- Ensuring Texas' judicial system protects the civil rights of labor organizers, campaign workers, & those working to improve workers' rights;
- Eradicating workplace discrimination in all its forms, including prejudice against workers of a protected class, and opposing efforts to eliminate 'disparate impact liability' for employers;

- Opposing state preemption attempts to “roll back” local non-discrimination ordinances or religious exemptions to generally applied laws; &
- Eliminating forced or coerced labor, including but not limited to, human trafficking, sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and the exploitation of migrant labor.

Workforce Development

Texas Democrats support:

- Providing access to skills-training, jobs, and job promotions to all, including women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and the underemployed;
- Offering Apprenticeship Readiness Programs and U.S. Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Programs for high-skill building trades to all, including workers, high school students, and college students;
- Addressing the negative effects of worker displacement when new technologies, such as automation, robotics, and artificial intelligence are adopted;
- Partnerships among educational institutions, labor unions, employers, & community organizations to strengthen workforce readiness.

Economic Prosperity & Business Opportunities

Texas Democrats support:

- Ensuring business incentive programs are transparent, accountable, and only used to create well-paying jobs with good benefits;
- Bringing well-paying jobs to every part of Texas by ensuring infrastructure development projects flow to urban, suburban, and rural communities alike;
- Prioritizing support and opportunities for small businesses at the local, state, and federal level to meaningfully compete with large corporations;
- Making it affordable for small businesses to provide health insurance for their employees;
- Expanding access to capital and credit for low-income and rural small businesses;
- Expanding programs supporting small businesses owned by women & minorities;
- Expanding programs supporting small businesses owned by people of color;
- Expanding mentorship programs;
- Policies that expand funding & accessibility to affordable, high-quality childcare;
- Promoting the benefits and the implementation of the 32-hour work week for Full-Time Employees without loss of pay;
- Establishing state tax incentives for innovative business models, including cooperative businesses, and directing state economic development programs to include cooperative businesses in lending and grant programs; &
- Exploring public banking models to invest public funds in infrastructure, housing, small business development, and economic growth that strengthen local economies, increase financial transparency, and ensure responsible management of public funds.

Economic Safety Net

Texas Democrats support:

- Protecting and expanding Social Security;
- Expanding Medicare & Medicaid/Accepting Federal offer for such expansion;
- Ensuring the unemployment insurance system and income safety nets are modern, accessible, efficient, and therefore reliable, for Texas workers, especially in times of economic distress;
- Guaranteeing paid sick leave, paid vacation leave, and paid family leave; &
- Safeguarding retirement and health benefits.

Consumer Protection

Our government has a duty to protect Texans from predatory lending, dangerous products, price gouging during natural disasters and other fraudulent, and other unfair or discriminatory business practices. Texas Democrats aim to make consumer financial markets work for consumers, responsible product/service providers, and the economy.

In a market economy that works optimally, the prices, risks, and terms-of-the-deal are clear upfront, so that consumers can understand their options, and comparison shop. Companies should all play by the same consumer protection rules, compete fairly on providing quality and service, be able to rely on the consistent fairness of a level playing field, and structure their business practices accordingly to maximize benefit.

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Arm Texans with the information, steps, and tools they need to make smart financial decisions to better secure their futures;
- Create or promote tools that help consumers navigate their financial choices, and empower them to make better deals that work for them;
- Foster financial literacy, from early childhood through retirement;
- Educate Texans about their financial rights, protections, and opportunities; &
- Educate companies about financial rights, protections, and opportunities.

Texas Democrats support:

- Increase funding, personnel, bandwidth, & enforcement authority in the Texas Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division;
- Reaffirm the enforcement function and authority of the Texas Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division;
- Ensure protection of consumers' private data, ensure accountability within companies that manage that data, & impose penalties for broken promises to do so;
- Strengthening laws targeting unscrupulous telemarketing, internet marketing, and price fixing;
- Make price gouging during disasters, especially by utility companies, illegal;
- Acknowledge or apply a debt-collection or consumer-transaction framework to landlord/tenant relationships, particularly relative to eviction proceedings;
- Bolstering tenant protections, including affordable counsel, habitability enforcement, and the right to organize;
- Revise or rollback laws and regulations that restrict access to justice for buyers of new homes that discover shoddy work after the home purchase was completed;
- Allow class-certification on fraud, product liability, and personal injury claims;
- Eliminating the caps on medical malpractice and mass tort liability, allowing for appropriate damages that are otherwise tempered by the current legal process;
- Eliminate, discourage, or disincentivize predatory lending practices, particularly payday loans and sell-leaseback transactions;
- Update FDA rules to require truthful listing of all ingredients in food products;
- Foster innovative and interactive school programs that teach young Texans how to be successful financial stewards of their own finances; &
- Reaffirm and clarify that consumers have legal standing to enforce their rights against third-party debt collectors, including but not limited to finance companies in automobile transactions, as seen in the FTC Holder Rule.

Monopolies, Co-Ops, & Anti-Trust

Texas Democrats support action to:

- Break up monopolies across all industries to promote economic competition;
- Protect the creation of worker co-ops;
- Break up monopolies that control feed, seed, equipment, buyers, sellers, and other parts of the agricultural market, to ensure family farms can fairly compete;
- Ensure that American consumers have actual choices at their local grocery stores by breaking up monopolies that own a majority of brands, and spinning off competitive companies in an effort to stabilize pricing;
- Oppose any agricultural or grocery corporate mergers that pose monopolization;
- Counter monopoly power in Texas and strengthen oversight to protect consumers and ensure reliable services;
- Ensure farmers have the 'Right to Repair' their agricultural equipment, and protect the Right to Repair from being undone by international trade deals;
- Ensure chicken farmers and other livestock ranchers maintain the right to own, control, and otherwise manage their livestock instead of corporations determining all matters without input or consent of the local producers; &
- Promote the creation and protection of co-ops to compete with 'Big Ag' and other harmful monopolies.

Capping Junk Fees

Texas Democrats support:

- Requiring all mandatory fees of any transaction to be included in the advertised price via all-in pricing;
- Minimizing surprise fees for in-person services and requiring customer notification and consent before such fees are to be incurred;
- Capping credit card late fees at \$8;
- Eliminating excessive overdraft fees, monthly maintenance fees, dormancy/inactivity fees, ATM fees, foreign transaction fees, and wire transfer fees from personal banking;
- Reducing or eliminating excessive credit card swipe fees for customer transactions at local businesses; &
- Limiting excessive or hidden fees on all consumer purchases.

Empower, Enforce, Educate

Texas Democrats support State action to:

- Empower consumers;
- Increase purchasing power by supporting the purpose, mission, enforcement function, and authority of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and any State analogue;
- Enforce penalties against companies who have taken advantage of Texans in violation of state or federal law; &
- Educate the public and Texas students regarding financial literacy, credit scores, budgeting, saving and investing, business & consumer rights, and other financial-related knowledge and concepts.

Healthcare

Healthcare should be a basic right provided as a baseline to every Texan. Texas Democrats support affordable, high-quality, universal healthcare and believe healthcare decisions should remain between patients and their providers.

Texas must address the uninsured crisis, expand access to preventive care, protect reproductive freedom, strengthen mental health services, reduce health disparities, and invest in science-based public health policy.

Texas Democrats value the diversity of our communities and believe that the State of Texas and Texans should recognize the governing authority of those communities on issues where local authority best serves the health and safety of the community.

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Move Texas toward universal availability of publicly funded healthcare;
- Expand Medicaid and healthcare access across Texas;
- Lower or cap prescription drug prices;
- Protect the Affordable Care Act & move toward universal, publicly funded healthcare system;
- Restore and protect reproductive freedom rights for women in Texas, including reliable and secure access to abortion, contraception, and IVF with impunity;
- Expand mental health and substance use disorder treatment;
- Support preventive healthcare, medical research, & evidence-based public health initiatives;
- Reduce healthcare disparities for marginalized and underserved communities;
- Require universal acceptance of TRICARE at medical facilities.

Medicaid Expansion and Protection

Texas Democrats support:

- Expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act to provide coverage for millions of Texans;
- Increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates;
- Removing Medicaid work requirement;
- Reducing the Medicaid Waiver waitlists;
- Guaranteeing at least 12-months of continuous postpartum Medicaid coverage;
- Expanding eligibility to ensure access to care before, during, and after pregnancy;
- Increase the Medicaid provider pay to a livable wage with regular increases indexed with COLA; &
- Protecting children and vulnerable Texans from unnecessary loss of coverage through burdensome state policies.

Universal Affordable, Quality Healthcare

Texas Democrats support:

- Protect coverage for pre-existing conditions and comprehensive healthcare benefits under the Affordable Care Act;
- Establish a universal healthcare system, including a public option, while preserving patient choice of providers;
- Lower prescription drug prices through negotiation authority and protections against price gouging;
- Lower pharmacy costs by limiting ownership by Pharmacy Benefit Managers;
- Capping out-of-pocket insulin prices at \$35 per month;

- End surprise billing, excessive facility fees, and insurance practices that deny medically necessary care;
- Expand long-term care, home-based services, and disability supports for older adults and people with disabilities; &
- Reduce financial barriers to Medicare coverage and essential healthcare services.

Reproductive Freedom, Personal Choices, & Abortion Access

Texas Democrats support:

- Expanding access to contraception through insurance coverage and through public programs;
- Restoring the right of Texans to make personal decisions about pregnancy, childbirth, and reproductive healthcare;
- Restoring access to abortion care by repealing Texas's abortion ban, the Texas Heartbeat Act, and medication abortion limitations;
- Protecting access to contraception, IVF, prenatal care, postpartum care, and gender-based healthcare;
- Restoring access to reproductive & preventive healthcare providers serving Medicaid patients;
- Funding qualified reproductive healthcare providers, including Planned Parenthood;
- Ensuring emergency medical care, including abortion care when medically necessary, is available without political interference;
- Protecting the right to travel for legal medical care;
- Safeguarding patient privacy;
- Comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education that includes consent, healthy relationships, and medically accurate reproductive health information;
- Support pregnant and parenting teens with healthcare, education, & childcare resources;
- Oppose deceptive anti-abortion centers that provide inaccurate medical information; &
- Funding postpartum depression research, counseling, and treatment.

Preventive Healthcare

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Promote scientifically proven and safe vaccinations, nutrition education, physical activity, and disease prevention programs;
- Increasing robust access to fresh, healthy, and culturally relevant foods in rural and underserved communities by integrating nutrition services into public health and health care delivery systems;
- Invest in public health research, emergency preparedness, and scientific healthcare practices;
- Expand partnerships among health care providers, food banks, farmers, community organizations, schools, and local governments to improve access to nutritious foods and reduce health disparities;
- Protect HIV prevention funding, and expanding communicable disease education and treatment;
- Expand community healthcare centers and increase access to primary care providers, especially in underserved areas;
- Reject misinformation that undermines science-based healthcare practices;
- Support trauma-informed care and prevention programs addressing adverse childhood experiences;

- Expand harm reduction programs, including access to Narcan, fentanyl testing strips, and safe syringe programs; &
- Allow healthcare professionals to practice to the full extent of their training and licensure to address provider shortages.

Eliminate Health Disparities

Texas Democrats support:

- Reducing disparities in healthcare access and outcomes across racial, ethnic, geographic, socioeconomic, disability, gender identity, and LGBTQIA+ communities;
- Ending the maternal mortality and morbidity crisis in Texas, particularly among Black women, through increased funding for maternal health services, including restoring and expanding labor and delivery services in rural hospitals, strengthening the maternal health workforce, and supporting community-based providers such as midwives and doulas;
- Expand healthcare access in rural communities through telehealth, rural hospitals, and workforce incentives; &
- Protecting and expanding access to medically necessary gender-affirming healthcare based on established medical standards and scientific consensus.

Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services

Texas Democrats support:

- Additional funding of 988 and local suicide/crisis hotlines to appropriate levels;
- Increasing state mental health funding to at least the national per capita average, with investment in community mental health centers, crisis stabilization units, and mobile crisis teams;
- Expanding insurance coverage and reimbursement rates for mental health and substance use disorder providers;
- Increasing access to community-based, inpatient, outpatient, and telehealth mental healthcare services;
- Expanding provider training in trauma-informed and evidence-based care, including culturally competent care for marginalized communities;
- Expanding mental healthcare infrastructure and services in rural and underserved communities;
- Investing in suicide prevention education, mental health awareness, and crisis intervention programs, including public service announcements (PSAs), community outreach, and culturally competent education campaigns aimed at reducing stigma and encouraging individuals to seek help;
- Legalization of psilocybin-, ketamine-, and MDMA-based therapies for supervised clinical treatment of PTSD, treatment-resistant depression, and addiction disorders;
- Supporting harm reduction and recovery-focused approaches to substance use disorder;
- Legalization of psilocybin-, ketamine-, and MDMA-based therapies for supervised clinical treatment of PTSD, treatment-resistant depression, and addiction disorders;
- Establishing a regulated framework for licensed medical professionals; &
- Prevent committing people experiencing homelessness to mental health facilities against their will when there is no clear mental health crisis that would warrant it.

Education

A world-class education system is both a moral imperative, and an economic necessity. Every child in Texas deserves access to high-quality education, from pre-K through post-secondary. A high-quality education necessarily includes Sciences, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics, as well as Career and Technical Education. Every Texas student deserves a highly qualified and highly competent teacher.

Texas Democrats support:

- Universal pre-K;
- Fully-funding public schools;
- Respect for educators;
- Inclusive learning environments;
- Equitable opportunities for all students, regardless of background, race, ethnicity, sex, orientation, national origin, religion (or lack thereof), disability, socio-economic status, gender, identity, or immigration status; and
- Affordable and accessible higher education opportunities.

Texas Democrats reject policies that undermine public education through privatization, systemic defunding and underfunding, censorship, discrimination, bias, or excessive standardized testing.

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Fully fund public schools;
- Base funding on enrollment, the actual costs of educating all students, including those with disabilities, and multilingual learners; Increase teacher and staff pay to competitive national levels and improve benefits, retirement security, and working conditions;
- Protect and strengthen neighborhood public schools;
- Repeal the Texas school voucher scheme and oppose implementation, expansion, and continued public funding of any mechanism that diverts taxpayer money from public schools to private institutions;
- Oppose public education privatization schemes and the unaccountable expansion of charter schools;
- Require public dollars spent on private school vouchers be considered Public Information and therefore subject to Open Records Requests;
- Guarantee safe, inclusive, and accessible classrooms, free from discrimination, bullying, censorship, political interference, and religious persuasion and persecution;
- Expand access to full-day pre-K, multilingual education, arts, music, STEAM, vocational, & dual-credit programs;
- Ensure schools have counselors, nurses, librarians, mental health services, after-school programs, updated technology, Arts classes, & accessible facilities;
- Replace high-stakes standardized testing with multiple measures that support student growth & learning;
- Support curricula reflecting the diverse cultural history of Texas communities;
- Support ethnic studies and LGBTQIA+ inclusion;
- Protect the rights of undocumented children to be students;
- Expand nutrition education and healthy food access programs
- Fully support, and fully fund, services and accommodations for students receiving special education or Section 504 services;

- Reduce the school-to-prison pipeline via restorative and research-based approaches;
- End discriminatory discipline practices and ban corporal punishment;
- Keep schools primarily weapon-free, except for trained law enforcement & security personnel, & prohibit traumatic active shooter simulations; and
- Build learning environments where every student and educator is fully protected from the threat of gun violence, and reduce and eliminate gun violence in educational spaces by addressing its root causes.

Texas Democrats Support:

- Guaranteeing each classroom has a properly certified/highly qualified teacher;
- Competitive salaries, strong healthcare, strong employment benefits, including dental and vision care, strong retirement benefits, collective bargaining rights, & fair contracts for educators and support staff;
- Protecting and strengthening the Teacher Retirement System (TRS);
- Permanent funding for TRS-Care and TRS Survivor Benefits with regular cost-of-living adjustments;
- Ending the use of high-stakes testing in teacher evaluations;
- Ending the use of value-added models in teacher evaluations;
- Expanding teacher preparation, loan forgiveness, mentoring, certification pathways, & recruitment efforts reflecting Texas' diverse communities;
- Respecting educators' professional judgment, workplace rights, and safety by rejecting efforts to arm teachers;
- Awarding teachers \$1500 annually for their own fully discretionary purchase of classroom supplies and equipment;
- Protecting educators' freedom of speech outside of the workplace; &
- Protecting educators from selective targeting, harassment, bullying, and hate speech.

Protecting and Improving Texas Public Education

Texas Democrats support:

- An equitable school finance system that reduces overreliance on local property taxes and fully funds public education mandates;
- Local control through democratically elected school boards, reflective of their communities; and restricting circumstances for forcible and overreaching state intervention and takeover;
- Strong oversight of homeschooling and charter expansion;
- Transparency and accountability for charter schools receiving public funds, including open meetings, financial oversight, & conflict-of-interest protections;
- Community schools that provide wraparound educational, health, & social services to students and families;
- Protection of academic freedom, accurate and unbiased history education, and access to diverse perspectives and materials;
- Developing curricula & instructional material standards after consulting qualified experts using classroom teacher selected curriculum, rather than partisan ideology;
- Respecting the constitutional separation of church and state by restoring secular spaces and curriculum in public schools; &
- Texas Democrats object to programs like the Bluebonnet Learning Curriculum, and similar programs, that withhold teachers' and school districts' funding hostage to partisan curriculum programs.

Expanding Opportunities for Every Child

Texas Democrats support:

- Universal pre-K, and access to free school breakfast, lunch, after-school snacks, & summer meal programs;
- Individualized academic support and inclusive instruction that meets each student's individual needs;
- Equitable access to counseling, mental health services, healthcare supports, & extracurricular opportunities;
- Fully-funded career and technical education classes or programs, apprenticeship pathways, & college readiness programs;
- Comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education that is medically accurate and LGBTQIA+ inclusive;
- Policies and programs that identify and prevent bullying, harassment, discrimination, including cyberbullying and identity-based harassment;
- Adult education and workforce development opportunities for re-enrolling Texans;
- Protecting and encouraging students' respectful free speech and free expression; &
- Data transparency and accountability to address disparities in discipline, achievement, and access.

Post-Secondary Education

Texas Democrats support:

- Increasing access to free or reduced tuition, safe, high-quality post-secondary education, including universities, community colleges, and trade schools for students who are residents of the State of Texas;
- Reducing financial barriers, expanding student opportunities, access, equity, and diversity on campus;
- Restoring academic freedom to students and faculty, including the freedoms to discuss, teach, research, and publish without political interference; &
- Reinstate the status of public college and university campuses as public forums, and other beacons of free and open expression, without threat or fear of retaliation.

Higher Education

Texas Democrats support:

- Affordable and debt-free higher education through tuition reduction, expanded grants, loan relief, and interest-free student loans;
- Reinstating in-state tuition for DREAMers/DACA students and expanding their financial aid opportunities;
- Equitable funding across all regions of Texas for public universities, HBCUs, historically minority-serving institutions, and research institutions;
- Student success initiatives that improve retention rates, graduation rates, and workforce readiness;
- Strong labor protections, fair pay, academic freedom for faculty & university staff;
- Affordable textbooks, minimal mandatory institutional and instructional fees, paid internships, apprenticeships, and workforce pathways;
- Campus environments where all students have access to mentorship, support services, and leadership opportunities;
- Legislation that prohibits college athletes from playing for Texas public universities where they have been engaging in sports betting for, or against, their own team;
- Student representation in university governance;
- Protecting tenure, free expression, and independent faculty governance; &
- Eliminating discriminatory barriers to admission.

Community Colleges and Trade Schools

Texas Democrats support:

- Tuition-free community college;
- Public trade school opportunities for Texas high school graduates;
- Full funding for community colleges, workforce programs, Adult Basic Education, and career and technical education partnerships;
- Universal transferability of community college credits;
- Financial aid policies that support transfer and nontraditional students; &
- Fair pay, benefits, and retirement security for community college employees.

Diversity and Safety

Texas Democrats support:

- Maintaining pathways like the "Top 10% Rule" to ensure broad access to higher education;
- Inclusive campus environments that reflect the diversity of Texas and prohibit discrimination or harassment based on identity or expression;
- Strong protections against sexual violence and harassment on campuses;
- Repealing campus carry policies and protecting the safety and First Amendment rights of peaceful student protesters;
- Restoring and protecting diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, staff, and support centers as well as ethnic and gender studies departments at Texas public colleges and universities; &
- Research and scholarship that examines inequality, opportunity, and the diverse experiences of Texans.

Energy & The Environment

Texas Democrats recommit to preserving, protecting, and defending our environment. The reality of 'Extreme Weather events' are that they threaten all that we value, from the health of our loved ones, to the strength of our economy, to the safety and security of Texans and all humankind. As the world's leader in energy technology and innovation for the past century, Texas must now become the world-leader in sustainable clean energy, and environmental consciousness. Future generations demand this of us; we must deliver.

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Improve air quality and maintain clean and available water for all Texans;
- Reform the [Texas Railroad Commission](#);
- Promote environmental protection and enforcement of existing laws;
- Preserve Texas' wildlife, parks, and open spaces;
- Improve recycling and waste reduction;
- Develop clean energy resources, promote alternative fuel vehicle, &
- Promote energy-efficient buildings & appliances.

Leading the Global Clean-Energy Revolution

Texas Democrats support:

- Leveraging innovation in clean energy to secure the cleanliness of our air and water, through investment in transmission infrastructure, job training, innovation, & equitable access to clean energy for America, both nationally and in Texas;
- Federal efforts to consider the climate, environmental justice, and consumer cost impacts of the approval of new liquid natural gas terminals;
- Streamlining the permitting process for building new electric transmission lines to provide greater stability and capacity to the electric grid;
- Supporting vigorous enforcement and implementation of the [Regional Haze Rule](#), [National Ambient Air Quality Standards](#) (including Ozone, Particulate Matter and Sulfur Dioxide), the [Methane Rule](#), the [Mercury and Air Toxics Standard](#), and the [Chemical Safety Rule](#);
- Developing a statewide climate action plan that will achieve emission reductions in Texas;
- Promoting strong energy efficiency utility goals, energy efficiency appliance standards and green building policies;
- Undo state and federal subsidies and tax incentives for anti-competitive oil & gas production;
- Fully fund the "[Texas Emissions Reduction Plan Fund](#)" administered by the [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality \(TCEQ\)](#) to offer incentives for clean vehicles and infrastructure, including electric vehicles and storage;
- Funding education programs promoting the benefits of energy conservation;
- Implement technical and academic programs that place Texas at the forefront of renewable energy, battery, smart grid, building conservation, and electric transportation technology;
- Offer financial incentives for the manufacturing of American-made equipment for alternative energy, storage, grid, transportation, and conservation to achieve the goal of measurably reducing coal and oil consumption for electricity and transportation in Texas;
- Supporting federal legislation to share offshore wind lease and production revenues with Texas and other states and creating a new stream of funding for coastal infrastructure and flood resiliency projects by getting wind turbines up and running;
- Add charging stations for electric vehicles at all state highway rest stops; &

- Address the impact climate change will have on military readiness, military installations, and military life, including motivating legislators and Veterans to advocate for necessary environmental modifications.

Responsible Oil and Gas Operations

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Require Texas petroleum and environmental regulatory agencies to stop ignoring state & federal environmental laws and begin to enforce all current Texas statutes;
- Empower Texas regulatory agencies that investigate methane release and venting to begin to strictly enforce the laws governing methane pollution at all oil and gas wells, tanks, valves, gathering lines, pipelines, and petroleum processing stations and equipment;
- Extend the same methane and ozone monitoring done in major cities to Texas oil fields and statewide, to contain the air pollution caused by the petroleum industry in Texas;
- Actively monitor every active, inactive, and orphaned well, tank battery, pipeline, and gas processing plant in Texas for methane releases & toxic chemical pollution;
- Pay for the monitoring and capping of orphaned wells through industry fees;
- Enforce the current statute prohibiting oil and gas drilling in thickly settled communities unless municipalities explicitly adopt rules governing such operations; Set specific goals to incentivize recycling of flowback and produced waters at increasing amounts and institute fines for non-compliance; &
- Support legislation to increase the funding of the state program to cement and cap all abandoned wells at a much higher level to accelerate the program.

Clean & Available Air and Water

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Recognize that access to clean air and clean, dependable water supplies is a basic human right;
- Modernize Texas water management aggressively across the state to address water shortages and prevent disastrous flooding;
- Expand the Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP) to allow local sales tax dollars to repay low-cost loans and grants to communities that lack basic water and wastewater infrastructure;
- Protect Texas bays, estuaries, in-stream flows, and wetlands, including from high saline discharge, and improve seawater desalination discharge standards;
- Implement aggressive water conservation and reuse practices, including the recycling of produced and fracking water;
- Require water suppliers to develop & implement effective drought response plans;
- Initiate a well-funded state water education campaign to inform Texans about their water sources and how to best conserve and protect them;
- Reform protections, district boundaries, conservation rules, & water reuse mandates for groundwater conservation districts to better support water self-sufficiency;
- Reform the “rule of capture” to protect scarce water resources from rampant, unchecked, or otherwise illegal form of exploitation;
- Protect and enhance groundwater recharge areas;
- Expand testing of fish and shellfish for mercury, radionuclides, and other contaminants, and notify the public of health risks from water pollution; &
- Ensure state water plan statutes and regulations reduce and manage flood risk as well as prevent the destruction of finite water resources.

Environmental Protection, Regulation and Enforcement

Texas Democrats support policies and procedures that:

- Ensure the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) protects and preserves the health of our people and our quality of life;
- Enforce the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act for all industries;
- Reform TCEQ appointments to be non-partisan and works to protect all Texans and our environment, not just to protect the profits of the industries they are meant to regulate;
- Require the TCEQ and the EPA to make human health, environmental justice, and quality of life paramount when deciding whether to grant either an air or wastewater permit;
- Enact stronger laws and regulations to protect low-income communities and communities of color from environmental racism and environmental injustice;
- Protect communities of color from environmental racism by establishing an environmental justice office at TCEQ and requiring a cumulative impacts analysis;
- Inform Texans of hazardous chemicals and materials being stored in their communities;
- Establish an “Amber-alert style” notification system for chemical emergencies;
- Implement required performance standards and inspections for above-ground petrochemical storage tanks, due to the recurring massive failures of storage tanks;
- Retire all coal electricity generation as quickly as possible;
- End the destruction of our forests, water, and other natural resources by coal strip mining and leasing of public lands for fracking;
- Strengthen the maximum administrative penalties that the TCEQ and the Texas Railroad Commission (TRRC) can assess to disincentivize polluters;
- Re-enforce the rights of all citizens to participate in the permitting process and contested hearings to protect their property, health, and the environment;
- Require TCEQ to analyze cumulative pollution impacts on downwind communities before making permitting decisions; &
- Halt any plans to import high-level radioactive waste for consolidated storage or disposal in Texas due to risks of water contamination, security concerns, and transportation accidents.

Reformation of the Texas Railroad Commission (TRRC)

Texas Democrats support:

- Change the name of the agency to better reflect its role and jurisdiction over oil & gas operations and implement the previous Sunset Commission's recommendations;
- Use TRRC regulatory power as a means of protecting the health, welfare, and property of Texans rather rubber stamping the industry and its profit-margins;
- Adopt newer, stricter rules on injection wells to prevent earthquakes and to avoid contamination of water resources;
- Ban political contributions to TRRC Commissioners from the oil industry;
- Ensure penalties levied by the TRRC are significant enough to deter polluting practices;
- Implement a transparent process to confirm that entities declaring common carrier status for pipelines are actually operating as common carriers, not as private entities; &
- Expand authority over intrastate pipelines to inspect, monitor, and review pipeline safety.

Preservation of Wildlife, Parks, and Open Spaces

Texas Democrats support:

- Preserve recreational and open spaces as essential to a healthy Texas;
- Expand the Texas Wildlife Tax Exemption to provide support for Texas wildlife;
- Increase funding for upkeep, maintenance, and acquisition of state parkland as well as for ensuring sustainability of state parks, in light of natural disasters such as wildfires;
- Reward those who voluntarily protect threatened and endangered species on their lands through Safe Harbor Agreements and similar measures;
- Encourage large-scale planting of native trees and drought-hardy species to absorb greenhouse gasses, improve wildlife habitat, & promote beautification;
- Affirm the Texas Open Beaches Act and the Texas Constitution's guarantee of public access to beaches while opposing any actions that endanger this right;
- Support the enforcement of the Endangered Species Act and support the preservation and reintroduction of Endangered Species;
- Require Texas retail nurseries to disclose to customers a uniform curated list prepared by the Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension Services of non-native, invasive plants being sold; and
- Preventing parkland and conservation lands along the southern border from being converted into border security infrastructure.

Recycling and Waste Reduction

Texas Democrats support:

- Reducing the use of natural resources, while supporting reuse and recycling;
- Encouraging the reduction of use of unnecessary single-use plastics;
- Keeping e-waste out of the waste stream, including retailer take-back programs for electronics;
- Financial & other incentives to provide community residential recycling; &
- Returning local control of waste reduction so that municipalities can address the issues with ordinances that may be more restrictive than state laws when necessary.
- The use of brackish water and recycled water for fracking.

Weather Safety and Response

Texas Democrats support:

- Increased funding to close gaps in radar coverage in rural parts of Texas,
- Funding updated technologies to be used in existing radar systems, allowing for shorter downtimes and greater resolution;
- Oppose privatization of and support increased funding for the National Weather Service;
- Funding for Meteorology programs at Texas Universities, & State agencies and universities sharing weather data with the National Weather Service;
- Regular cooperation between state agencies, local governments, and regional authorities to strengthen extreme weather preparedness and disaster response across Texas; and
- Development of a comprehensive statewide extreme weather resilience and disaster preparedness strategy addressing extreme heat, drought, flood mitigation, wildfire response, and electrical grid resilience.

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Texas Democrats support:

- Modifying state law to not exclude renewable energy companies from participation in any state-wide tax abatement programs, &
- Statewide net metering policy that adds resiliency to the grid with additional distributed energy generation & better reimbursement to ratepayers for produced energy.

Electric Grid Resilience

Texas Democrats support:

- Fair competition and lower monopolistic prices in the Texas energy markets while strengthening oversight of the electricity system to protect consumers and ensure reliable services;
- Exploring public or community ownership of critical electricity infrastructure;
- Ensuring that the Public Utility Commission truly represents the public, not just utilities;
- Promoting legislation that facilitates growth of renewable energy options;
- Requiring state agencies create and enforce specific weatherization standards for all power plants including stringent standards for black start units so they are always ready, and penalties must be imposed when they fail;
- Upgrading weatherization requirements for transmission, natural gas supply chains and power plants, & impose penalties for failing to complete weatherization by required dates;
- Opposing planned bailouts for utility companies and ERCOT financed through consumer surcharges & use windfall penalties on price gougers to retire the bonds;
- Allowing distributed energy resources like solar and storage to fully compete in ERCOT's energy markets to create a modern grid; &
- Offering a statewide payment assistance program to Texas residents to help cover the costs of high utility bills from price surges during extreme weather conditions, and to invest in energy efficient measures.

Homeowners Insurance

Texas Democrats support:

- Increasing insurance eligibility for high claims areas by increasing capacity and funding for state-provided insurance carriers such as TWIA and Texas FAIR Plan. Expansion of eligibility to more affected areas; and
- Funding home-hardening upgrades through a Texas grant program for fortified and metal roofs, sealed roof decks, stronger roof-to-wall connections, and storm shutters, targeted first at hail-prone regions and families likely to be priced out.

Texas Agriculture

Texas Democrats support rural values of self-reliance and devotion to our country, the preservation of private property rights, and separation of church and state, and initiatives to revitalize rural America.

Texas farmers and ranchers deserve bold political agendas to improve or restore quality-of-life, upward mobility, sustainability, and economic prosperity.

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Restore fair prices through fair market competition;
- Address the current agricultural credit crisis;
- Regenerate Texas soil;
- Enforce existing anti-monopoly laws to keep conglomerates from dominating ranchers and farmers; &
- Encourage and incentivize young and family farmers to return to and remain on Texas ag land.

Restoring Prosperity to American Agriculture

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Promote fair competition to enable producers to market their products and receive fair prices that cover costs of production, plus a reasonable profit;
- Prohibit discrimination against family farmers regarding access to loans or assistance; &
- Ensure the protection of migrant farmworkers from inhumane working conditions, and provide fair wages and humane living conditions.

Soil & Land

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Promote good stewardship of private and public land through the mitigation and control of harmful impacts;
- Invest in research for new, sustainable, & affordable methods to promote soil health, livestock health, and highly productive agriculture while at the same time lowering carbon emissions;
- Create a program where farmers with heavily contaminated soils use hemp to remove soil contaminants;
- Reform eminent domain statutes by ensuring a more transparent, accountable, and fair must serve the public good;
- Prohibit proposed “interstate” pipelines from sectioning such pipeline projects into “intrastate” segments to escape the needed and meaningful environmental review required to protect the state’s natural resources.
- Help farmers phase out the use of glyphosate and other harmful inputs;
- Address threats to soil quality caused by industry, development, mining, and agriculture through regulation of aggregate and frac-sand production, fossil fuel extraction; &
- Use [Texas Department of Agriculture’s](#) resources to conduct soil testing by request from those discovering PFAS in their soil from contaminant runoff.

Water

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Protect farmers from losing water to private equity, data centers, or other corporations that abuse our natural resources by reforming groundwater laws;
- Support expanding state grant programs that help Texas municipalities repair aging water systems and replace failing sewer lines;
- Modernize water health standards;
- Protect groundwater recharge areas & increase state funding for aquifer recharge;
- Protect water supplies from contamination from industry discharge, construction seepage, and other ways that harmful chemicals, such as PFOAs or heavy metals;
- Appropriate funds to repair or replace dams that have been rated “high hazard”;
- Establishment of programs for industry, agriculture, and individuals to encourage conservation of non-essential water use in times of extended drought;
- Construction of desalination plants using renewable energy, employing state-of-the-art saltwater concentrate disposal, such as reverse osmosis, and operated by well-trained staff; &
- Promotion of rainwater collection, greywater systems, and heavy stormwater runoff capture.

Farm Programs and Local Markets

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Ensure all farm programs, loans, grants, crop and other insurance, and more are well-advertised and easily accessible to family farmers, ranchers;
- Enact and ensure farm programs meant for young farmers are given to young farmers, not shell companies for mega-corporations;
- Change USDA policies to allow ranchers to use custom slaughterhouses to sell their products directly to consumers instead of allowing corporate slaughterhouses to monopolize and bottleneck the process;
- Shift agricultural subsidies to also include produce such as vegetables, fruits, whole grains, and other foods to lower the cost of healthy foods for consumers.
- Modernize existing laws to allow families to sell their homemade products with more ease while ensuring basic safety standards;
- Implement resilient, diverse, and local supply chains of foods and goods, inputs, and equipment;
- Fund the Texas Highway Department at sufficient levels to modernize, and rehabilitate, farm-to-market highways to accommodate increased traffic; &
- Ensure farmers can grow hemp and other modern cash crops without undue interference.

Return Farming to Texas

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Prioritize food served in Texas public schools to be grown by Texas farmers and processed by Texans, with exceptions made for foods that cannot be grown en masse in Texas;
- Create “Processed Food” and “Foreign Food” labels to warn Texas consumers when their food contains potentially harmful additives or are grown elsewhere; and
- Enact standards, such as Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (mCOOL), to ensure consumers know where their food comes from.

Rural Texas

Texas Democrats support rural values of self-reliance and devotion to our country, the preservation of private property rights, and separation of church and state, and initiatives to revitalize rural America.

Large swaths of Rural Texas have been hollowed out by monopolization, lack of investment, and the globalization of jobs and trade.

Texas rural communities deserve bold political agendas to improve or restore quality-of-life, upward mobility, sustainability, and economic prosperity.

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Eliminate or reduce disparities in services for low-income & rural communities;
- Provide grants and loans to lift the rural economy out of the crisis created by globalization, monopolization, and technology;
- Protect resources required for ranching & farming from exploitation by short-term profiteers;
- Promote strong rural public schools, community colleges, and regional training programs;
- Address the lack of available and affordable healthcare in rural America;
- Fund projects to repair or replace the aging infrastructure in rural America, including roads, bridges, and public water and sewer systems;
- Enable electric and telephone cooperatives to provide high-speed internet and cell phone service to rural towns and school districts to remediate the disparity in service that exists in rural areas; &
- Empower local governments to address their unique needs and priorities, including ensuring the preservation of rural infrastructure and independent school districts to preserve the identity and autonomy of rural communities.

Restoring and Replacing Our Aging Rural Infrastructure

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Reverse the continuing decline in rural population and fund new public infrastructure that fosters economic development;
- Fund new irrigation projects to replace depleted water resources for both irrigation and drinking water supplies;
- Ensure rural areas have/will have the necessary water resources to sustain their people & economies;
- Improve rural infrastructure and help rural Texans meet their greatest needs;
- Create rural loan insurance corporation to guarantee up to 90 percent of loans and grants to purchase farm machinery or equipment, lease and purchase farmland, and finance crop inputs so young farmers can start their operations;
- Help local producers by supporting healthful farm-to-table operations;
- Encourage innovation of companies and technologies to use local resources in new and different ways;
- Create competition in the global economy; &
- Support efforts to address flooding issues in rural as well as urban areas.

Moratoriums on Data Centers

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Champion moratoriums on new data center projects and cryptocurrency mining operations until water impact can be assessed;
- Establishing clear regulations governing water usage by data centers to prevent depletion of regional water supplies by ensuring community involvement;
- Require large-scale, industrial developments with significant water demands to implement monitoring systems, and publicly disclose projected and ongoing water usage;
- Empower counties and municipalities with expanded development authority in land use, infrastructure planning, migrant housing, and resource impact review related to large-scale data centers and other large developments;
- Empower counties and municipalities with the ability to regulate light pollution and noise levels from data center operations;
- Lower infrastructure costs for residents by removing the 50% requirement of representatives of the real estate, development, or building industries, who set Impact Fees for development projects, such as for data centers;
- Require data centers and other high-demand users to bear the full cost of developing new water and electricity infrastructure and report supply impacts;
- Enact strict standards for water conservation, transparency, and sustainable cooling technologies, including zero consumption dry-cooling systems, provided they do not cause power inflation, or the exclusive use of non-potable water sources, such as but not limited to hemp oil, to ensure zero impact on municipal drinking water supplies and to protect the grid reliability of all Texas communities;
- Reverse and prohibit future taxpayer-funded corporate welfare incentives, including local sales and property tax reimbursements for data centers; and
- Enact a temporary statewide pause or moratorium on further data center development until such policies are created and acted upon by the State Legislature.

Ensuring Rural Students Equal Access to a Quality Education

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Prohibit the forced consolidation of rural school districts;
- Ensure access to affordable, high-speed internet for all rural Texas school districts, staff, students, and families;
- Implement alternative learning options to assist teenage students with staying in school, such as a youth corps & provide resources for rural improvement programs;
- Encourage greater access to dual-credit programs in rural public schools; &
- Allow school districts to use tax funds to create Regional Technical Training Centers, partnering with community colleges to provide necessary skills for 21st century jobs.

Accessible and Affordable Healthcare for Rural Texans

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Accept Medicaid expansion in Texas to prevent further rural hospital closures;
- Address the scarcity of healthcare resources by providing public grants to incentivize health workers to locate in rural towns and open facilities designed for rural areas; and
- Use technological advances, such as telehealth, to provide access to consultative care in rural areas and offer comparatively reimbursed telehealth to increase access in rural areas while improving access to specialists, rural clinics, and hospitals for primary care services.

Comparable Quality High-Speed Internet and Cell Phone Service

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Provide loans and grants to electric and telephone cooperatives to install infrastructure needed to fill gaps in cell phone service and provide equal access and comparable internet service to rural consumers.

Empowering Local Governments and Maintaining Local Control

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Return local control by removing state restrictions and empowering local governments to address rural priorities; &
- Allow local governments to create regional authorities to address common problems related to the economy and culture, including rural grant programs to bring more performances, arts education, and cultural opportunities directly to rural communities across Texas.

Texas Democrats support aggressively combating the New World Screwworm

- Restore prevention and monitoring programs that were defunded by DOGE;
- Use all proven tools, including but not limited to the Screwworm Adult Suppression System (SWASS), sterile flies, fly traps, etc., to combat the NWS;
- Rebuild and promote the rapid construction of sterile fly facilities, and ensure we maintain these facilities, so they are ready for rapid responses in the future;
- Research new methods to control, eradicate, and prevent the NWS, including but not limited to vaccines designed to inoculate animals against the NWS; &
- If a farm must be quarantined to prevent the spread of the NWS, ensure the farmer receives financial assistance to keep the farm in business.

Our Veterans

Faithfulness to those who serve and defend is paramount.

Service Members and Veterans should be honored for their service and deserve the benefits they have been promised and earned.

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Address homelessness, PTSD, behavioral issues, and suicidal tendencies, and unemployment through comprehensive Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Texas Veterans Commission, and other community programs;
- Retain service members' TRICARE Prime medical coverage until substituted; &
- Regulate predatory "service providers" that often exploit Veterans, grift VA back-pay, and perpetuate a poverty cycle

Veterans Services

Texas Democrats support:

- Automatically enroll former service members into the Veterans Affairs system;
- Maintaining the Hazelwood Act in force without modifications.
- Strengthening programs for Service Members and their families leaving Active Duty by addressing employment, housing, financial management, healthcare, earned benefits and entitlements, and applying for those services;
- Programs, grants, and rules ensuring regions of appropriate size have at least one full-time, accredited Veteran Service Officer (VSO) and one full-time, accredited person with psychiatric training or mental health experience in the Veteran's Service Office;
- Free periodic reassessments and referrals for care needed to treat PTSD
- Funding and providing supplemental State benefits comparable to, or better than, Federal benefits for Reserve/Guard members on State orders;
- Limiting Reserve/Guard members' activation to actual and legitimate (i.e., not political) emergencies; and
- Streamlining medical referral policies in the Community Care system.

Veterans Unemployment and Homelessness

Texas Democrats support:

- Liaison services for unemployed Veterans offering benefits, healthcare, and training opportunities;
- Identify Veterans who are at risk of, or experiencing homelessness and connect them with VA programs for homeless Veterans;
- Prohibit discrimination against Low Income Veterans using US HUD Housing Choice Vouchers, and other housing subsidies, by landlords;
- Expanding voucher eligibility regarding non-Housing Authority housing;
- Providing rental assistance to veterans who are at risk of being homeless;
- Offering Veterans case management, employment services, and healthcare in coordination with the VA's Continuum of Care (CoC) Programs;
- Incentivizing local job placement opportunities for veterans statewide and encouraging all rural banks to offer VA Home Loans.

Veterans Suicide Prevention

Texas Democrats support:

- Requiring counties/regions to participate in data collection efforts regarding Veterans who complete suicide, in an effort to prevent the same; &
- Requiring all healthcare providers to screen Veterans for risk of suicide and homelessness at each contact, document that screening, and make appropriate referrals to VA or community resources.

Veterans and Community

Texas Democrats support:

- Properly welcoming home our veterans and service members, with honor;
- Continue to support our Veterans by identifying their potential military toxic exposures, conduct resultant contact tracing, offer appropriate medical treatment, and grant “presumption of exposure” disability ratings;
- Encouraging Veterans to keep serving the community by using leadership skills to be civically and politically active as candidates, staff, or volunteers; and
- Veterans to keep serving the community by using leadership skills to be civically and politically active as candidates, staff, or volunteers.

Supporting Veterans Subcommunities

Texas Democrats support:

- Recognize and address the needs of Veterans within historically marginalized communities through specialized training, targeted programs, and oversight;
- Advocating for Black, Hispanic, Irish, Jewish, Asian, Muslim, and other minority group veterans and their military families, recognizing their specific injuries and contributions; &
- Advocating for women veterans and their military families, recognizing their specific injuries and contributions.

Democracy

The right to vote and to participate in civic affairs is fundamental to representative democracy, especially in times of crises that threaten such foundations. Elections must be made secure and free of encumbrance. Openness and accountability in affirming and addressing the issues addressed the Texas Democratic Party's Platform, coupled with high ethical standards for elected officials and government agencies, are paramount to ensuring a level playing field and a government responsive to the basic needs of its citizens.

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Eliminate barriers to voting;
- Encourage full participation in voting, elections, and governance;
- Promote transparency, accountability, and ethics at all levels of government;
- Respect home rule charters, local democracy, and the decisions communities make on behalf of their respective local jurisdictions; &
- Limit the pervasive influence of money in politics, ensuring level playing fields.

Good Government

The Texas Democrats believe:

- Good government requires compassionate policies and a public safety net
- Texans deserve an honest, ethical, state government that prioritizes public interests above the special interests of "pay-to-play"ers;
- Banning stock trading & participation in prediction markets by elected representatives is essential to ensure traditional notions of fair play & substantial justice;
- In repealing HB 2127 of the 88th Texas Legislative Session, commonly known as the "Death Star" law, that removes local control from Texas local governments and centralizes all power with the Legislature and Governor;
- Establishing a recall mechanism as a constitutional process, allowing voters to remove state or county elected officials prior to the expiration of their term; &
- Eliminating benefits, including pension benefits, for elected or appointed officials convicted of official oppression, bribery, or other ethical violations.

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- End Gov. Abbott's ongoing state of emergency;
- Restrict the length and breadth of future emergency declarations;
- Require all federal legislation to follow the single-subject and germane amendment rules that have protected Texans, eliminating omnibus legislation and backroom logrolling, and increasing transparency and forcing legislators to take clear, accountable positions on individual issues;
- Eliminate government shutdowns and ensure continuity and government employee's financial security by establishing that when Congress fails to pass appropriations legislation, the previous fiscal year's funding levels automatically continue until new appropriations are enacted;
- Protect civil-service employees from partisan abuses, including termination;
- Use the "Rainy-Day Fund" to ensure the continuation of appropriate services during economic downturns, as well as to recover from natural disasters;
- Appropriate assistance to Texans and Texas communities still attempting to recover from flooding and other extreme weather events, with management at the local level;

- Prioritize local labor & businesses in local government projects to improve local economies;
- Conduct regular audits of state contracts and impose and enforce fines and/or debarment for organizations receiving contracts that fail to deliver on their contractual obligations;
- Require government procurement contracts and taxpayer-funded incentives to target, when possible, historically underutilized small businesses; &
- Prevent the continued use of governor's office funds as corporate slush funds that rewards businesses owned by political cronies and contributors.

A. ANTI-CORRUPTION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Ethics & Transparency in Government

The Texas Democrats believe:

Corruption & mismanagement are poisons that undermine the purpose and premise of good government, destroying the people's faith in it. Personal accountability is paramount to protecting the rights, liberties, and freedoms of all Texans. The corrupting influence of money on political and electoral systems, and the blind application of ideology that ignores objective, real-world facts and science, are primary contributors.

It is essential that Texas Democrats fight to reverse, revamp, or reform the laws and policies that abandoned or overlooked the vast majority of Texans (and Americans) over the past several decades, while providing massive benefits to a select few at the expense of the many.

The Texas Democrats support policies and programs to combat corruption that:

- Remove or vitiate the overwhelming, disproportionate, and inherently corrupting costs and influence of unfettered money on political campaigns; &
- Open up opportunities for people of different backgrounds, experience, and economic strata to run for public office, aside from wealthy or well-connected people and companies that have given us the type of government only money can buy, who have dominated Texas politics for generations.

Responsibility

The Texas Democrats believe:

- People are (or should be) responsible for their actions;
- Religion, personal morality differences, and individual conscience must never serve to excuse hatred, bigotry, or discrimination; &
- Although many have benefited greatly from our state, counties, and country, there is no affirmative responsibility to support and give back to our communities & public institutions. So we honor, extoll, and celebrate those that do.

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Guarantee or ensure that Texas officials do not exploit public funds for personal or political gain;
- Enact laws that provide substantial penalties for government officials found guilty or liable for crimes of moral turpitude;

- Strongly & uniformly apply and enforce laws that provide substantial penalties for government officials found guilty or liable for crimes of moral turpitude;
- Empower state employees and government agencies to do work, free from partisan influences;
- Ensure political considerations have no bearing on contracts that the State enters into on behalf of the Texas public, or the use of public funds;
- Eliminate personal-leave policy & bonus abuses by Texas officials & agencies;
- Require elected officials to recuse themselves from voting on legislation that would directly financially benefit themselves or their close family members; &
- Require elected officials to disclose any such benefits.

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Prohibit presidents, vice presidents, members of Congress, executive branch officials, the Supreme Court, and their immediate family members from trading individual stocks, futures holdings, or prediction market investments.
- Restrict the holdings of presidents, vice presidents, members of Congress, executive branch officials, the Supreme Court, and their immediate family members to diversified index funds or Treasury securities, eliminating conflicts of interest between personal wealth and public duty;
- Restrict participation by all public officials in prediction markets that may be, or give the appearance of, a conflict of interest.
- Establish and support an office of an independent prosecutor to investigate state-wide elected or appointed officials who are credibly accused of unlawful conduct, with authority to prosecute such unlawful conduct;
- Strengthen safeguards for whistleblowers in government agencies; &
- Strengthen criminal penalties for elected & public officials who accept bribes;

Transparency

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Strictly apply & enforce open records and open meetings laws;
- Empower citizens to identify and eliminate the misuse and/or abuse of government power, influence, and resources;
- Serve the efficient and effective purposes of good, smart government by modifying, reforming, and improving the structure of government where necessary;
- Disclosing the funding sources for all political advertisements in a readily accessible manner, for candidate campaigns, ballot measures, independent expenditures, and issue advocacy;
- Eliminating tax deductions for contributions to non-profits that make direct campaign expenditures or contributions in support of or against any political candidate or ballot measure; &
- Transition Texas to more transparent public financing of campaigns & elections.

B. STRUCTURE OF DEMOCRACY

One Person, One Vote

Texas Democrats Believe in the Bedrock Principle of:

- One Person, One Vote;
 - Every vote should count;
 - No votes should be diluted; and
 - Gerrymandering should be abolished.

Texas Democrats support:

- The legal exercise of local sovereignty, and the Home Rule principle of governance enshrined in the Texas Constitution;
- Ensuring municipal, county and state governments are in keeping with legal, ethical, and equitable decorum, due process, and standards;
- Ensuring municipal, county and state governments are not intentionally subverting protections, legal and ethical, and advocacy for citizens; and
- Opposing efforts by the Texas Legislature to preempt local self-governance, while simultaneously, selectively ignoring federal preemption.

Voting Rights & Fair Elections

Texas Democrats support:

- Returning Power to the People;
- Enshrining Initiative & Referendum procedures in the Texas Constitution;
- Recognizing November's Election Day as a state and federal holiday;
- Enacting eighteen(18) year term-limits for the United States Supreme Court;
- Banning gerrymandering based on race or party;
- Banning Partisan Redistricting in the Texas Constitution;
- Creating a non-partisan, citizen-led redistricting commission to ensure fairer elections and reduce political influence in the structural distribution of voters;
- Combining concurrent local, state, & federal general elections into a single Election Day;
- Expanding countywide vote centers;
- Expanding extended and early voting periods;
- Increasing accessibility to voting for eligible voters;
- Developing robust, continuous voter education and outreach programs;
- Increasing ballot access through automatic or same-day registration through the Texas Department of Public Safety, online registration, etc.;
- Standardizing and codifying caps on campaign donations in Texas elections;
- Following the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), commonly known as the "Motor Voter" law, a landmark piece of federal legislation designed to make it easier for eligible Americans to register to vote & maintain their registration;
- Term limits for all statewide elected offices.
- Making legal voter registration more accessible by repealing voter registrar deputization requirements to make registration;
- Sending vote-by-mail application to Texans beginning on their 65th birthday;
- Ensuring weekend voting, curbside voting, & universal vote by mail availability;
- Secure drop-boxes for vote by mail ballots;
- Providing funding, supplies, and a clear voter safety plan to county election officials to ensure voter safety on Election Day(s);
- Clarifying and standardizing legal voter protection and voter assistance policies and procedures, tempering concerns of prosecution from volunteers and officials, which

had decreased the number of willing election day volunteers necessary to ensure smoother election days;

- Reinstating mobile-voting, better ensuring rural voters, students, and seniors have increased access to the ballot and their right to vote;
- Removing undue burdens on students by placing polling locations at all colleges and universities/institutions of postsecondary education;
- Allowing all eligible persons to vote by Election Day to participate in the preceding Primary Elections;
- Ensuring formerly incarcerated eligible voters who have fully discharged their sentence are informed of the restoration of their voting rights and able to register to vote without unnecessary administrative barriers;
- Providing voters with disabilities equal access to the ballot via accessible polling places, curbside voting, accessible vote by mail, and other accommodations,
- Ensuring poll-workers are trained in the law, procedures, and equipment use;
- Repealing the highly restrictive and discriminatory Texas Photo Voter ID law; &
- Enforcing the Texas Voting Rights Act & the federal Voting Rights Act;
- Supporting the use of electronic voting systems that utilize paper back-ups and an auditable paper trail;
- Promoting the implementation of ranked-choice voting in order to further promote strong democratic ideals & provide more choice to Texans across the state;
- Ending the discriminatory practice of prison gerrymandering;
- Eliminating the state ban on labor union participation in local recall elections;
- Abolishing the Electoral College;
- Joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact;
- Abolishing the Filibuster in the United States Senate;
- Ensuring Texas voters continue to have the right to vote for the members of the judiciary at every level; &
- Rebalancing the United States' Supreme Court, offsetting the naked machinations of Senate Republicans, and others, that resulted in an unnatural ideological imbalance within the Court that is representative of neither the collective American people, or the United States' Constitution;

Judicial Progression

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Implement single, non-renewable eighteen(18)-year term limits, for all federal judges, including for the United States Supreme Court, ending lifetime tenure;
- Regarding the U.S. Supreme Court, implement staggered appointments, such that a new vacancy opens every two (2) years, mathematically ensuring that any four (4)-year presidential term yields exactly two (2) appointments.;
- Establish a mandatory judicial ethics code, and anti-corruption statutes, for all federal judges, including the United States Supreme Court; and
- Regarding the Supreme Court's emergency or interim docket, also known as the "Shadow Docket" or "Rocket Docket," ensure the Supreme Court only steps in where there is proof of irreparable harm, rather than bypassing the normal appeals process, by mandating written opinions be issued and codifying emergency standards that define strict, uniform legal standards for what constitutes a true emergency, & requiring more than a simple majority of justices to agree to an emergency injunction or stay when the case is not on the Merits Docket.

Campaign Finance Reform

Texas Democrats support:

- Recognizing that companies are not people, and are not entitled to the same rights and privileges as living citizens, whose interests should be paramount, i.e., no corporate personhood;
- Banning unlimited corporate spending in elections;
- More specifically, overturning the decisions in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* and *Buckley v. Valeo* that made money the most privileged form of speech;
- Then, advocating for prohibiting corporate PAC contributions and other forms of direct corporate funding in all federal elections;
- Prohibit political contributions from non-U.S. citizens, States, and entities;
- Prohibiting corporate PAC contributions and other forms of direct corporate funding in all Texas state and local elections, and in all federal elections;
- Prohibiting corporations, LLCs, partnerships, nonprofit associations, and other entities from directly spending unlimited amounts of money or contributing anything of value as an in-kind donation, for the purpose of influencing candidates, elections, or ballot measures;
- Transitioning to more transparent public financing of campaigns & elections;
- Standardizing and codifying caps on campaign donations in Texas elections;
- Disclosing the funding sources for all political advertisements in a readily accessible manner, for candidate campaigns, ballot measures, independent expenditures, and issue advocacy;
- Prohibit political contributions from non-U.S. citizens, States, and entities;
- Requiring all Texas candidates and elected officials to file an annual Personal Financial Statement, disclosing donors, and donors' employment data;
- In the final month before each election, require all state and federal candidates to electronically report campaign contributions, receipts, and expenditures statements weekly of all contributions and expenditures in excess of \$100;
- Require all federal and statewide candidates to disclose their complete federal tax return and, upon election, place any significant private holdings in a blind trust; &
- Reinstating the federal Public Service and Equal Time requirements.

Quality of Life

All people have a right to live in safe, secure, and healthy environments, and that no one in Texas should live without a home, electricity, or running water that is provided by a secure power grid that functions in all weather.

Individual Security

Texas Democrats believe that:

- All people have a right to live in safe, secure, and healthy environments;
- No one in Texas should live without a home, electricity, or running water;
- Texas must have a secure power grid that functions in all weather;
- Texans should be able to retire with dignity and financial security.

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Ensure people with disabilities and older adults can live safely and independently in the community supported by appropriate personal care;
- Preserve and protect retirement benefits, including Social Security, private and public pensions; &
- Ensure technology serves to empower our people and communities, protects the rights and freedoms of our society, and enhances equitable access to the benefits of technological progress.

Care for Children and Vulnerable Adults

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Provide greater oversight of private and state facilities and institutions that serve children and vulnerable adults;
- End the privatization of the Department of Family Protective Services;
- Fund Child Protective Services (CPS) and Adult Protective Services (APS) to reduce caseloads, provide essential training, ensure compliance with federal guidelines for caseworker/client meetings, and adequately compensate caseworkers to reduce turnover;
- Require education to prevent discrimination in the foster care and guardianship systems while providing safe, secure environments for vulnerable populations;
- Ensure medically fragile Texans have access to complete care through an effective system that includes Medicaid coupled with quality of care oversight;
- Allow fostering and adoption of children by qualified adults without discriminatory barriers;
- Establish the minimum marriage age in Texas at 18, with the exception of emancipated minors;
- Support families by removing outside work requirements to obtain benefits like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Long-term Services and Support

Texas Democrats support actions that:

- Revise the long-term care system to include Assisted Living, personal care homes, and in-home care options, as well as include increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for long-term care and in-home care providers;
- Prioritize home based aid and attendance and other community services over state and federally funded living centers;
- Ensure coordination of accessible, affordable, and integrated housing and allow greater individual control for people with disabilities and aging adults;

- Fully fund both community and state-supported centers and swiftly eliminate the waitlists; and
- Develop personal care provider virtual training programs and establish a state registry of those who have completed training and passed background checks.

Social Security and Retirement

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Mandate Social Security remain an essential federal government program and preserve the state retirement systems as defined benefit systems;
- Guarantee those who have paid into Social Security receive the benefits they have earned regardless of other systems for which they may qualify and ensure that income caps are raised or removed;
- Calculate cost-of-living adjustments for aging adults using the [Consumer Price Index for the Elderly \(CPI-E\)](#);
- Provide legal protections for participants in any retirement system to safeguard the full benefits they have earned;
- Freeze funds of companies filing for bankruptcy or encountering legal problems to secure their pension plan funding; and
- Support a system for Universal Basic Income which addresses income inequality and would cover all adults within the jurisdiction of the United States.

Technology

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- End warrantless digital surveillance of Americans as authorized by the Patriot Act and the [USA Freedom Act](#);
- Enshrine “Net Neutrality” as the law of the land, and require the [Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\)](#) to interpret internet service providers as subject to [Title II Communications Service Common Carrier](#) regulations;
- Establish a universal “Right to Repair,” so that people are always able to repair or modify electronic devices that they own, without violating intellectual property laws;
- Regulate the use of facial recognition systems and mass surveillance technologies, including automated license plate recognition systems, in public or private spaces;
- Restore the ability of municipalities to regulate autonomous vehicle operations within their jurisdiction;
- End government requirements for “encryption backdoors,” as they create unnecessary security risks for widely adopted software and online services;
- Encourage our government, whenever possible, to make use of open-source software, and provide any internally developed software, under an open-source license, for use by the public;
- Promote the responsible regulation of emergent technologies to ensure they serve the needs of the people, not just benefiting technology proprietors;
- Protect our right to consent regarding the collection and sale of our personal data by websites, software applications, and network service providers;
- Provide high-speed internet & cell phone service, along with Wi-Fi capabilities;
- Eliminate or reduce disparities in services for low-income & rural communities;
- Require all state agencies and public universities to develop and implement telecommuting infrastructure and employment policies;
- Improve telecommuting infrastructure and employment policies to allow for a more flexible work/life balance, ease the stress on roads, and to ensure the continuity of business and education during national disasters;

- Require that all publicly available broadcasts of open governmental meetings, including Texas Legislative hearings, be captioned; &
- Establish and issue a digital, mobile driver license and state identification alternative or supplement to physical identification cards.

Artificial Intelligence

Texas Democrats support:

- Realizing the responsible benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) and managing its risks to ensure it serves the public interest;
- Creation of guidelines, tools, benchmarks, and best practices for evaluating dangerous AI capabilities and mitigating AI risk;
- Responsible development, testing, procurement, and integration of transformative AI across public and private sector deployment;
- Mandating bias audits and public transparency requirements for any AI system used in high-stakes government or private sector decisions;
- Ensuring that workers get a voice in how AI is used in their workplace;
- Disallowing the use of AI and other emerging technologies to surveil workers seeking to organize their workplace;
- Protecting individuals, artists, and public figures from the unauthorized use of their likeness, voice, data, or copyright and intellectual property through AI technologies, including deepfakes and voice cloning;
- Banning AI-generated child sexual abuse material with criminal penalties for creation and distribution, and legal liability shields for effective red teaming;
- Require age verification and parental consent for AI tools that present serious risks to minors;
- Places obligations on developers and deployers to avoid algorithmic discrimination against users;
- Require clear disclosure when interacting with AI instead of a human;
- Require large companies to report AI-related workforce changes; &
- Ensure AI cannot be the sole decision-maker in hiring, firing, or promotion decisions.

Cryptocurrency

Texas Democrats support:

- Cryptocurrency innovation, while drawing sharp lines in the sand against scams, weak or inadequate consumer protections, and political crypto profiteering;
- Responsible digital asset innovation with strong consumer protection, clear federal rules, privacy rights, self-custody rights for lawful users, stablecoin reserve standards, enforcement against fraud and manipulation, protection for community banks and small businesses, and a ban on presidents, senior officials, members of Congress, regulators, and immediate family profiting from crypto ventures while in office; and
- Establishing clear industry rules, practices, and guidelines regarding cryptocurrency innovation, downstream structural expansion, consumer protections, builder protections, and anti-corruption protections.

Public Safety

Every Texan deserves public safety, and communities are calling on their elected leaders to support holistic, locally tailored, community-led public safety solutions that protect everyone from violence, trauma, and exploitation, without invading the privacy and freedom of law-abiding citizens in their own peaceable activities and consensual associations.

Firearm Safety Reform

The best way to uphold, preserve, and honor Texas' strong heritage of responsible firearm ownership for self-defense, sport, and recreation is to enact common-sense firearm safety reforms that protect, train, & educate.

Texas Democrats call on state leaders to preserve Second Amendment rights, while implementing prudent safeguards against needless suicides, senseless mass murders, tragic accidents, and interpersonal violence.

Texas Democrats support:

- Preventing discrimination via restrictions on the possession of firearms based solely on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, creed, or socio-economic status;
- Call for a constitutional amendment for voters to consider raising the minimum age to twenty-one (21) for the purchase of semiautomatic rifles;
- Requiring universal background checks, without permitting the retention of any records or information with respect to any passing check other than a statement the individual passed a firearms background check on a specific date;
- Reasonable waiting periods for firearm exchanges, except within families, i.e. by inheritance;
- Restricting the manufacture, sale, or possession of bump stocks, binary trigger systems, trigger cranks, attachable suppressors, & large-capacity magazines;
- Imposing statutory damages against firearm sellers who sell a firearm that is later used in the commission of a felony, without running the required background check and confirming the buyer has passed it;
- Restricting the open carry of firearms on school campuses;
- Restricting individuals under the legal age to purchase a firearm, unaccompanied by an adult, from entering a section of a store where firearms are sold;
- Restricting the manufacture and sale of Teflon & armor-piercing ammunition;
- Requiring unattended firearms to be secured in a locked dwelling, room, or cabinet that unaccompanied minors cannot access; &
- Implementing a reasonable violent offender gun registry containing convicted individuals with violent histories to ensure they cannot purchase firearms prior to legally clearing their record.

Protecting Texans from Sexual & Family Violence

Every Texan deserves to live free from fear, abuse, and exploitation. The Texas Democratic Party stands firmly with survivors of sexual assault approach: holding perpetrators accountable, both criminally and civilly, to drastically reduce all forms of interpersonal violence across the state. Dismantling systemic barriers that punish victims and investing heavily in both immediate trauma-informed care and long-term prevention. By modernizing our legal, medical, and educational systems, we commit to breaking the cycle of violence and building communities rooted in safety, respect, and healing.

Survivor Care, Medical Services, and Healing

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Incentivize co-sheltering programs that allow survivors and family violence refugees to bring their pets with them to shelters and transitional housing;
- Ensure survivors of sexual assault are never billed while receiving necessary medical exams or treatments, regardless of their choice to report to law enforcement; &
- Invest in comprehensive, mandatory professional training for law enforcement, healthcare providers (i.e. certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners [SANE]), educators, and justice system personnel. This training must be periodically updated for continuing education licensure, focusing on trauma-informed therapies, evidence-based practices, and treating marginalized populations.

Prevention, Education, and Community Response

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Break the cycle of violence through age-appropriate education, funding evidence-based school curricula that promote social-emotional learning, consent, digital safety, and the identification of safe, healthy relationships;
- Establish and fully fund regional multi-agency response teams and task forces to assess community needs (i.e. crisis shelters, non-residential programs, transitional housing, counseling, etc.), build coalitions, prosecute perpetrators, and improve local responses for survivors of trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault;
- Sustain survivor resources through the Crime Victims Compensation Fund, and similar funds, ensuring seamless reimbursement of costs incurred by medical and law enforcement institutions; &
- Aggressively deterring, preventing, and prosecuting child traffickers, child sexual exploitation, solicitation, and distributors of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).

Technology

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Protecting all Texans' due process and constitutional rights from abuses and invasions of privacy by AI or integrated systems; Enactment of oversight board(s) for the AI or integrated systems used by government or law enforcement agencies, and other disclosures and monitoring standards that may impact the due process and/or constitutional rights; &
- Oppose the use of surveillance technologies that undermine civil liberties, target marginalized communities, or infringe upon constitutional rights without meaningful oversight.

Decriminalization and Legal Protection for Survivors

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Protect vulnerable victims from counter-prosecution, ensuring that survivors of abuse and sex workers are not criminally prosecuted for seeking emergency help or reporting violence; &
- Expand clemency resources and legal relief for survivors who otherwise hold criminal convictions that directly resulted from their own abuse, coercion, or exploitation.

Criminal Justice Reform

Texas Democrats believe in equal justice to all regardless of race, gender, sex, religion and/or socioeconomic background. Texas Democrats should focus on the underlying causes of crime, and decriminalize social and public health crises, including substance use disorders, mental health vulnerabilities, and housing instability;

The Texas Democratic Party believes that true public safety is built on the foundation of equal justice, human dignity, and the recognition that the criminal legal system must serve as a tool for restoration rather than retribution. Our commitment is to a system that protects the autonomy of all individuals, ensures rigorous accountability for those in power, and provides a genuine pathway for formerly incarcerated individuals to reclaim their lives and participate fully in our democracy.

Ending Criminal Penalties for Abortion

Texas Democrats support:

- Respecting personal autonomy and right to choose and control what happens with their body; free from state or civil penalties, prosecution, or the threat of legal recourse;
- Protecting the right of individuals to seek, provide, assist with, or obtain reproductive healthcare free from criminal, civil, or administrative penalties;
- Protecting the right of healthcare providers to provide, assist with, or facilitate reproductive healthcare, free from criminal, civil, or administrative penalties; &
- Repealing laws that criminalize abortion care, miscarriage, stillbirth, or reproductive healthcare decisions.

Police Reform

Texas Democrats support:

- Requiring public agencies to provide ongoing training for all officers in cultural diversity & other community-related topics, to build trust & legitimacy;
- Requiring body worn cameras on all on-duty Texas officers with penalties for tampering with or stopping recordings;
- Eliminate “no knock” warrants except with a showing of substantial risk to officers;
- Establishing a state-level decertification process to address policy misconduct;
- Making disciplinary records and officer data publicly available;
- Police should be held accountable for their actions at the same level as anyone else under the law;
- Enforce ‘de-escalation’ as the prime norm for public safety departments;
- Providing appropriate policies and training for mental health and drug crises, non-criminal family disputes, and other social issues;
- Expanding statewide use of force reporting to include all incidents resulting in injury to either an officer or a civilian;
- The collection and reporting of data on SWAT deployments;
- Expand the [911 Good Samaritan Law](#) so no one is afraid to seek emergency medical attention during an overdose;
- Ending the practice of deploying SWAT teams to serve routine drug warrants.
- Limiting federal programs that provide military equipment to police forces;
- Prohibiting profiling on the basis of race, age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or disability; &
- Prohibiting the use of a victim's race, ethnicity, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, or disability as a defense, i.e. ‘panic defenses’, to any use of violence against them.

Pretrial, Sentencing, & Court Procedures

Texas Democrats support:

- Eliminating cash bail and pretrial detention practices that incarcerate individuals solely because of their inability to pay;
- Prohibiting the use of AI in court pleadings without first attesting, upon threat of penalty, that the pleadings submitted were checked for accuracy by a licensed attorney in good standing;
- The application of the presumption of innocence at each stage of the criminal judicial process, regardless of the race, age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or disability of the defendant;
- Criminalizing intentional prosecutorial misconduct;
- Ensuring that people with disabilities have free access to civil attorneys if a judge determines that access to a civil attorney is needed to reasonably accommodate the needs of that person and ensure justice;
- Funding support for the right to legal counsel for interested indigent defendants & defendants with disabilities, in criminal & civil proceedings;
- Establishing public defender offices and/or managed or assigned counsel programs across all 254 Texas counties;
- Granting disability accommodations to facilitate communication with defendants & their counsel, including defendants with cognitive disabilities;
- Protecting the prosecutorial discretion of democratically elected, local prosecutors, and preventing such officials from being ousted from office for acting within such discretion;
- Requiring courts to simplify & facilitate electronic filing, including mental health warrant applications, and requests for disability accommodations;
- Reducing probation revocations, & encourage completion of the probation;
- Allowing persons posing no foreseeable danger to the community to remain in their communities, provide alternate means of discipline like local jail time, house arrest, or counseling, without excessive requirements blocking success;
- Efforts to decriminalize Texans who are unhoused, such as harmful and costly camping, and panhandling bans;
- Efforts to decriminalize people living with HIV/AIDS;
- Expanding diversion, treatment, and restorative justice programs as alternatives to arrest, prosecution, and incarceration; &
- Reducing Texas' reliance on incarceration by reforming sentencing laws, eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent offenses, and expanding opportunities for parole and rehabilitation.

Reentry, Rehabilitation, & Reducing Preventing Recidivism

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Invest in violence prevention, youth development, mental health services, affordable housing, and community-based programs that address the root causes of crime;
- Provide formerly incarcerated individuals with a pathway back to productive participation in society;
- Provide falsely convicted & incarcerated people a right to compensation;
- Provide funding for post-secondary education & career training in prisons;
- Provide drug treatment & counseling within jails, prisons, & detention centers;
- Expand eligibility to seal criminal records, and shorten wait times, to promote more people successfully applying for jobs, housing, education, and more;
- Ensure access to education, employment, housing, healthcare, and other reentry services for formerly incarcerated individuals;

- Increase transparency, accountability, and independent civilian oversight of law enforcement agencies;
- Require comprehensive data collection and public reporting regarding arrests, prosecutions, sentencing, use of force, and incarceration outcomes;
- Prioritize restorative and transformative justice approaches that repair harm, support victims, and strengthen communities; &
- End the use of incarceration for immigration-related civil violations and protect due process rights for all persons.

Eliminating Private Prisons & Detention Facilities

Texas Democrats support:

- Abolish private operation of prisons in Texas and/or detention facilities;
- Support public operation of prisons in Texas and/or detention facilities; &
- Denying tax incentives to companies that operate private prisons, jails, or detention facilities.

Improving Prison & Jail Conditions

Texas Democrats support:

- Organizing carceral systems to protect human dignity and ensure conditions are, at a minimum, safe and sanitary;
- Safeguarding the basic physical well-being of the incarcerated, including quality water & food, and health care & affordable commissary access;
- Return unused commissary funds to formerly incarcerated persons after release;
- Ending forced and un- or under-compensated labor practices in private and public prisons operated within Texas;
- Enforcing the protection of all individuals from sexual violence and assault while incarcerated;
- Ensuring availability of virtual visitation with friends, lawyers, and loved ones through current(ly) available technology, free of charge;
- Developing and implementing appropriate protocols and accommodations for members of the LGBTQIA+ community in Texas; &
- Providing heat and air conditioning across all Texas Department of Criminal Justice facilities, enforcing a standard that maintains temperatures at 65 to 85 degrees.

Reforming Juvenile Justice

Texas Democrats support:

- Requiring mandatory training/continuing education for all staff & volunteers, including training working with students with disabilities;
- Expanding the use of proactive, trauma-informed, equity-driven approaches that lead to productive and positive outcomes for students;
- Prioritizing prevention using The Texas Model of Transformative Justice as a foundational framework;
- Restricting utilization of Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs (DAEPs) as therapeutic, rehabilitative learning on campuses to extreme instances;
- Providing on-campus behavior learning support, up to and including in-school detention while reducing off-campus suspensions and expulsions and eliminating student referrals to police for routine school discipline; &
- Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 13 years of age.

Smart Sentencing

Texas Democrats support:

- Reforming or replacing “Tough on Crime” sentencing standards that focus on positive outcomes and align with federal policies;
- Alternatives to incarceration with a track record or high likelihood of success;
- Reducing arrests and streamlining parole & probation systems for offenses not posing an immediate risk to the community;
- Updating sentencing & parole scorecards to align with best practices, shifting away from subjective criteria & static risk assessments towards evidence-based, dynamic metrics.
- Promoting judicial discretion in sentencing, including eliminating mandatory minimums, “three-strikes” laws, and other automatic sentencing restrictions;
- Treating drug use & mental health as public health issues, rather than crimes;
- Funding accessible, affordable, community-based outpatient care & insurance for mental health treatment, drug treatment programs, rehab programs;
- Incentivizing expansion of psychiatric residency programs;
- Practice compassionate release on the basis of serious medical conditions and/or terminal illness, i.e., within 12 months of death;
- Reapplication for compassionate release after 30 days of a program denial; &
- Enforcing the Texas Constitution's mandate that 'No person shall ever be imprisoned for debt' and dismantling modern-day debtors' prisons.

Legalizing Cannabis

Texas should place its faith in Texans, and trust them to make the best (or better) decisions for themselves. Texas Democrats encourage Texans to make such decisions after consultation with their personal physician(s) and advisor(s). The State cannot, and should not, presume to know every Texan’s circumstances or legislate such morality.

Texas Democrats support:

- Legalizing the possession and use of cannabis and its derivatives in Texas, both medicinal and recreational, for adults;
 - i.e., Regulating and taxing cannabis’ use, production, testing and sale;
- Alternatively, decriminalizing the possession & use of cannabis, cannabis concentrates, & its derivatives;
- Promoting pretrial diversion programs for cannabis offenses;
- Promoting transition to civil fines only for cannabis possession offenses;
- Establishing a taxation and licensing structure to fund critical needs, prioritizing the communities most affected by the failed war on drugs;
- Requiring labels and PSAs to educate the public about actual harms and side effects, particularly for minors, as done for tobacco, vaping, and alcohol; and
- Expanding research into the uses, benefits, detriments, and value of cannabis.

Expungement

Texas Democrats support:

- Releasing immediately, upon legalization or decriminalization, individuals incarcerated solely for possession of cannabis;
- Automatically expunge the criminal records of persons convicted, or receiving deferred adjudication, for any possession of cannabis offense; and
- Automatic expungement of criminal records for past low-level or misdemeanor cannabis offenses to prevent individuals and the State from being burdened by such incarcerations and their costs; & until then.

Hate Crimes

Hate deserves no place in Texas.

Texas Democrats are dedicated to addressing, preventing, and penalizing bias/hate-motivated violence, harassment, and intimidation.

Texas Democrats recommit to fostering an inclusive culture where differences are celebrated, diverse perspectives are elevated, & individuals feel valued, respected, & heard. Texas Democrats recommit to combatting bias or hate motivated crimes.

Texas Democrats support:

- Enforcing the federal Hate Crimes Prevention Act and Texas' James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act;
- No Place for Hate programs, i.e., student-led social initiatives with a framework to combat bias, prevent bullying, and foster an inclusive, respectful environment for all students;
- Requiring local, state, and federal entities & organizations to conduct anti-discrimination training on, but not limited to, antisemitism, islamophobia, sex/gender, transphobia, and homophobia;
- Enhancing training for law enforcement personnel on hate crime responses, reporting, misinformation, and identification;
- Adopting criminal penalties for cyberstalking, cyber harassment, and online activities that encourage, solicit, or facilitate the commission of hate crimes;
- Enhancing training for law enforcement personnel on cyberstalking, cyberbullying, and other forms of online expressions of hate & hateful actions;
- Including instances of prejudicial, hate-fueled, false-alarm “swatting”, defined as the malicious criminal tactic of making a false emergency call to law enforcement—such as claiming a bomb threat, hostage situation, or active shooter—to trick authorities into sending an overwhelming, armed police or
- SWAT team response to an unsuspecting victim's address, for enhancement of criminal penalties;
- Establishing liability and civil remedies for prejudicial, hate-motivated “doxxing”, defined as the malicious act of publicly revealing someone's private, personal information online without their consent;
- Creating & supporting programs & entities aiming to reduce such hatreds; &
- Adopting enforceable requirements for law enforcement agencies to collect and report hate crimes data.
- Combat rising antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Black racism, anti-Asian hate, anti-Latino discrimination, anti-Sikh hate, and all other forms of bias and bigotry;
- Expand victim assistance, mental health services, language access, and legal support for survivors of hate crimes and their families; and
- Promote community-based violence prevention, education, and outreach programs that build understanding across racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural communities.

Equality & Social Justice

The diversity of Texas is a source of our strength, and all our people are equally deserving of dignity, respect, inclusion and equitable treatment.

Texas Democrats oppose and will work to eliminate the systemic disparities. Democrats support programs that recognize the benefits of our diversity and promote equity and inclusion. We will fight the Republican actions that work to reinstate the historical inequities and disparities of the past. We unite together and amplify each other's voices, aiming for a more equitable, inclusive, just, & free Texas.

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Support statewide equal rights protections for LGBTQ Texans with disabilities;
- Allow all people to live to their fullest potential;
- Promote equity and ensure that Texans of all backgrounds are treated with dignity and respect;
- Ensure that people are entitled to equal rights and treatment, and that no one should be denied these basic rights because of race, color, creed, class, national origin, sex, age, religion, ethnic identity, ethnicity, language, culture, sexual orientation, sexual traits/characteristics, gender, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, disability, tribal affiliation, immigration status, and/or justice system involvement;
- Value and assure women's full, equal, & essential role in Texas' future success;
- Ensure equal protections and rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, & other non-cis non-heterosexual or LGBTQIA+ people;
- Require the inclusion of fact-based, fair perspectives from all marginalized groups in history and social studies classes in Texas public education;
- Abolish Confederate Heroes Day from being observed as a state holiday;
- Encourage the removal or relocation of culturally divisive or historically dishonorable monuments, memorials, or designations installed prominently on public property to museums with plaques explaining the context of the creation, installation, and subsequent removal, or private display; and
- Develop programs, funding, and staffing at Texas public colleges, universities, and institutions that help Texans thrive through focuses on diversity, equity, and inclusion that result in positive outcomes greater than previous policies; &
- Uphold the principles of affirmative action;

Texas Women

Texas Democrats support programs and policies that:

- Uphold or strengthen the rights accorded to women under Title IX;
- Uphold or strengthen the rights accorded to women under the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), defining discrimination against women, and requiring states to guarantee basic human rights and fundamental freedoms to women "on a basis of equality with men" through the "political, social, economic, and cultural fields";
- Further the enrollment of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) by the Archivist of the United States as an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, since the ERA has been passed by a two-thirds vote of Congress and by three-fourths of state legislatures and therefore has met all the requisites of Article V;
- Preserve and re-establish confidential, unrestricted access to affordable, high-quality healthcare services, including the full range of reproductive health services,

including contraception and abortion, without requiring guardian, judicial, parental, or spousal consent;

- Support paid maternity leave;
- Support paid paternity leave at the same level as paid maternity leave;
- Call on Congress to enact the federal right to reproductive healthcare, as detailed in the Women's Health Protection Act;
- Encourage workplaces to provide paid menstrual leave, by whatever name;
- Work to end period poverty by encouraging workplaces and educational institutions to provide free menstrual products in restrooms.
- Increase accessibility to parenting assistance, job skills training, and apprenticeship programs for women;
- Increase accessibility to parenting assistance, job skills training, and apprenticeship programs specifically for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women;
- Guarantee a safe and inclusive workplace by providing access to affordable childcare, ensuring every employee can participate fully and without barriers;
- Support the right of a woman to report hostile and abusive work environments without retribution; &
- Encourage and support women in leadership, elected or otherwise, with diverse experiences within the Texas Democratic Party.

Racial Equity

Texas Democrats support:

- Treat all Texans, regardless of race, ethnicity, or background, with equal dignity and respect by requiring annual civil rights compliance reviews for state agencies, establishing a statewide discrimination complaint portal, and publishing agency-level compliance and resolution data;
- Ensure Black, Indigenous, and other marginalized communities across Texas are respected and welcomed members of the American family by expanding multilingual access to state services and requiring demographic reporting for state boards, commissions, and advisory councils;
- Recognize and celebrate the contributions of Texans of all racial and ethnic backgrounds, encourage civic engagement, and applaud the ongoing contributions of marginalized communities;
- Condemn racism, bigotry, hate-fueled speech, political violence, and the spread of misinformation and disinformation, particularly when directed at minority communities;
- Address systemic inequities by requiring equity impact reviews of major state programs and publishing annual disparity reports with measurable outcomes.
- Protect minority communities from political exclusion and discrimination by establishing a state-level Voting Rights Act;
- Support culturally responsive healing opportunities that allow minority and other marginalized communities across Texas to address past and present prejudice on their own terms;
- Protect the right of all communities to safely celebrate their cultural traditions, holidays, and events free from discrimination or intimidation;
- Honor and promote designated heritage and cultural recognition months and sites across Texas;
- Support diversity, equity, inclusion, and similar initiatives that demonstrate positive outcomes; &

- Oppose efforts to eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in schools, universities, workplaces, and other institutions.

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Texans

Texas Democrats support programs and policies that:

- Recognize historic and ongoing discrimination against AANHPIs, including but not limited to the incarceration of Japanese Americans, Ku Klux Klan attacks against Vietnamese refugee fishers, the Chinese Exclusion Act, the “bamboo ceiling”, the murder of Vincent Chin, anti-alien land laws, targeted deportation of refugees, voter suppression, and the surge in COVID-19-related anti-AANHPI hate;
- Condemn all forms of hate, racism, discrimination, xenophobia, and bigotry targeting AANHPI individuals, small businesses and places of worship;
- Integrate and teach AANHPI contributions to American history in Texas public schools, including but not limited to the building of the Transcontinental Railroad, service in the highly decorated 442nd Infantry Regiment and 100th Infantry Battalion, the Supreme Court decision in U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark, and involvement in Civil Rights and labor rights movements;
- Acknowledge that AANHPIs are not a monolith, and support disaggregating public data to accurately represent the diverse experiences and needs within AANHPI communities;
- Observe and celebrate AANHPI Heritage Month annually;
- Oppose legislation restricting AANHPIs from purchasing or owning property and land;
- Support improving language accessibility in government services, communication, and community engagement.

Black Texans

Texas Democrats support programs and policies that:

- Acknowledge African Americans as the descendants of the survivors of the Middle Passage, chattel slavery, convict leasing, and mass incarceration, an ongoing condition that remains unresolved;
- Provide for the establishment of “The Texas State Community Commission on Reparatory Justice Remedies, which would be tasked with examining the legacy of slavery, subsequent discrimination against people of African descent, & the present-day impact these forces continue to have in the State of Texas;
- Treat today’s thriving Black families as the experts; those who mastered the Black experience of survival and resiliency under the weight of prolonged systemic oppression;
- Uphold that African Americans are not a monolith and own the right to address their issues individually or collectively, as a distinct cultural group, without suspicion or fear of unjustified retribution for doing so as exemplified by the Red Summer of 1919 or the FBI’s COINTELPRO and IRON FIST programs;
- Affirm African Americans’ right to explore new solutions, while recommitting to those practical approaches that made the triumphs of their 400-year survival possible; and
- Make better health outcomes possible in the African American community by effectively addressing the Five Social Determinants of Health: economic stability, education, social and community context, health and healthcare access, and the built environment in and around communities where they live, work, and play.

- Acknowledge disproportionate outcomes for Black Americans when addressing health issues (such as maternal mortality rate) and seek to close those gaps as a primary goal when instituting reforms.
- Reject anti-Black rhetoric, anti-diversity policies, and political strategies that undermine Black political power, representation, safety, and belonging.
- Recognize Juneteenth as a sacred Texas-born commemoration of emancipation, Black freedom, and the ongoing struggle for full justice; protect its history from erasure or distortion; and support public education, cultural preservation, community celebrations, and policies that move beyond symbolism toward material freedom, equity, and repair for Black Texans.
- Oppose anti-Black and anti-diversity laws and policies; and urge Democratic leaders, candidates, elected officials, vendors, and partners to support inclusive programs, diverse leadership, and equitable practices that reflect the communities they serve.
- Support a substantial state appropriation to address the historic funding deficit facing Texas HBCUs and establish a clear path to funding parity consistent with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's September 18, 2023, guidance.

Hispanic/Latin/Tejano/Chicano/a Texans

Texas Democrats support programs and policies that:

- Support and strengthen the quality-of-life and celebrate the foundational culture of Hispanic, Latin(a/o), Chican(o/a) and Tejano Texans;
- Recognize that Hispanic, Latin(a/o), Chican(o/a) and Tejano Texans, cultural groups made up of similar but distinct nationalities and/or cultural backgrounds, are not a monolith, should not be treated as such, and should be afforded the right to address issues individually or collectively;
- Preserve and promote the historical contributions and cultural heritage of Hispanic, Latin(a/o), Chican(o/a) and Tejano Texans in public education, museums, and state institutions.
- Expand access to affordable, bilingual healthcare, mental health services and maternal health care to communities throughout Texas.
- Affirm the dignity and the civil and human rights of all documented and undocumented persons and stand against racism, religious discrimination, and persecution;
- Hold the government accountable to all individuals and communities it serves, documented and undocumented, and ensure it is not used as a tool for oppression or intimidation.
- Ensure Hispanic, Latin(a/o), Chican(o/a) and Tejano Texans have equitable representation in government, public boards, commissions, and leadership positions across the State of Texas.
- Make better health outcomes possible in the Latin community by effectively addressing the Five Social Determinants of Health;
- Support strong job safety and wage theft policies, which overwhelmingly and disproportionately impact Latino and undocumented communities due to language barriers, exploitation of legal status, and discrimination.
- Support bilingual education, dual-language programs, Mexican American Studies, Tejano history, ethnic studies, and culturally competent curriculum that reflects the full history and contributions of Hispanic, Latin(a/o), Chican(o/a) and Tejano Texans;
- Support fair representation, voting rights, ballot access, and language-accessible elections for Hispanic, Latin(a/o), Chican(o/a),

- Tejano Texans, including protection against racial gerrymandering, voter suppression, and policies that dilute Latino political power;
- Oppose racial profiling, anti-immigrant policing, family separation, and policies that use local or state government to intimidate immigrant, mixed-status, Hispanic, Latin(a/o), Chicano/a and Tejano communities; &
- Ensure meaningful language access, culturally competent public services, and equal treatment in government, healthcare, courts, schools, elections, emergency communications, and public benefit programs.

Indigenous Texans

Texas Democrats support programs and policies that:

- Condemn past and present wrongs against Aztlan Nation and American Indians including the genocide, erasure, and exclusion of Indigenous Texans;
- Support tribal sovereignty, including the rights of tribal communities to maintain jurisdiction over crimes committed by non-Native people against Native people on tribal land, administer elections on tribal land, and regulate environmental protections on tribal land;
- Acknowledge that many American institutions were built on land stolen from a variety of Aztlan Nation and American Indian groups, including the Caddo, Apache, Karankawa, Comanche, Wichita, Coahuiltecan, Tonkawa, and more;
- Affirm indigenous Texas peoples' rights;
- Support certain forms of reparation, including the return of some indigenous lands, where possible; &
- Defend the Indian Child Welfare Act.

LGBTQIA+ Texans

Texas Democrats support programs and policies that:

- Affirm the equal dignity, humanity, and rights of all LGBTQIA+ Texans, whether individually or grouped;
- Incentivize adding single-occupant stalls with floor-to-ceiling doors and walls without visible gaps to gender-neutral bathrooms and fitting rooms;
- Support comprehensive non-discrimination protections for LGBTQIA+ Texans in employment, housing, healthcare, education, adoption, public accommodations, marriage, & all other facets of public and private life.
- Pass legislation, such as the Equality Act, that protects and guarantees marriage equality, employment nondiscrimination, and the full legal rights of LGBTQIA+ Texans.
- Oppose attacks on LGBTQIA+ Texans, whether against an individual or group;
- Oppose attacks on transgender youth and their families;
- Expand access to gender-affirming healthcare, updated legal documents, bodily autonomy, and the ability to participate fully in public life consistent with their gender identity.
- Oppose government harassment, restrictions on healthcare, and discriminatory policies against transgender Texans.
- Protect LGBTQIA+ Texans from hate crimes, bullying, harassment;
- Abolish the practice of damaging conversion therapy and the use of the gay/trans "panic" defense in criminal court;
- Ensure LGBTQIA+ students, families, and educators can live openly and safely without fear of unemployment, censorship, forced outing, or discrimination;
- Protect the right of LGBTQIA+ Texans to publicly celebrate and express their identities and culture, including Pride events and drag performances; &

- Support safe housing, healthcare, and community resources for LGBTQIA+ people from minority and marginalized individuals and communities;
- Formally repeal the criminalization of homosexual conduct from the Texas Penal Code, declared unconstitutional and made unenforceable by the Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*; and
- Observe and celebrate LGBTQIA+ Pride Month annually.

Unhoused and Displaced Texans

Texas Democrats support programs and policies that:

- Treat unhoused and displaced individuals and populations with dignity and respect;
- Afford all rights guaranteed under the U.S. and Texas Constitutions, including 4th Amendment rights that protect against unreasonable search and seizure;
- Fund housing first programs and Section 8 vouchers that keep people and families in homes;
- Prevent individuals and families from undue evictions before the eviction process can begin and interventions if it does;
- Strong tenant rights to prevent housing instability;
- Prevent evictions resulting from medical debt;
- Recognize and address the lack of support for adults who have aged out of the foster care system;
- Recognize and address the lack of support and accessibility for unhoused individuals who suffer from mental and/or physical disabilities;
- Recognize that animal companions are often the only form of continuous support and to address issues of healthcare and separation;
- Provide shelter, food, access to quality medical care, particularly substance use and addiction support, and dignified job opportunities to unhoused and displaced populations;
- Provide free transportation for unhoused individuals to facilitate the ability to access care, services, and jobs;
- Provide shelter and privacy protections for individuals and families fleeing domestic violence situations;
- Address nonviolent crises involving drugs or mental health and other crises with medical professionals instead of resorting to law enforcement personnel;
- Assist unhoused people in making the transition towards permanent housing;
- Fund humane programs that address housing insecurity and unhoused populations across the state;
- Protect and expand existing systems and programs that assist unhoused and displaced individuals and populations; &
- Prohibit local and state governments from fining people, religious institutions, and non-profit organizations for feeding unhoused and displaced populations.

Disability Justice

All Texans, including Texans with disabilities, should be able to exercise their right to live independently as a productive member of the community in an integrated setting.

Disability rights are human rights. No person should face discrimination because they have a disability, whether it is visible. We will work to preserve, strengthen, and enforce all state and federal disability rights laws.

Texans with disabilities must be integral in crafting policy pertaining to disability issues.

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for public and private organizations;
- Codify the Olmstead v. United States decision (the U.S. Supreme Court ruling based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), affirming that people with disabilities have a qualified right to receive state-funded support and services within their community);
- Guarantee the rights of people with disabilities, and ensure that people with disabilities can live productive, safe, and happy lives in the community;
- Ensure Texans with disabilities' equal rights, recognition, and treatment;
- Reaffirm that no one should be denied basic rights or treatment because of race, color, creed, class, national origin, sex, age, religion, ethnicity, language, culture, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, economic status, or disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;
- Protect persons with disabilities from abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment, endangerment, loss of liberty, and loss of life by state or local government entities, caretakers, and service providers;
- Abrogate the argument that federal preemption does not apply to the State of Texas, which argued sovereign immunity from the ADA & other federal laws;
- Ensure all government venues, including the Texas Capitol and courthouses, are physically and digitally accessible;
- Providing support for the transition of persons with disabilities from institutional care to community-based care providers;
- Providing on-site oversight (house supervisors, licensed social workers, nurse and case manager) of places where people with disabilities are living in institutionalized conditions, particularly in situations where family and community members cannot visit to monitor;
- Require captions, ASL, and real-time transcription for all public meetings and state communications;
- Ensure all state digital services and voting systems are fully accessible; &
- Expand no-barrier mail-in ballot access for Texans with disabilities.

Employment & Economic Security

Texas Democrats support:

- Enforcing anti-discrimination laws (including the ADA) through accountability mechanisms, and uphold disability employment protections like those in Executive Order 13548, including fair hiring practices, disability awareness training, and stronger workplace discrimination protections;
- Include disabled-owned businesses in supplier diversity programs.

Transportation

Texas Democrats believe that:

- All public and private transportation must be fully ADA-compliant;
- Ride-share service programs must provide ADA-accessible vehicles as an option;
- Taxi and rideshare services should have pick-up and drop-off points closer to medical facilities, airports, and other venues;
- Install auditory and visual crosswalk signals in all communities, where feasible; &
- Increase funding for local transportation options, especially in rural areas.

Religious Freedom

Religious freedom and freedom from religious establishment are fundamental rights for all Texans, enshrined in both the Texas and United States Constitutions. Entangling government with religion is dangerous to both government and religion.

Texas Democrats recognize the importance of religion and prayer in the lives of many Texans, recognize that many Texans have secular or agnostic beliefs, and that many Texans have non-religious philosophical beliefs.

Texas Democrats support our Constitutions' guarantees every individual's right to practice their own beliefs without imposing them on others.

Texas Democrats believe in:

- Safeguarding the free exercise of religion, or lack thereof;
- Prohibiting government establishment of religion, of one religion or denomination over others, and we encourage and promote governmental secularism, i.e., the separation of church & state in government;
- Guaranteeing individual rights, fair treatment, & protections to all minorities, including religious, non-religious, sectarian, & secular minorities; &
- Ensuring no religious test shall be required as a qualification for party membership, voting, or public office.

Texas Democrats believe that:

- Just as personal faith and values guide and inspire us to further the well-being of our community, the power of government, at any level, must not be used to promote one religion or denomination over any other(s),
- Texas should not impose personal religious observances on non-observers; &
- Texas should not legislate private moralities.

Separation of Church and State

Texas Democrats believe:

- The government must not inhibit the free exercise of religion, but religion should never be used as an excuse or pretext to discriminate against or harm others.
- Our founders wisely provided for the separation of church and state, which allows religion to flourish in freedom, and respects those who have no religious faith;
- Government must not use any public funds to support religious positions, activities, or private schools, as expressed in both the U.S. and Texas Constitutions;
- That the religious test for public office in the Texas Constitutions is a violation of the U.S. Constitution and must be removed.

Invoking Religion Does Not Supersede the Rights of Others

Texas Democrats support:

- Free speech and freedom of expression;
- The dignity of diverse religions and cultural protection of children & the needy;
- Legal protection from discrimination, including for LGBTQIA+ Texans;
- Enforceable non-discrimination rules for individuals in service or public accommodation jobs in the private sector;
- Fair treatment and non-exploitation in employment and business;
- Access to healthcare for all, particularly for women and families;
- Family planning services and access to abortion healthcare;

- Non-discrimination in the provision of goods and services by government, directly or through grants and contracts;
- The dissemination of valid voter protection information by trusted sources, including many faith communities;
- The right of individual persons to address grievances through personal boycotts;
- The determination that the question of when life begins is largely a religious doctrinal and philosophical issue, viewed differently by different religions and denominations. The fact that there are varying, closely-held perspectives should be respected. Imposing the doctrine of some religious denominations on other persons and religions or denominations violates the First Amendment.
- Protect people of all faiths, and no faith, from religious persecution, hate crimes, harassment, and discrimination;
- We support protecting the civil rights, safety, dignity, and religious freedom of people of all faiths and beliefs;
- We support efforts to combat Islamophobia, Antisemitism, anti-Sikh hate, anti-Hindu discrimination, anti-Christian persecution, and all other forms of religious bigotry; &
- We support education, community engagement, and strong enforcement of anti-discrimination and hate crime laws, to ensure that every person can practice their faith free from harassment, profiling, intimidation, violence, or prejudice.

Immigration

America and Texas are stronger with a fairer, more equitable immigration system. Government's failure to enact meaningful, long-term, properly funded immigration reforms and border policies have left us with the broken system we have today. Texas Democrats call for a humane, efficient, properly funded immigration system that serves our families, communities, and economies.

The United States has always been a vibrant nation of immigrants. We value those who come from different countries and cultures. Viewing immigrants through the lens of fear and prejudice only serves to undermine our values, prosperity, and security as a state and as a nation.

Immigrants add to the prosperity, innovation, and resilience of this great country. Immigrants hold professional jobs, teach in our educational institutions, own businesses, build our homes, grow our food, and contribute hundreds of billions of dollars to the Texas economy. Texas Democrats will work to foster better bilateral relationships with all nations, including our southern neighbor with whom we share an expansive border.

Border communities managing immigration on the frontlines face special challenges and bring local knowledge that requires respect from state-level policymakers. State funding should be provided to impacted communities to support the services needed, rather than waste money on misleading political publicity stunts.

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Enact comprehensive immigration reform;
- Create a path to documented resident status for undocumented immigrants who reside in the U.S. and pass a background check.
- Guarantee protection against immigration status discrimination or retaliation when reporting a crime;
- Guarantee that labor protections extend to undocumented immigrants and protect them against retaliation from their employers for exercising their rights;
- Create and/or further an attainable path to citizenship;
- Strengthen application of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution;
- Ensure there are no immigration bans based solely on religious affiliation;
- Ensure there are no immigration bans based solely on country of origin;
- Provide equal housing opportunities to immigrants;
- Remove or re-evaluate the 5-year waiting period for immigrants seeking federal support;
- Ensure asylum seekers are treated humanely;
- Secure our borders without wasting tax dollars on expensive and ineffective policies and methods;
- Support technologically forward methods for securing our borders, & remove structures impeding on individual landowners' right to enjoy their property;
- Increase visas to attract & retain innovative & talented individuals from abroad;
- Reform family-based immigration, including expanding visa availability, especially for populous countries, to expedite family reunification and lessen visa wait times;
- Reform employment and education-based immigration;

- Expand access to affordable healthcare and coverage opportunities to all immigrants;
- Stop or diminish racial profiling by law enforcement;
- Repeal or diminish “show me your papers” and “state-level deportation” laws;
- Abolish reentry bans for non-violent legal permanent resident applicants;
- Increase approvals of hardship waivers;
- Increase hardship waiver availability for Green Card holders who have deferred their application for citizenship;
- Encourage the reporting of criminal activities and pursuit of perpetrators;
- Expand access to crime victim and witness visas;
- Expand access to Highly Skilled Immigration visas for specialty occupations (H1B) and Permanent Residency (Green Card);
- Restore access or provide a path to student visas for international students;
- Reform or remove limits placed on asylum claims;
- Reform or remove limits placed on Temporary Protected Status for refugees fleeing wars, natural disasters, family violence, political violence, & gang violence and forced recruitment;
- Reduce the fees and excessive paperwork requirements associated with visa applications that create unnecessary barriers to immigration;
- Reverse public charge rules that discourage people, including U.S. Citizen children, from accessing health & education programs;
- Provide pathways to citizenship & protect access to vital programs for DACA recipients;
- Reinstate the ability for undocumented people and DACA recipients to obtain their commercial and drivers licenses, as well as their professional and occupational licenses;
- Permit any Texas resident, regardless of immigration status, who may have access to vehicles and roadways, to obtain a driver’s license, in order to increase safety on our roads for everybody on them;
- Forbid separating children from their parents;
- End the detention of children and families and prioritize community based management programs;
- Forbid housing children in tent cities and/or cages;
- Prohibit family detention centers, and/or prohibit for-profit detention centers;
- Protect established federal, state, and faith-based refugee programs from interference;
- Reduce backlogs in U.S. Immigration Courts;
- Add sufficient immigration judges to address the volume of cases;
- Provide individual legal assistance to all who come before the court;
- Ensure fair and just treatment of all people in immigration proceedings;
- Reinstate the Texas Dream Act, allowing undocumented students who graduate Texas high schools to attend in-state institutions of higher learning and qualify for in-state tuition;
- Ensure the lawful & humane treatment of immigrants by all law enforcement & correction officers via mandatory education & accountability mechanisms;
- Prohibit the use of a traffic stop as a pretext for the profiling of persons to after presuming, or to determine, legal status;
- Restore the long-standing, historical civil (as opposed to criminal) treatment of unauthorized border crossings;

- Work with our allies to facilitate a safe haven for the millions of legitimate refugees fleeing violence or persecution in their countries, have much to contribute, & welcome properly vetted asylum seekers to the United States;
- Protect the right of all children to attend public schools regardless of immigration status;
- Support the offer of US citizenship to qualified non-citizen immigrants who enlist in the military after completing basic training;
- Demilitarize or scale back policing saturation of border communities;
- Halting the fiscally wasteful Operation Lone Star, still in effect as of June 2026;
- Support foreign aid awards to more regionally-based supply chains;
- Support or expand economic development across the Americas, home to over 1 billion+ people;
- Reduce migrants' need to leave their home countries and migrate to our southern border;
- Maintain the independence of local law enforcement from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); &
- The Texas Democratic Party recognizes that economic inequality, armed conflict, political repression, climate change, and unfair trade policies contribute to migration, and supports international policies that address these root causes, while respecting human rights and national sovereignty.

Fair Trade

Texas Democrats support:

- Preserving U.S. jobs;
- Reducing U.S. job losses via export to other countries;
- Preventing tax evasion through shell companies and illegal offshoring;
- Increasing markets for American products and services, including encouraging the sale of domestic products and services in foreign markets;
- Opposing practices that restrict American access to foreign markets;
- Protecting American companies from intellectual property theft;
- Opposing arbitrary tariffs that harm Texas farmers, other exporters, and allies;
- Prohibiting agreements tolerant of exploitative and child labor practices;
- Ensuring U.S. trade deals, pacts, associations, and supply chains are resilient, diversified, and come with binding standards and swift-and-certain enforcement mechanisms for labor, climate, and basic human rights standards.
- Encouraging wage practices that promote social mobility and help lift workers out of poverty;
- Preventing the use of international trade deals to circumvent Congressional, State, or local governmental authority;
- Supporting international trade mechanisms that allow US manufacturing and industry to remain competitive, even with countries with little-to-no labor or environmental standards;
- Implementing a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), a trade policy tool that taxes imported goods based on the greenhouse gases emitted during their production;
- Closing anti-competitive loopholes;
- Closing the *de minimis* loophole that allows countries or corporations to send products to American households without customs inspection, taxes, or fees;
- Ensuring that trade agreements and commercial relationships do not facilitate or reward governments, corporations, or entities engaged in systematic violations of internationally recognized human rights;
- Ensure trade policies protect worker health and safety while combating child and slave labor, environmental degradation, and other practices that turn global trade into a race to the bottom;
- Ensuring trade policies support and encourage the export of American farm products, goods, and services;
- Ensuring that trade agreements and commercial relationships are not predicated on bribery, fraud, or other crimes of moral turpitude;
- Ensuring consistency and foreseeability regarding trade policy; &
- Supporting anti-corruption standards and measures to combat bribery, money laundering, and illicit financial flows that distort global and domestic commerce.

Foreign Policy

Texas Democrats believe peace, prosperity, and national security are best achieved by maintaining a strong national defense, promoting democracy, advancing development abroad, and supporting and engaging with international partners and institutions. The United States should support our allies, strengthen productive international alliances and joint projects. The United States should use military action as a last resort, authorized only as allowed by the United States Constitution.

The Texas Democratic Party supports policies and programs that:

- Restore the United States to a leadership role in world affairs;
- Honor diplomacy and diplomatic efforts to prevent armed conflict and abide by international law, including principles of self-determination and human rights;
- Review and recalibrate U.S. foreign aid awards based on assessments by the U.S. State Department regarding compliance with international law;
- Expand the Leahy Laws to cover more than “gross violations,” and reaffirm the United States’ commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- Nurture proven alliances and honor our treaty obligations;
- Engage diplomatically and economically with other countries based on the principles of equality, democracy, and respect for the struggles of those seeking freedom, and not on defense of corporate profits or on the false and destructive premise that any country has a right to dominate others;
- Further the principles of equality, dignity, and rights with which the United States’ Constitution states all people are endowed; &
- Protect people from acts of violence, the oppression of orchestrated fear (terrorism), and the double-standards of targeted, or selective, persecutions.

Texas Democrats support:

- Restoring the United States to a leadership role in international efforts to prevent nuclear arms proliferation worldwide, and eliminate weapons of mass destruction;
- Leading diplomatic efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation, i.e., developing or obtaining nuclear weapons;
- Assisting during worldwide disasters with all available resources;
- Restoring and increasing U.S. involvement and leadership in, and improvement of, international agencies and organizations;
- Restoring and increasing U.S. leadership in mitigating the effects of climate change;
- Opposing authoritarians’ threats to people and democratic countries;
- Encouraging states to sign and adhere to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT);
- Leveraging U.S. foreign aid and trade to further United States policies in support of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and encouraging truthful disclosure from states of possession of nuclear weapons; &
- Opposing aggression directed at a specific group of people because of race, color, creed, class, national origin, sex, age, religion, ethnic identity, ethnicity, language, culture, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, economic status or disability, whether they exist internally in a state or are the result of a foreign presence;

National Defense

Texas Democrats support:

- Demanding the release of all American hostages, prisoners and persons wrongfully detained in any country in the world;
- Improving military and diplomatic organizational capacities to address threats from domestic and non-state actors, groups, nations, and supporters;
- Standardizing information security protocols to protect our communications networks and critical infrastructure from foreign or domestic enemies;
- Preventing foreign aggressions in American elections, and those of our allies,
- Secure borders in a way that improves current methods and increases the number of immigration judges available to process cases efficiently;
- Strengthening port security by inspecting unchecked containers, *inter alia*;
- Restoring domestic manufacturing of essential goods, as a matter of national security, to free us from dependence on foreign resources or products; &
- Prohibiting privatized military security contractors without legal oversight.

International Relations

Texas Democrats support:

- Working with an international coalition to further stabilize the African continent and protect its peoples by defeating African terrorist organizations;
- Recognizing the dignified interconnectivity between Texas and Mexico;
- Ending international trade interference that has already caused billions of dollars in economic losses to Texas, including our border communities;
- Expanding asylum access for properly vetted refugees fleeing actual violence, the effects of climate change, and/or persecution; &
- The mission and efforts of the United States Peace Corps;

Promoting Democracy and Human Rights

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Condemn suppressions or oppression of the free press, including unreasonable restrictions on international press freedom;
- Oppose abusive treatment of women by foreign governments;
- Condemn acts of violence and ethnic cleansing against any population;
- Support the continued ban on the use of all methods of torture;
- Encourage renunciation of sectarian violence & promoting a responsive, inclusive democracy that ensures minority rights & equitable resource access;
- Supporting democracy, democracies, and autonomy worldwide;
- Promote understanding between people of the U.S. and elsewhere through non-government-sponsored cultural, university, and religious exchanges; &
- Withdraw support for foreign or domestic agencies and programs that promote hatred and intolerance;

Acknowledging specific conflicts

Texas Democrats support policies and programs that:

- Recognize the creation of the state of Israel and its ongoing right to exist in safe and secure borders;
- Recognize and oppose the genocidal actions and goals of Hamas, as stated in their founding covenant, and support the removal of Hamas from any governmental positions and from the ability to utilize armed conflict;

- Recognize that criticizing the policies, laws, or actions of a specific regime should never be treated as an indictment of the citizens, many of whom may lack political power, hold differing views, or suffer under those exact same policies;
- Support the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state;
- Assist in facilitating the rebuilding of Gaza and the West Bank, known by some as Judea and Samaria;
- Support the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes or receive compensation for their forceful dispossession;
- Support Palestine as a full member of the United Nations when qualified under the UN Charter;
- Dismantle illegal settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem', while recognizing historical origins of multiple cultures in the area;
- Support the enforcement of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention with regard to any illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem;
- Recognize and support the right of any displaced civilian to return to Gaza after the cessation of hostilities;
- Support the International Court of Justice's interim judgment which stated that South Africa had a right to bring its case against Israel, that Palestinians had "plausible rights to protection from genocide"...rights at real risk of irreparable damage...while also not deciding whether or not there was a plausible case of genocide;
- Recognize that the act of dispossession, commonly known as al Nakba, of the Palestinian people in the 20th century is a chapter that needs to be acknowledged before any political peace initiative can succeed between Israelis and Palestinians, and accepting in principle Palestinian refugees' 'right of return' per UN Resolution 194 could be the crucial act that opens the gate to the road out of conflict. Israelis and Palestinians alike have the inalienable right to pursue self-determination, be it a unified political structure or separate sovereign states;
- Condemn mass detentions and restrictions on communications, civil rights, and human rights in Kashmir and support the right of Kashmiri people for self-determination.
- Condemn the acts of violence and ethnic cleansing against Myanmar's Rohingya and other minority populations and position the U.S. to play an active role in ending this humanitarian tragedy;
- Condemn and prevent the genocide and ethnic cleansing being perpetrated by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and their janjaweed allies in Sudan;
- Support efforts to end arbitrary detention in "re-education camps" of millions of Uyghur and other ethnic minorities and to combat discrimination and human rights violations;
- Support democracy and autonomy in Hong Kong and Tibet;
- Promote understanding between the people of the U.S. and China through non-government-sponsored cultural, university, and religious exchanges;
- Support the continued ban on using all methods of torture.
- Defend Ukraine, in concert with our allies, against the full-scale illegal invasion by Russia; Restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity; Protecting the freedom of the Ukrainian people; and Ukraine's democracy;
- Support Kurdish allies, who led against ISIS in Syria & preventing Iran's establishing of bases within Syria and have upheld democratic values or tolerance and religious plurality;
- Encourage Afghanistan to restore rights to girls and women, including equitable access to education

- Advocate for a values-driven foreign policy that conditions all U.S. security and military aid to Pakistan on verifiable progress toward civil supremacy, democratic rule, and judicial independence.
- Firmly condemn the Pakistani military's overreach into civilian life, specifically demanding an end to the use of military courts to try civilian activists and the lifting of draconian restrictions on journalists and digital speech.
- That we call on our Democratic Members of Congress to enact the Block the Bombs Act (H.R. 3565) and the Justice for Hind Rajab Act (S. 4095);
- Recognize that criticizing the policies, laws, or actions of a specific regime should never be treated as an indictment of the citizens, many of whom may lack political power, hold differing views, or suffer under those exact same policies;
- Enforce the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act to freeze assets and ban visa applications for foreign individuals and entities responsible for or aiding egregious human rights abuses or significant corruption.
- Call for the release of Vietnamese and other prisoners of conscience and pro-democracy and environmentalist political prisoners who speak out against the Vietnamese communist government and other authoritarian governments.
- End to the transfer and sales of offensive armaments to the State of Israel and the Israeli Defense Forces;
- Support greater accountability in campaign finance and eliminate and reject the influence and contributions of foreign-interest PACs and lobbying organizations, including AIPAC, on campaigns;
- Support the repeal of Texas' current Anti-BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) law, and any other law or rule requiring a person or company to attest their support for a concept or belief on which they differ; &
- Protect Asian partners in the Pacific against threats to their sovereignty by the authoritarian government of China.

Principles & Beliefs

Texas Democrats believe that the government must be as good as its people. Texas Democrats envision a more perfect union; every step towards that is progress. Texas Democrats believe democratic government exists to achieve together what cannot be achieved as individuals.

The Purpose of Government

Democracy must serve everyone, not merely a select few.

A Representative Democracy exists to improve the lives of its people by ensuring that necessary and reliable infrastructure and services are in place, and by providing a social safety net that affords all Texans a baseline quality-of-life.

Texas Democrats have faith that democracy, privacy, family, fairness, freedoms, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are common to every Texan, and can afford us all the opportunity to achieve our inherent potential.

OPPORTUNITY

Texas Democrats believe:

- Texans work hard to create and capitalize on opportunities that benefit their own lives and the lives of their friends and neighbors;
- Texans have been blessed with economic opportunities via agriculture, “old” & “new” energy sources, unions, natural resources, world-class universities, and medical & research institutions, positive small business, start-up, and big business climates, innovative entrepreneurs, & high-tech industries; &
- All Texans should be able to reap the rewards of their hard work.

EQUALITY

Texas Democrats believe:

- Equal Rights are guaranteed to all Texans in The Texas Bill of Rights §§ 3 & 3a;
- No State may deny any person equal protection of the laws, or due process under the law, as guaranteed by the Constitution’s 5th & 14th Amendments; &
- The Texas government’s responsibilities include ensuring equal opportunity for all human beings, regardless of race, religion, sex/gender, disability, orientation, identity, socioeconomic situation, or immigration status.

SAFETY

Texas Democrats believe:

- The Texas government’s responsibilities include ensuring the safety of all Texans from dangers both foreign and domestic;
- That our lives, homes, communities and country are made secure by ensuring law enforcement & emergency personnel are appropriately staffed & trained;
- Texans are safer with secured retirements and pensions;
- Reversing high rates of unemployment and providing appropriate assistance & re-training make us safer;
- The preservation of precious natural resources is a critical safety protection;
- Recognizing and protecting the value of all our families keeps people safer; &
- In freedom from government interference in private lives & personal decisions.

DIVERSITY

Texas Democrats believe:

- Texas is made stronger by the collective strengths and contributions of diverse individuals, groups, and populations;
- Texas respects, or should respect, and welcome diverse religions, cultures, influences, ideologies, conscience, and intellectual arguments; &
- Texas must respect the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution, as applied to the States through the 5th and 14th Amendments, that government may neither establish nor favor a religion, or prohibit the free exercise of religion.

Basic Needs

Texas Democrats believe:

- Receive a quality public education from pre-k through post-secondary,
- Find a good job that pays a living wage,
- Afford a quality home in a safe community,
- Breathe clean air & drink clean water,
- Access governmental proceedings, agencies, and other services; &
- Have our voices heard and not be drowned out by the power of unlimited money to influence (or buy) elections and legislation.

Inalienable Rights

The Texas Government has a duty to ensure and protect its citizens' and residents' inalienable rights, including, but not limited to:

- **The Right to Vote**
 - Fair representation in the democratic process derived from the bedrock American principle of "One Person, One Vote," and so it remains;
 - A representative democracy is only *truly* representative if every citizen is guaranteed, and receives, the inalienable right to vote in fair, open elections; &
 - The Texas government's responsibilities include ensuring all Texan's Right to Vote, including, but not limited to, increasing & easing access to the opportunity to vote.
- **The Right to Due Process**
 - Unbiased and fair justice, including equal access to that justice.
- **The Right to Equal Treatment**
 - The Texas government's obligations include ensuring the most positive possible physical and mental health outcomes for Texans and residents of all ages, races, disabilities, religions (or lack thereof), gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic, or immigration status.
- **The Right of Privacy & Personal Bodily Autonomy**
 - People have a right to privacy when there is a reasonable expectation of the same;
 - Personal Bodily Autonomy means the right for a person to govern what happens to their body, without external influence or coercion; &
 - Private Personal Autonomy means a person's sense of self-determination, of being able to make choices regarding the direction of their own actions, including the freedom to pursue those choices without external influence or coercion.

No Corporate Personhood

Texas Democrats believe:

- Corporations and companies are not people;
- Company interests are not the same as the People's interests, and are not entitled to the same rights and privileges as living citizens, whose interests should be paramount;
- Texas should not allow companies to shield individuals or the company itself from accountability for their actions;
- The fallacious 'corporate personhood doctrine' has been expanded to grant constitutional rights to corporations that were originally meant for *actual* people, the consequences of which have been anti-democratic and socially destructive;
- For-profit corporations, closely held or otherwise, limited liability companies, and other business entities are distinct from the individuals comprising them, are not extensions of their owners, and do not inherently adopt or operate with the beliefs and opinions of those owners;
- Companies have a primary fiduciary duty to their shareholders, not to the public welfare or well-being, and have often historically acted accordingly; &
- Company interests do not supersede the People's interests.

Business Ethics

Texas Democrats believe:

- Every person should be paid a living wage;
- No person who works full time should be paid a wage below the poverty level;
- The best business practices balance the needs and interests of owners, shareholders, employees, and germane consumers;
- The people who work in a business are as important as those who invest in it;
- Good business offers a fair deal for customers;
- Regulation of unfair practices and rates is necessary;
- The burden of taxes should be fairly distributed; &
- Government policy should not favor corporations that seek offshore tax shelters, exploit workers, or pollute our environment.

E pluribus unum

Out of the voices of many Texas Democrats, comes one shared platform, replete with ideas, values, beliefs, positions, and calls to action on which we all agree. It is not *everything* everyone thinks, but it *is* a large part of things we all think.

Texas Democrats believe in a good government— of the people, by the people, and for the people. Texas Democrats embrace these specific policy goals, programs and actions, to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.

Texas is a vast state, full of proud Texans with real, material differences. We know that big ideas can come from any one of us...from the Panhandle to the Coastal Plains, to the deserts of West Texas...through the Piney Woods in the East, and everything in between. Texas Democrats respect and honor those differences. We respect our neighbors, and we unite and rally around the planks and principles expressed in this Platform.

The Texas Democratic Party hereby adopts this unified 2026 Platform as a shared vision— one we hold together—as a guide for shaping the future of Texas.

2026-2028 Texas Democratic Party Permanent Platform Committee

Officers

Chair: Judge Adam M. Swartz – Dallas County, CD 24

Vice-Chair: Sumbel “Susan” Zeb – Collin County, CD 3

Secretary: Stephan Zaparolli – Williamson County, CD 17

Parliamentarian: Deana Tollerton – Williamson County, CD 11

Committee Members

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Beth DeLeon – Harris County, CD 2

Maudie Peters – Morris County, CD 3

Andrew Rubell – Collin County, CD 4

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