



Montrose County Democratic Party 2020 Platform

Submitted to the Montrose County Democratic Party
by the Platform Committee of the MCDP
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Our Platform - Our Values

The people of Montrose County and their way of life, a unique mix of rural and urban, are the focus of the Montrose County Democratic Party Platform.

We strive to empower our community by amplifying our collective voices, by protecting the founding fathers' principles of democracy and freedom.

We seek to protect the citizens of Montrose from threats new and old, and to establish equal and fair access to the quality of life that Montrose offers.

We still believe in the self-evident truth that all people are created equal. We hold that Montrose County is exceptional because of the diversity of its people. Our platform advocates for the dignity, freedom, and opportunities of all Montrose citizens.

Montrose County is beautiful and rich in public lands and we want to keep it that way. Our economy and health depend on it. The health of our land, air, and water, and the health of future generation cannot be bought or sold.

We will fight for the day when liberty and justice FOR ALL is no longer a dream. Our party will fight for all people, not special interests. FDR proclaimed that "the test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

A. Human and Civil Rights

1. We support the provision by our government for the respect and protection of all non-violent citizen protesters, including those participating in civil disobedience.
2. We support policies and laws that provide every child born in the United States and all children living legally in this country, equal access to the benefits of prenatal health care and preschool and early childhood development programs and K-12 education.
3. We support policies and laws that ensure that federal and local governments do not interfere with an individual's right to make decisions regarding his/her own death with dignity and self-determination.
4. We support the Equal Rights Amendment and enactment and enforcement of laws addressing the inequalities that women face.
5. We support the protection of a woman's right to choose in all aspects of her body and health, including reproductive choices.
6. We believe all people should have access to affordable, safe, and legal health care.
7. We are committed to the principles of separation of church and state, as set forth in the First Amendment.
8. We support full implementation of laws to improve access to housing, transportation, medical assistance, education and employment for people with disabilities.
9. We support measures that promote equality for, and non-discrimination against, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people in all aspects of their life, including obtaining all pertinent legal documents.
10. We support policies that ensure indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination, to protect their environments, cultural assets, and to preserve their way of life.
11. We believe human trafficking in any form should not be tolerated. We support strong criminal penalties and international cooperation in the pursuit of trafficking networks.
12. "We stand for the equal rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"
"We support full voting rights for all citizens regardless of ethnicity, age, religion, gender, youth 16+, people with disabilities, and oppose any efforts to directly or indirectly limit those rights.

B. Criminal Justice – We call on our elected officials to:

1. Support effective prevention programs in violence and bullying in all school systems.
2. Eliminate discriminatory practices in policing, including stop and frisk policies and racial profiling.
3. Eliminate for-profit jails and prisons and programs.
4. Reform the cash bail system for misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies.
5. End the war on drugs; focus on treatment, not criminalization or incarceration.
6. We call for ending the practice of jailing citizens for unpaid fines and fees and legal costs.
7. Amend banking laws to allow cannabis related financial transactions.
8. Remove classification of cannabis as a schedule 1 substance.
9. Ban assault weapons, bump stocks, and high capacity magazines.
10. Enact universal background checks and restrictions to include age restrictions and competency waiting periods, for all gun purchases, except for security personnel.
11. Ban firearms in all K-12 schools and college campuses, except for security people.
12. Support changes in the open carry laws in Colorado to include certified training and classroom programs to become licensed eligible for a permit, more thorough background checks and mandatory liability insurance policies.
13. Demand that all counties comply with the current Colorado Red Flag Law.

C. Economic Policy – We support:

1. Repealing the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (Tabor) and the Gallagher Amendment (regarding property tax).
2. Expanding economic opportunities by making responsible investments in public lands, buildings, and infrastructure.
3. Enforcing the Dodd-Frank law regarding the banking and investment
4. Ensure the distribution of loans for small businesses, start-ups and expansion to equitably serve all populations.
5. Reinstating progressive higher tax rates on the top income earners.

6. Extending tax credits for children, families, and education.
7. Eliminating the ceiling on income that is subject to the Social Security tax.
8. Assuring the long-term solvency of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid and preventing their privatization.
9. Fully funding the Colorado Public Employment Retirement Association (PERA).
10. Assuring Corporations are paying their full share of taxes and being recognized legally as business entities, separate and distinct from individuals.
11. Assuring that water rights and water systems should not be privatized here or abroad.
12. Adequately funding legislation to ensure affordable housing programs to address hardships for employers and employees and honor the protection of existing diverse and historic neighborhoods.
13. Recognizing the critical importance of mass transportation to a healthy economy, environment, and quality of life, deserving of funds to keep pace with the needs of all citizens in rural and urban areas.
14. Creating jobs to address the global climate crisis, including jobs in “ just transition”, alternative energy production, conservation, and non-petroleum-based food production.
15. Incentivizing corporations to set limits on executive compensation, create more jobs, and increase worker wages.

D. Economic Social Justice – We call on our elected officials to:

1. Raise the minimum wage to a living wage.
2. Make student loan rates equal to the Federal rate to banks and allow this to be retroactive.
3. Increase the cost of living adjustments on Social Security and Social Security disability benefits equal to the actual increase in the cost of living.
4. Implement easy and efficient access to earned benefits for veterans and their families to health care, education, and job opportunities.
5. Protect and improve veteran benefits and end the steady erosion of benefits earned by this country’s veterans.
6. Preserve elements of our agriculture and ranching heritage as part of Colorado’s economy while balancing the needs of urban development, open spaces, recreation, and a healthy environment.

7. Develop and support public and private investments in research and development of new agricultural practices and technologies on the Western Slope.
8. Support safe food practices and vigorous USDA inspection and food safety testing.

E. Labor

1. We believe that wealth inequality is greater than at any time in our country's history and continues to grow. The top one-tenth of one percent owns as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent.
2. We believe that nobody who works 40 hours a week should live in poverty. Therefore:
3. We call on Congress to increase the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 an hour by 2021.
4. We support fighting for pay equity. On average, women earn 78 cents for every dollar a man earns.
5. We support requiring employers to provide at least 10 days of paid family leave and medical leave; two weeks of paid vacation; and 12 weeks of paid family leave, for all full-time employees. Real family values are about making sure that employees have the time they need to take care of themselves and their families.
6. We demand the repeal of the Colorado Labor Peace Act which, in addition to imposing unfair supermajority requirements for voting to unionize, denies all collective bargaining rights to agricultural and warehouse workers.
7. We oppose "right-to-work legislation" which restricts workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain for fair wages and working conditions.
8. We support the U.S. Postal Service as a government entity, continuation of the 6-day mail delivery service and expanding services to include financial services.
9. We support creating thousands of new jobs in Colorado for disadvantaged youth by investing in jobs and making sure they have the resources needed to move up the economic ladder.

F. Education

1. We demand full funding of a thorough and uniform education system with public monies to public schools that are locally controlled. We also demand increased funding of Preschool and K-12 education. This can be accomplished by repealing Article 10; Section 20, of the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) and the Gallagher Amendment from the Colorado Constitution.
2. We oppose guns in schools. More guns would make our schools less safe and make our schools, students, and staff at an increased risk of becoming a victim of gun violence, except for professional security guards.
3. We believe that charter schools should be held to the same standards as traditional K-12 public schools, including home schooling.
4. We support diverse communities having principals, teachers, and paraprofessionals that reflect the student population.
5. We support anti-bullying policies and programs in schools.
6. We support a curriculum which prepares students with 21st century learning skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, innovation and collaboration, including global, economical, and environmental awareness.
7. We support the rights of teachers to form and join unions, including teachers of charter schools.
8. We support a living professional wage, safe and supportive working conditions, and adequate benefits for all educators, and we support their right to organize.
9. We support free public higher education for all the students, for their first two years of college or a trade school.
10. We oppose tuition increases that reduce access and affordability to a higher education.
11. We support vocational training programs in green energy technologies, information technology and other programs that will be needed in the 21st century economy for those who choose not to pursue a college degree.

G. Environment, Energy and Conservation

1. We support full-scale commitment to a state and national policy that prioritizes the development of renewable energy technologies and energy conservation and ramps down reliance on finite, polluting, and climate-altering fossil fuels.
2. We call for the United States to rejoin the Paris Climate Accord, to take a global leadership role in promoting actions to increase development and distribution of clean and renewable energy sources, reversing humanity's global carbon output and the resulting climate change that threatens all life on Earth.
3. We call for the preservation of all public lands as well as the use of long-term science-based management of these lands over political expedience.
4. We call for state legislation that requires all utilities to provide, pursue, and achieve the goal of 100% clean renewably sourced power with urgency and haste, with an ideal deadline of 2030.
5. We support incentives for electric power generated from solar and wind farms and we support the provision of tax credits for the purchase and use of renewable energy systems for residential and commercial buildings, Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE). Also, we advocate for the indefinite extension of the federal renewables tax credit until the cessation of fossil fuel consumption.
6. We call for State incentives to encourage the development and use of electric, hybrid, and alternative fuel versions of all types of vehicles, and call on our local government to add more electric charging stations to Montrose City and County.
7. We support assisting workers who have been displaced by the closing of coal mines and coal fired electrical plants, with training and apprenticeships in renewable energy or other fields.
8. We support the right, without preemption, of all local communities and counties to ban, regulate, and/or issue moratoria on commercial resource extraction within their jurisdiction; and furthermore, we oppose state or state agency lawsuits against counties or municipalities taking action to regulate fracking or otherwise protect their citizens.
9. We call for an end to increased exploitation of national parks, monuments, wildlands, forests, and wilderness areas for private economic gain; we oppose the selling of public land's or leasing them at minimal rates.

10. We support fully funding strengthened enforcement and maintaining the strong protection provisions of the Endangered Species Act. We fully support all sections of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and do not support changes to either of these keystone environmental and conservation acts.
11. We call all for the passing of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison, (GMUG) Forest Plan Revision, with full attention to all multiple uses, and the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act (CORE) by 2021.
12. We call for the development of a statewide water plan; for polices which require the protection of water resources, including wetlands, streams, and river corridors, and the water that sustains them, and the enforcement of water conservation measures.
13. We call for policies that balance needs for urban development, open spaces and recreation with the need to preserve agriculture and ranching as a traditional base of Montrose County
14. We support more protective restrictions on pesticide, herbicide, and chemical development and use to protect public health, ecological health, pollinators, and aquatic systems from immediate and chronic effects.
15. We support expanded waste and recycling and reuse, along with policies to prevent irrevocable pollution of the environment by plastics and other non-biodegradable man-made substances.
16. We call for policies that support small family farms, preserving their ability to operate profitably via sustainable practices. We support examination of subsidies and the regulatory structure to preserve competitive balance with larger corporate farming.
17. We support comprehensive fact-based labeling of foods with respect to ingredients, production methods, and origins.
18. We demand the termination of all cash subsidies to carbon based fossil fuel corporations and their subsidiaries.

H. Health Care

1. We support health care for all, as a fundamental human right, including Medicare/Medicaid for all as an option, independent employment insurance plans, and thus prioritizing the health of Coloradans.
2. We support the guaranteed provision of and funding for comprehensive health care, to include at a minimum: prescribed drugs, mental health care (including case management), dental, vision, hearing, speech therapy, rural/home/long term health care, chronic disease care, end of life/hospice care, preventive medicine, chiropractic and acupuncture care, physical and occupational therapy, inpatient and outpatient hospital care, drug abuse rehabilitation, prenatal/postnatal care, and a full range of women's reproductive health care services.
3. We support increased funding for shelters and programs for victims of domestic violence.
4. We support the full implementation of the "Death with Dignity" right to die legislation to allow terminally ill patients and their doctors to discuss end-of-life decisions and permit medical personnel to assist terminally ill patient with ending their lives compassionately and at the patients discretion.
5. We demand providing long-term solvency of Medicare, as well as full funding of Medicare and Medicaid to promote the continued and expanded participation of health care providers.
6. We support the state of Colorado in its efforts to address the opioid crisis through programs and increased funding.
7. We believe that all pharmaceutical companies that profited from the opioid drug market, should be held accountable and should be required to contribute funds for all rehabilitation efforts in our communities.

I. Healthy Democracy

1. We demand amending the US Constitution to overturn Citizens United v Federal Elections Commission and McCutcheon v FEC; end “Corporate Personhood” and get the money out of politics.
2. We demand full disclosure of all sources of funding for all political advertising and activities. We call for open, honest and fair campaigning, and the elimination of anonymous advertising, as well as anonymous election spending.
3. We call for fully transparent voting systems that are publicly owned and operated; using paper ballots which allows voters to review their votes before being cast and have access to prove their ballot is accounted for, with special attention to meeting the needs of people with disabilities.
4. We call for the prohibition of political Gerrymandering and ensuring fair representation of all constituents, in the drawing of elective districts.
5. We support a rollback of laws and policies that have allowed media ownership to be consolidated into the hands of few.
6. We support Federal laws that guarantee the absolute freedom of the media to provide critical oversight of government activities and public access to information.
7. We support “Net Neutrality.” We oppose any effort of large broadband networks to charge content providers for access to customers.
8. We believe that unpledged delegates, AKA Superdelegates, should not have a first ballot vote for President and Vice President at future DNC conventions. This ensures that unpledged delegates will not be able to vote on the first ballot. There has not been a second ballot since 1952!

J. Immigration

1. We support a compassionate immigration reform bill that promotes a more direct pathway toward citizenship for undocumented immigrants.
2. We call for upholding rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights to all persons of the United States regardless of citizenship status.
3. We oppose efforts to build or finance a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico and we support a strategic demolition of existing wall structures.
4. We support legislation that provides a pathway to citizenship for students and those who came here as children, which includes reinstating DACA and passing a clean Dream Act.
5. We oppose the practice of deporting Immigrants and/or refugees to areas where their health, safety, or lives are in jeopardy.
6. We demand the end of all inhumane encampments at the Mexican Border, that both legal and health professional teams have access to the camps, and that no human being, no matter age or country of origin, is held in cages and that they all are given the proper medical, nutritional, and hygiene needs that are available to all U.S. citizens.
7. We support the Colorado immigrant driver license program and urge expansion, so more immigrants can obtain a driver's license.
8. We support a reform of H-1B Visa Worker Program to address worker abuses and displacement of U.S. workers.
9. We oppose the practice of deporting non-citizen veterans who have served in the US military and urge a moratorium on the practice which would apply retroactively. As such, we support a fast track process to allow US veterans to become US citizens.