

A DEMOCRATIC LIBERTARIAN MANIFESTO FOR 2020

Our Values and Philosophy

- We recommit to government of the people, by the people, and for the people.
- A Democratic Libertarian government will create the framework for security both for society and the individual—and then get out of the way.
- We will govern to maximize security, esteem, and happiness.
- In doing so, we will resuscitate the Constitution for the twenty-first century.
- We will abstain from ideology.
- We will govern so that everyone has equal rights to security, esteem, and self-actualization. But law-making will be restricted to providing that framework—all other decisions will be left to individuals and/or the smallest governing entity (city, county, school board).
- There will be no federal or state interference in questions that are fundamentally social or religious.
- We will create the widest selectorate and winning coalitions so as to involve the maximum number of people in choosing our governments.
- We are committed to servant leadership (authentic and inspirational, yet humble and honest).
- Our values are rooted in liberty, inclusiveness, empathy, community, supportiveness, respect, listening, patriotism, inspiration, and security.
- Security is a social contract. Everyone has the right to live in a free, secure world in return for payment of taxes and real involvement in community.

Key Goals

- The reversal of climate change accompanied by strong environmental stewardship and respect for this world and its ecosystems
- Promoting educational excellence in pre-K through grade twelve and in universities but also through remedial retraining for the populations most affected by change
- Providing the best health care system (both preventive and palliative) in the world
- Ensuring the most modern, up-to-date and safe infrastructure, both physical and digital
- Sensible regulation of financial services that prevents banks from trading on their own account and makes them accountable to their depositors and customers
- Balancing the rights and interests of capital and labor, both through incentives and regulation
- Ensuring equity of taxation rates
- Pursuing monetary policy that maintains stability in the markets, especially where interest rates are concerned
- And remembering the second half of Keynes's equation, which was to build surpluses in good times for when they are needed in the bad times (i.e., not to indulge in knee-jerk tax cuts whenever everything seems to be going well)

Physiological Security

The underlying thinking is that protecting the physiological security of all in our society saves us money. Therefore, protecting that security will always be put first—in law and order, the judiciary, housing, health, the environment, and social welfare.

Specific priorities:

- Reassume society's responsibility for mental health care
- Take the mentally ill out of jails and prisons, reinvest in mental health centers and prevention
- Recommit to environmental protection—reaffirm US participation in the Paris Agreement, strengthen the Environmental Protection Agency, and reverse environmentally damaging laws and executive orders
- Act to mitigate the underlying causes of homelessness and hunger
- Provide affordable housing in every city
- Provide resources for rehousing the homeless
- Facilitate reentry of the homeless into society
- Legislate a living minimum wage
- Legalize and regulate drugs, including surrogates and antidotes, and distribute through state-controlled facilities (and so suck the profits out of the illegal drug trade and deprive syndicates and gangs of their reason for being)
- Revisit drug-related and nonviolent offense sentencing laws
- We will set Big Hairy Audacious Goals to reclaim the security and sustainability of our environment

- Recognize and enshrine the rights of all aspects of our ecosystem—rivers, mountains, lakes and oceans

Physical Security

- Recommit to Pax Americana
- Reduce defense spending but require matched increases by NATO and other partners
- Require law enforcement to serve and protect all without regard to race, gender, class, or status
- Demilitarize the police
- Accept the reality of the Second Amendment but act to regulate gun ownership and use—define what types of guns are acceptable and determine who can own them, how they should be trained, where they can buy them, and where they can carry them
- Abolish the death penalty

Financial Security

- Rebalance the influence of capital and labor
- Simplify the tax system into three simple income bands without deductions
- Ban the use of the tax system for social or other legislation
- Pass a constitutional amendment to mandate the balancing of aggregate budgets over a period of ten years
- Reduce—and eventually end—reliance on sales taxes

- Simplify and segregate the banking system
- Continue and strengthen the FDIC
- Severely prosecute financial crimes and corruption
- Balance regulations to ensure security but at the same time promote competitiveness
- Actively promote innovation, including through government programs

Educational Security

- Move education funding from property taxes to income taxes
- Weight funding toward poorer neighborhoods
- Treat education as an investment in future growth
- Educate the whole child. Reduce the use of standardized tests. Judge schools by life outcomes of their students
- Require states to spend a statutory minimum of their budgets on education
- Allow both state and private education, but not cofunding
- Raise teacher pay to reflect their importance in society

Health Security

- Institute a single-payer system—everyone covered for the same things with the private insurance layer removed
- Private health system allowed in parallel but not cofunded
- Establish optional long-term-care funds (tax-exempt unless liquidated for non-health use)

- Increase funding for Alzheimer's and dementia research

Social Security

- Institute nationwide social security benefits that treat everyone equally in terms of unemployment benefits, retraining, relocation for new jobs, drug rehabilitation
- Remove federal and state governments from moral, social, or religious lawmaking (e.g., abortion) and pass these down to county level
- Reinforce separation of church and state. The state should become religion-neutral and laws based in religious mores will not be considered (under constitutional amendment if necessary) by federal or state legislatures

Reinforcement of Belonging

Equality in the Sight of the Law

- Reform laws that treat races or other segments of the population differently—for example, the criminalization of drugs
- Comprehensive immigration reform to allow a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants already in the country
- Redesign the legal immigration system to retain more of those from other countries that we educate and train
- Strengthen overstay immigrant tracking
- Invest heavily in countries from which most immigrants come to reduce their need to emigrate
- Set clear humanitarian and asylum rules for acceptance of refugees

Equality in Voting

- Federal system of independently drawn electoral maps to standard rules
- Federal rules on voting protocols and processes (e.g., early voting, mail ballots, number of voting days)
- Voter intimidation to be punishable by law
- Abolition of the electoral college

Equality of Opportunity

- Equal access to quality, funded education and health care

Equality of Treatment

- No section of society to be denied the rights available to others—e.g., marriage, legal rights, protection under the law
- Equality of pay regardless of gender, race, or sexual orientation

Equality of Rights

- Constitutional rights to be applied equally to all

Judicial Security

- Ban on partisan elections for judges on any court
- Constitutional amendment to secure the independence of the judiciary

Electoral Security

- Eliminate private funding of elections

- Repeal of Citizens United
- Taxpayer funding for all candidates
- Time-limited campaigns

Security in the Digital World

- Classify social media as media channels and put them on an equal footing with traditional media