



**NORTH CAROLINA**

## **North Carolina Political Parties**

### **Democratic Party of North Carolina 2009 Platform**

#### **PREAMBLE**

As the oldest continuous political party in the world, the Democratic Party has carried out its commitment to freedom, fairness, human rights, and responsible government for over 200 years. We pledge to continue this tradition.

We take pride in our Democratic heritage as a party of spiritual and patriotic values; a party of inclusiveness; a party of diversity; a party of compassion; a party of educational and economic opportunities; a party of social justice; and a party of responsible leadership.

This Party fully supports the sanctity of the Bill of Rights and opposes any frivolous or malicious amendments to the Constitution.

This Party shall provide an avenue for the free and open expression of diverse ideas and opinions, including the right of every person to dissent, and shall work to promote government which is responsive to the legitimate needs, interests, and aspirations of every man, woman, and child in a manner which does not diminish human dignity or those fundamental rights, which are the birthright of all people of a free and democratic nation.

We, as North Carolina Democrats, seize this agenda, and vigilantly defend our historic Democratic heritage. We shall not abdicate our historic role as the Party of action and the Party of progress in this State. The lives and the livelihoods of the people of this State are our sacred trust. We must act decisively; we must act swiftly; we must act together.

#### **AGRICULTURE AND AQUACULTURE**

Farming is important to all North Carolinians, and we respect the contributions made by farmers and agribusiness to our economy and our way of life. A sound farm economy supports rural economic development, provides thousands of jobs on and off the farm, and provides food for all of us. We support efforts that will aid our farmers in adjusting to economic changes in a manner that allows them increasing efficiency, productivity, and profitability.

Growing, harvesting, selling, processing and transporting agricultural goods and products have been a way of life for North Carolinians for generations. We pledge our support for increased agricultural research and education, and expanded government efforts to develop regional, statewide, and international markets for our farm products. We also support environmentally safe and economically viable means of animal waste

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disposal, and cooperation to prevent the conversion of prime farmland to non-farming uses. We believe the values of the small family farm are what make North Carolina great.

### **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Our future as a State and nation depends upon the daily assumption of personal responsibility by millions of Americans from all walks of life -- for the religious faiths they follow, the ethics they practice, the values they instill, the pride they take in their work, and the families they build. We Democrats strongly support the American family and policies that strengthen it.

A family – whether it has one or more caregivers – raises children, not the government. Parents and caregivers have a responsibility to raise those children responsibly and teach them values, motivation, and discipline. To that end, we as Democrats pledge our steadfast commitment to improving the lives of children and families. These efforts includes measures to reduce teenage pregnancy, infant mortality, and domestic violence; to create and sustain a safe, nurturing and stable child care system accessible to more families; to encourage adoption and foster child programs; to improve youth advocacy in our courts and in our communities; and, to promote responsible parenting and family preservation programs.

We believe Social Security is not just a contract for our senior citizens; it is also a safety net for our families, particularly dependent children, widows, widowers, and the disabled. That contract should never be compromised. We oppose privatization and the diversion of Social Security funds for other purposes.

### **CIVIL JUSTICE**

We believe that an efficient civil justice system is necessary to protect individual rights, to maintain a stable business environment, and to promote social order.

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION:** We support continued efforts to develop appropriate alternative methods of dispute resolution. We oppose any measures that deprive individuals and businesses of full and equal access to the civil justice system.

**RIGHT TO JURY:** We believe that the right to a trial by jury in criminal and civil matters is essential to justice and fundamental to democracy. We oppose arbitrary caps on jury awards for the victims of negligence.

### **CONSUMER PROTECTION**

The North Carolina Democratic Party urges government agencies to continue their efforts to protect consumers and to promote confidence in a fair marketplace that is free from price fixing, price gouging, unfair restraints of trade, deception, fraud, and other abuses of the free enterprise system.

**COUNTERFEIT TRADE GOODS:** We stand for firm enforcement of the laws against illegal counterfeit trademarked goods. Those goods often create health and safety issues for the consuming public. These counterfeit trademarked products also

deprive North Carolina manufacturers of jobs, create unfair competition for honest merchants, prevent the collection of government tax revenue and often constitute the source of revenue for terrorists and organized crime.

**PRODUCT SAFETY:** We stand for more stringent regulation to ensure the safety of food, pharmaceuticals and other products coming into and leaving the United States. We also believe the place of origin and the inclusion of genetically modified products must be clearly labeled.

**DO NOT CALL REGISTRY:** We support continuing all efforts to protect our citizens from unwanted telephone solicitations and scam artists.

**IDENTITY THEFT/COMPUTER VIRUSES:** We support North Carolina's leadership role in fighting identity theft. We consider computer viruses as assaults on our property and our privacy, and believe such actions must be prosecuted fully.

**INSURANCE RATES:** We oppose discrimination in either rates or access for all forms of insurance. We stand for the guarantees that affordable insurance will be widely available, while respecting claimants' rights to fair compensation for injury and loss.

**LENDING:** We encourage banks, savings and loans, and other financial service institutions to maintain high quality service at a reasonable cost for all consumers. We oppose predatory lending practices.

**PRE-EMPTION:** We support State efforts to fight against any federal pre-emption laws enacted to protect North Carolina consumers.

**PRICE FIXING/GOUGING:** We oppose price fixing or price gouging, actions that often occur in times of emergency. Given the skyrocketing price of fuel, we shall work to protect consumers and businesses alike.

**SECURITIES REGULATION:** We believe North Carolinians should be able to have confidence in the safety of their securities investments. The investing public should be protected from securities fraud. We Democrats believe in fair business practices with appropriate and honest public disclosure for stockholders.

**UTILITY RATES:** We support essential utilities being available at reasonable rates.

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

The North Carolina Democratic Party believes that every person should be safe from crime. We also believe that crime is prevented not only through swift punishment for lawbreakers, but also by rearing children in loving, stable families that teach moral values and by having social, educational, and economic systems that give our people a sense of hope and community.

**CAPITAL PUNISHMENT:** In granting to our government the ultimate power to take the lives of individuals convicted of capital offenses, we have given it the most far-reaching power that can be bestowed upon any government. For this reason, we support both stronger due process safeguards and a moratorium in the application of this power until such safeguards are in place. With the advent of enhanced

technology we believe it is incumbent for the State to use it so that no innocent person is mistakenly put to death by the State or wrongfully imprisoned. Neither a victim's nor a perpetrator's race, sex, or economic status should be a factor in sentencing or execution in North Carolina.

**GUN SAFETY:** We support efforts to increase safety and education in the handling and ownership of firearms. Furthermore, we avidly support strict enforcement of existing firearms laws.

**HATE CRIMES:** We support increased penalties for violent crimes motivated solely by hatred towards the victim's race, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, political beliefs, or sexual orientation.

**PRISONS/PRISONERS:** We support efforts to relieve prison overcrowding, including efforts to fund additional facilities and to find effective alternatives to incarceration. We oppose the privatization of prisons. Inmates should work hard to earn their keep and learn the values of hard work, respect, discipline, and teamwork. We support efforts to achieve that goal, including making sure every able-bodied prisoner is participating in work or education programs, receiving appropriate mental health and substance abuse treatment and parental training, learning a trade or getting a diploma, and to making sure prisoners do not return to a life of crime when they are released.

**VICTIMS' RIGHTS:** We believe that the effect of crime on victims should be considered in imposing punishment, that restitution should be required where possible, and that appropriate services to victims should be available.

**YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS:** The rise in juvenile crime, including gang violence, is an alarming trend that must be reversed. We support the implementation of appropriate alternative sentencing programs designed to turn around troubled youths.

## **DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ABUSE**

The abuse of drugs – including prescription drugs and alcohol - drains our State of the creativity, energy, and vitality we need for continued progress. We believe that efforts to reduce the demand for drugs and alcohol should be a major focus of our State's anti-drug strategy. We believe that law enforcement plays a crucial role in stemming the use of illegal drugs, and that both courts and police agencies should be given the support and resources they need to fight this battle. To that end, we enthusiastically support family, neighborhood, and school-based programs aimed at turning young people away from the use of illegal drugs and alcohol. We support the efforts of State and local law-enforcement agencies to deal severely with drug trafficking and alcohol-impaired driving, and we call for effective sentences for repeat drug and alcohol offenders. We also call for strong State support of treatment facilities, halfway houses, and drug courts for drug and alcohol abusers to help break the cycle of addiction. We also believe firmly in the concept of rehabilitation.

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The health of our State and of our nation depends on sustainable balanced growth. We believe that economic growth expands opportunity for everyone. The free market, regulated in the public interest, is the best engine of general prosperity. The federal government must balance the budget, pay the national debt to generate economic growth, and make prosperity achievable for all. We also recognize that excellence in public education - including public schools, community colleges and universities - is the cornerstone of a successful economic development effort.

**GLOBAL ECONOMY:** We support trade practices and economic policies that enable our workers and the businesses that employ them to compete effectively and fairly in the world market, without injury by our own federal trade policies.

**HELPING OUR WORKFORCE:** We Democrats believe in protecting our State's workforce and encouraging assistance for workers, job creation, new investment in hard hit areas, and leveling the trade playing field for North Carolina industries.

**INDUSTRIAL RECRUITMENT:** We believe North Carolina must continue to attract and foster both new and traditional industries while encouraging growth from within the State. We support continued efforts to provide a skilled and educated workforce, a solid infrastructure, a competitive business climate, and a quality of life that attracts and creates good new jobs to provide a higher standard of living for all North Carolinians – especially in our low-wealth communities. We believe in a balanced approach to offering incentives to grow local businesses and to attract new business. We believe that economic incentives should result in a real net benefit for North Carolina citizens.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** We recognize that the wise stewardship of our natural resources is essential for our continued economic growth. For example, tourism, one of the State's fastest growing industries, depends upon the presence of clean and maintained beaches, unspoiled forests, and clean rivers and lakes.

**SMALL AND LOCAL BUSINESS:** We believe innovation and risk-taking in the pursuit of excellence should be rewarded. We believe that small and local business development in North Carolina is the best use of tax breaks and other support programs because they are the backbone of our economy.

**ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SECURITY**

We believe government must provide a safety net covering the basic human needs of all citizens and should work to enrich their quality of life. To fulfill this responsibility, all persons should have the opportunity to develop their talents and abilities. We believe that every North Carolinian should have adequate food, clothing, shelter, health care, and work. We believe that we, as a society, have a responsibility to help those persons in need: distressed families, the unemployed, the homeless, persons with disabilities, and the mentally ill. We should eradicate hunger.

**FINANCIAL LITERACY:** We believe that all families deserve the opportunity to learn the skills needed to budget their resources prudently, to use credit wisely, and to save and invest for life goals of home ownership, providing for the education of children, and securing a financially strong retirement.

**INCOME SUPPORT:** We believe ill, elderly, or disabled people should be able to enjoy the greatest possible independence and economic security. We endorse increases in income support programs, including unemployment benefits, Social Security, veterans' benefits, and retirement programs. We will not tolerate fraud, abuse, or mismanagement that destroy public trust in these programs and diminish their intended purposes. We support paying all workers a living wage.

**JOBS:** We believe that all North Carolinians deserve rewarding jobs through which they can support themselves and their families. We believe that business, government, and employees should work together as partners.

## **EDUCATION**

North Carolinians have a right to a quality education. Our State must have an outstanding educational system in order to produce an informed community, to promote economic development, and to build for an economic future characterized by high-skill, high-wage employment. We agree with Thomas Jefferson – a founder of our Party - that "any nation which expects to remain both ignorant and free expects that which never has been nor ever shall be."

We should strive for educational excellence for all persons - regardless of their race, age, gender, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, economic status, developmental disability, primary language, location, or station in life.

Every North Carolinian should be guaranteed a full and unfettered opportunity to develop his or her abilities to the greatest possible extent, including access to lifelong educational opportunities. We continue to support efforts to raise academic standards and close achievement gaps for all North Carolinians.

We recognize the many outstanding public and private schools, colleges, and universities in our State and believe that these institutions should be held up as models for others to admire and emulate.

We endorse the continued election of the North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the enactment of legislation making the Superintendent of Public Instruction the Chair of the State Board of Education.

**COMMUNITY COLLEGES:** North Carolina's community colleges – begun by and fostered by North Carolina Democrats - play a vital role in enhancing the lives of all our people and in paving the way for a brighter future for our State. We support adequate funding for all community college programs, such as basic literacy programs, technical and vocational programs, new and expanded industrial training, small business centers, and occupational retraining, and the timely transfer of university

research into the curricula of community colleges.

**EDUCATIONAL REFORM:** Education must be in a continuous state of reform in order to permit our students to remain competitive in a changing world and to ensure that our public education system is accountable to the parents, students, taxpayers, and communities it serves. We encourage and support efforts of school systems to promote and maintain diversity. We support the continued decentralization of decision making in our public school system so that educators will have the flexibility to adapt and react to changing circumstances without undue bureaucratic interference. Local parents, teachers, and administrators deserve a stronger voice in the establishment of educational priorities.

**PRESCHOOL AND AT RISK CHILDREN:** We support the principles behind Head Start, Smart Start and More at Four programs: Our young deserve the tools they need for success in school and in life.

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS:** We support superior educational opportunities for all North Carolina children, including efforts to reduce class size, and increased support for home-to-school transition programs. We support emphasizing the fundamental skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic while exposing children to innovative ideas, information about other cultures, and advancement in technology. We applaud the teaching of effective citizenship, civic involvement, and legal and social responsibility. We believe that every child in North Carolina should have equal access to all educational opportunities. We support the Supreme Court's ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* and believe that racial segregation of our schools is incompatible with equal opportunity for all. We support adequate funding for construction and maintenance of school facilities, as well as equipment and supportservices for at risk students and for after school programs in our public schools. We oppose any under funded or unfunded federal mandates, such as "No Child Left Behind." All children have the right to a public education that respects their religious freedom and traditions. We believe that any governmental mandates should be accompanied by appropriate funds by the mandating entity. Furthermore, we support the Leandro decision and full funding by the General Assembly to comply with it.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** We believe that every child and educator has a right to be safe when attending school.

**SCHOOL VOUCHERS:** We oppose the implementation of private and religious school voucher programs. Such a program would harm our public schools by diluting the financial support for those institutions and encouraging students to abandon the public school system.

**TEACHERS:** We believe good teachers - including college and university professors, instructors, and licensed classroom professionals - are among North Carolina's most valuable resources. We support continued efforts to produce, recruit, and retain highly qualified educators at all levels to ensure that our citizens receive

an outstanding education. The way in which we compensate our educators should reflect our respect for the teaching profession. We recognize diversity in our society and believe our educational systems should reflect and honor that diversity, and to provide appropriate role models for our students.

**UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES:** North Carolina's universities have achieved an international reputation for excellence in many fields. We wish to preserve this important part of our State's educational environment. Consequently, we support adequate funding for our public university system, the preservation of academic freedom at those institutions, equal access for all North Carolinians, maintaining low tuition for in-state students and the availability of financial aid for all qualified students with low and moderate incomes.

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION:** We support vocational education, including high school programs and post-high school high-tech studies under the leadership of the North Carolina Community College System, as an important initiative to prepare a skilled workforce for the future. We oppose any under funded or unfunded federal mandates. All children have the right to a public education that respects their religious freedom and traditions. We believe that any governmental mandates should be accompanied by appropriate funds by the mandating entity. Furthermore, we support the Leandro decision and full funding by the General Assembly to comply with it.

## **EFFICIENT AND ETHICAL GOVERNMENT**

We believe that the mission of government is to expand opportunity - not bureaucracy - to our culturally and ethnically diverse population. Democrats have demonstrated that government can be both responsive and responsible. Under Democratic leadership, our State has enjoyed growth and progress while balancing the budget every year. We support continuing efforts to make State government more efficient. We demand that our leaders have the highest ethical standards in theory and practice.

**GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND EMPLOYMENT:** We have a strong commitment to our government employees. We believe these professionals deserve fair wages and benefits comparable to those in the private sector. We support annual pay raises within the limits of fiscal responsibility. Annual pay increases will retain the best and brightest employees in government. We further support efforts to increase the numbers of qualified women and minorities in all levels of government where they are under-represented. We oppose any discrimination based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion, national origin, disability, age or sexual orientation in the hiring, firing or promotion of public employees. The purpose of the public retirement system is to recruit and retain competent employees and to help provide economic security in retirement. We support maintaining our sound and fiscally responsible, defined-benefit retirement system for all public employees.

**OPEN GOVERNMENT:** The government belongs to the people of North Carolina. Its people are entitled to observe its work.

**RECORDS ACCESSIBILITY:** We believe that State government must be accountable to the people of this great State through transparency in how government business is transacted. We firmly believe that personal information maintained by North Carolina government must remain secure and confidential.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

We recommit ourselves to the wise stewardship and protection of our air, water, soil, forests, wetlands, watersheds, barrier islands, and ridgetops. We promote the research and implementation of alternative, sustainable, and renewable energy solutions. We believe that by preserving our natural resources, we are preserving our quality of life, our economic growth, and our health. The Democratic Party has consistently supported serious and effective measures to protect our environment and natural resources. We believe we can and must take steps to reduce global warming.

**AIR, SOIL AND WATER:** We support tax incentives and other benefits that encourage use of alternative means to disposal of chemicals and waste by-products into the atmosphere, soil, and waters. We oppose initiatives to dilute water and air quality safeguard standards, most especially in Republican initiatives with titles intended to mislead the public. We believe in keeping public ownership of the coastline, so it is available to every North Carolinian; and the preservation of working waterfront areas.

**ALTERNATIVE FUELS:** To reduce fossil fuel dependency and to increase fuel efficiency standards, we urge cooperation in the private and public sectors to seek and develop alternative sources of energy.

**CONVERSATION:** We call for conservation by our government, businesses, and citizens as a primary component of environmental responsibility.

**FORESTS/WETLANDS:** We support logging and timber management techniques that foster reforestation. We oppose the practice of clear-cutting. We support local land management that includes responsible control of surface water run-off, requires the proper treatment and disposal of wastewater, and minimizes the pressure exerted by increased population. We support programs that will achieve the short-term goal of "no net loss" of wetlands - in both acreage and function - and a longer-term goal of wetlands restoration. We oppose the sale of State and national forests.

**NUCLEAR POWER:** We urge constant vigilance to ensure the safety and security of existing nuclear power facilities and the development of efficient and safer means to dispose of nuclear and hazardous wastes.

**OFFSHORE DRILLING:** We recognize that our coast is an outstanding natural resource that must be protected for future generations of North Carolinians. We oppose any offshore exploration for oil or natural gas adjacent to this State.

**PARKS:** We support the completion of the remaining land acquisition needed

to implement the master plan for our State parks. We oppose the sale of State and national parks. We also support accessible and affordable parks.

**RECYCLING:** We support mandatory local and regional recycling of paper, glass, metals, plastics and other reusable materials in order to reduce the need for landfills. We support safe, alternative means of waste disposal. We also support tax incentives and other benefits for industries that undertake and promote recycling efforts, with a goal toward zero waste.

**TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS WASTE:** We believe that any firm or organization - public or private - which uses or produces hazardous products must be held accountable for their safe and proper disposal. We support strengthening laws against irresponsible dumping of toxic chemicals and wastes, and aggressive prosecution of those who violate these laws. We oppose the siting of hazardous waste generating and disposal facilities in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. We support reasonable right-to-know laws to disclose fully the chemicals used and stored in our communities.

**ANIMAL WELFARE:** We recognize that humans share the Earth with other living beings who share with us the experience of pain and pleasure. We appreciate the joy, companionship and other benefits that our companion animals provide and believe it is our moral responsibility to treat these animals humanely and prevent their suffering. To that end, we are committed to the accomplishment of the following goals through appropriate legislation and regulatory action: providing for the basic welfare of all animals, ending cat and dog overpopulation and improving animal control and sheltering. intended to mislead the public. We believe in keeping public ownership of the coastline, so it is available to every North Carolinian; and the preservation of working waterfront areas.

### **FAIR AND OPEN ELECTIONS AND A STRONG PARTY**

As the party of inclusion we recommit ourselves to a North Carolina Democratic Party that is open to all people. We believe the principles and goals of our party are more important than personalities or primary election disagreements. We expect Democratic candidates and those who have been entrusted with public or party office to set an example of loyalty to the party, to its principles, and to all of its nominees. We encourage all Democrats to unite and support the entire ticket in the General Election. We encourage Democrats to support North Carolina Democrats in every race - from local contests to both judicial elections and the top of the ticket.

We pledge to continue efforts to involve as many people as possible in Democratic Party affairs and in party decision making. We will increase efforts to encourage historically under-represented groups, such as women and minorities, to seek election to public office.

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE:** We support tough campaign finance laws. The North Carolina Democratic Party will continue to support measures to reduce the cost of

campaigning for public office, including the gradual introduction of a public financing option. We encourage all North Carolina Democrats to participate in the income tax check-off fund.

**CAMPAIGNS:** We shall vigorously fight for what we believe in. Not inconsistent with that pledge is our promise to campaign honestly and fairly, with a focus on the issues of paramount concern to our communities, State, and nation.

**JUDICIAL SELECTION:** We support a judicial selection process that focuses on experience and qualifications, and enables qualified candidates for judicial positions to compete in a manner consistent with the Canons of Judicial Conduct.

**VOTING:** We will continue to advocate measures to make voter registration and voting easier and more accessible, particularly for students, seniors, the infirm, and those who are unable to register during business hours. We support increased funding to educate voters about legal alternatives to voting early instead of waiting until Election Day and to improve the speed and convenience of Election Day voting. We support greater enforcement efforts to eliminate voter fraud. However, elections officials shall immediately inform all individuals denied their ability to vote of their right to cast a provisional ballot. We vigorously support efforts to ensure the right to vote for all citizens without discrimination or intimidation. We also encourage efforts to increase the turnout of North Carolina's voting-age population. We strongly support voting equipment, machines, mechanisms, and procedures that create and preserve an accurate, auditable paper documentation of all votes cast.

### **FOREIGN POLICY**

We support increased diplomatic and cooperative measures by the United States government to ensure peaceful solutions to international problems by – but not limited to – participation in the International Criminal Court and the Kyoto Accords, and the full funding of our financial contributions to the United Nations, especially humanitarian endeavors.

### **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

We recognize that every person is entitled to basic health care, regardless of income or geographic location.

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE:** We support a mental health system that provides access to appropriate treatment for mental, behavioral, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse. Such a system must provide a comprehensive array of services that emphasizes community-based treatment offering equal access for those in need. There should be equivalent insurance coverage for all physical and mental health disorders.

**BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH:** We support the increasing leadership role of North Carolina's biomedical researchers in exploring medical advances that will benefit all humanity. Recognizing the critical role that stem cell research can play in addressing diabetes, various cancers, spinal cord injuries, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease,

and many other afflictions, we encourage an increased level of support for stem cell research – including the introduction of new stem cell lines – with appropriate ethical controls.

**EDUCATION:** In order to prevent pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, we support medically and factually-comprehensive, age-appropriate educational programs in our schools and public health agencies encouraging abstinence and providing information about safe sexual practices.

**HEALTH CARE:** We encourage healthy lifestyles. Health care issues such as teen smoking and youth obesity cost taxpayers an estimated \$6 billion in medical costs and associated costs. Moreover, we recognize that health care decisions are best made within the context of the healthcare provider and patient relationship. Thus, we believe that each person has the right to choose his or her own physician without interference from government or insurance companies. We support health care reform that provides universal and portable coverage, expanded preventive health care, and public efforts to provide the prenatal care needed to reduce infant mortality.

**PATIENTS' RIGHTS:** We North Carolina Democrats authored and continue to support the Patients' Bill of Rights, established to improve the relationship between patients, doctors and insurance companies.

**SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:** We support alternative healthcare delivery systems to allow the elderly and persons with disabilities to remain in a home setting as long as possible. We insist on their protection from abuse, neglect, and deprivation of their rights as persons. We applaud efforts to provide State-supported health care to the poor and to uninsured and underinsured persons.

**WELFARE REFORM:** We believe that welfare is intended to help families and individuals through extremely tough financial times. We support continued efforts to reform North Carolina's welfare system by emphasizing work, personal responsibility, and helping more welfare recipients to get effective job training get jobs and become self-sufficient.

**WOMEN:** We believe that every woman should have access to prenatal and postnatal care and appropriate counseling, as well as access to information and counseling regarding all choices related to pregnancies. We believe that a woman's decisions regarding pregnancy should be her own choice and not that of the government. We believe that we should focus on preventing unintended pregnancies and reducing the need for abortion through increasing access to family planning services, access to affordable birth control – including emergency contraception – and by providing comprehensive age-appropriate sex education. Furthermore, abortion must be safe, legal, accessible to all North Carolina women regardless of ability to pay;

therefore, the State abortion fund should be fully funded and accessible to indigent women.

### **HERITAGE AND CULTURE**

The North Carolina Democratic Party recognizes the importance of cultural development in the growth of our State. We are proud of all of our State's diverse cultures and heritages that have contributed to our rich history and continue those contributions to society today. We support the provision of services that respect the cultures and languages of all North Carolina residents. We strongly support the multicultural programs and institutions that have established our State's stature in the areas of the arts, theater, music, folk life and historic preservation. We encourage the continued development of museums and historical research facilities to embrace the cultural diversity of our State. We support public libraries, acknowledge their value as community resources and information centers, encourage continued support for their growth and expansion, and support their independence in providing knowledge and information.

### **HOUSING**

Safe, decent, and affordable housing for all persons is essential to the future of our communities and families. We deplore the conditions that lead to homelessness, and we encourage the renovation, preservation, and expansion of existing housing for persons with low incomes. We believe in equal housing opportunities for all North Carolinians. We support policies that encourage affordable mortgage credit to make home ownership possible for more working families. We also support the expansion of incentives for first-time homebuyers. We believe public housing should provide a safety net for our poorest and most vulnerable families. North Carolina Democrats believe in providing resources for special need populations - including farm workers, transitional housing for the homeless and incarcerated, HIV/AIDS populations, victims of domestic violence, homeless veterans, and those that are mentally or physically challenged and the elderly.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS**

We reaffirm our commitment to the full and equal protection of the lives, liberties, rights, and properties of all citizens and residents of North Carolina. All human beings deserve the opportunity to realize their own potential. We support the provisions of the Geneva Convention, and believe any American departure from it undermines our moral standing in the world, thereby threatening our soldiers and citizens abroad.

**CIVIL LIBERTIES:** We support the fundamental rights to freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association and assembly and the right not to be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. We oppose efforts to limit or eliminate these fundamental constitutional rights. We believe that all persons should have access to our courts.

**DISCRIMINATION:** We oppose discrimination of any kind - whether in employment, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, veteran status, religious affiliation, spiritual beliefs, health care, education, retirement programs, housing, or any other area. We encourage vigorous enforcement of existing civil rights laws and a periodic re-examination of their adequacy.

**PRIVACY:** We continue to support responsible measures to limit the amount of information gathered by governmental agencies about individuals and to prohibit the improper use of such information. Government must respect individual liberties and refrain from intruding into our private lives and interfering with our personal decisions.

### **IMMIGRATION**

We recognize that we are a nation of immigrants. We have consistently fought for the rights of working immigrants. Immigrants are a vital part of North Carolina's progress. We believe the State should provide access to important information about State services and benefits in the primary language of legal immigrants but with a goal toward English proficiency.

While we recognize that immigration laws are enacted at the federal level, our State government and grassroots citizens can impact such policies by influencing our federal representatives to strengthen our national borders, protect homeland security, and to enforce existing laws while honoring our shared humanity. We strive for a just and comprehensive immigration law which includes a path to citizenship for hard-working, tax-paying immigrants that have contributed to making our State great.

### **LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**

The North Carolina Democratic Party is the party of North Carolina's working people. We understand that meaningful employment at a living wage is critical to the personal security and self-esteem of the people of our State. We believe that economic growth is fully consistent with fair employment practices, fair wages, and a safe, clean, and healthy work place.

We are confident that maintaining a high level of economic growth can and should be accompanied by investments in the training and retraining of workers in view of our changing State, national, and world economies.

**CHILD CARE:** The changing nature of our workforce has had a profound impact upon our families. We believe that employment should promote, enhance, and nurture stable and healthy family relationships instead of harming them. To that end, we support development of incentives for private employers to provide high quality childcare services. We also support development of incentives for, and the removal of obstacles to, alternative work opportunities such as part-time, shared-time, and flexible-time work schedules.

**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING:** We reassert our fundamental belief in the collective bargaining process as a means of serving the interests of both public and private

employees and employers. Those interests include better productivity, fair and adequate employee compensation and benefits, and safe, harmonious, and healthy working conditions.

**EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE:** We support equal access to employment opportunities for women and men of all working ages and are committed to equal pay for comparable work. We believe the Department of Labor should be a partner in these endeavors.

**JOB SAFETY/ILLNESS AND INJURY:** We demand strict enforcement of workplace safety standards and the routine inspection of North Carolina workplaces in order to ensure adequate protection for all workers. We support just compensation and adequate care for the victims of occupational diseases and work-related injuries. We particularly support efforts to reduce and eliminate the risk of long-term injury resulting from repetitive job-related activities. The Department of Labor should be an advocate for legislation that promotes safety in the workplace. Safety is a vital component of a productive, profitable workplace.

**JOB TRAINING:** We strongly support the expansion of apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs to help our young people and displaced workers to develop marketable job skills. We believe that special care should be taken to expand job opportunities for the disabled. We believe the Commissioner of Labor should advocate for job training and use official resources to achieve such.

**LIVING WAGE:** We support a living minimum wage to ensure that workers can adequately provide for their own well being and that of their families.

**MIGRANT WORKERS:** We support sanitary living conditions, adequate health care, educational opportunities, and safe working conditions for migrant workers and their families. All workers in North Carolina, regardless of immigration status, have the right to a living wage, timely payment for services, and safe working and housing conditions.

**NON-DISCRIMINATORY EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES:** We support access to employment without discrimination of any kind. We support vigorous enforcement of existing anti-discrimination laws to ensure that all persons have access to good jobs at fair wages and benefits.

**RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAWS:** We believe that workers have a right to know whether they are at risk of exposure to hazardous materials and to the steps that they can take to protect themselves from harmful contact with such substances.

### **PAYING FOR PROGRESS**

Government services are not free. We believe that all taxes - especially those that fall hardest on middle-class and poor families - should be kept as low as is possible, consistent with the maintenance of an appropriate level of government services. The use of a progressive tax system is the only way to fairly pay for the government services

needed to build a solid foundation for our future economic security. We oppose reliance on regressive taxes, which unfairly burden the poor and the middle class. We believe that any future changes in the tax laws should increase the progressivity of our tax system.

We support the wise use of tax monies without waste or extravagance. We support the introduction of increased efficiencies in all areas of government to hold down the tax burden on the people of our State. We are proud of the long history of efficient government and public investments in infrastructure that Democratic leaders have provided in North Carolina.

### **SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**

We believe that the best way to defend our home is to be prepared, and that North Carolina should have safeguards in place to protect from attacks and to be adequately prepared for natural disasters. This preparation should include the best technology and other appropriate tools for local and State law enforcement officials.

**ENERGY POLICY:** We recognize that a primary source of financial support for our Nation's enemies stems from our own dependence on foreign oil. We encourage the creation of a comprehensive energy policy - emphasizing the use of alternative fuel sources and energy efficiency - as a means of reducing our nation's dependence on foreign oil and depriving terrorists of their source of income.

**HEALTH:** We support vigilant protection of North Carolinians' health, and a registry of potentially deadly biological agents that could be used as weapons.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT:** We support law enforcement efforts to obtain additional resources for improved communication and better intelligence gathering. We also encourage better cooperation in sharing information, detaining suspects and alerting the public, within the framework of the Constitution.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION:** We believe that North Carolina residents have a right to know when their safety is threatened in order to make informed decisions about their safety. We encourage rapid alerts in case of danger, and full disclosure, when appropriate, in times of crisis.

**PUBLIC SERVANTS:** We also strongly support our men and women in uniform who protect our communities every day. We are proud of and thankful for our police and fire/rescue forces and other public servants.

### **SENIORS**

We believe that seniors should enjoy independence and economic security in recognition of their many contributions to society.

**ASSISTED LIVING AND CARE:** We support continued efforts to strengthen training programs for those who work in the field of aging. We support expanded, accessible transportation and affordable educational and leisure opportunities for

older adults. We support a background check for all employees with direct care responsibilities for seniors.

**HEALTH CARE/PRESCRIPTION DRUGS:** We strongly oppose privatization of Medicare. We believe any changes in Medicare should focus on health care cost containment to diminish the ever-increasing out-of-pocket medical costs that have risen at rates significantly higher than the rate of inflation. Seniors should be assured both quality and choice of health care providers. Seniors should be protected against arbitrary health care cancellation. We support economical, accessible prescription drug coverage for our seniors.

**INCOME:** We support efforts to raise incomes of seniors and all other persons above the poverty level to allow them to live in dignity, safety, and security. We support fairness in economic benefit programs for all senior North Carolinians. We support an increase in the homestead exemption from property taxation for the elderly.

**SENIORS AND FAMILIES:** We support efforts to keep families together through safe, affordable adult day care, health care, counseling, job retraining, nutritional assistance, and other means of making life more pleasant for seniors. We pledge to support every reasonable effort to assure that families will not be financially impoverished because of exorbitant housing and health care costs. We Democrats continue our commitment to the Homestead Act.

**SOCIAL SECURITY:** We believe Social Security is a contract that must not be compromised. We oppose privatization and the diversion of Social Security funds for other purposes. We condemn massive federal budget deficits, which force the government to borrow from the Social Security Trust Fund.

### **VETERANS, ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES**

We stand in support of protecting our nation and State. We recognize that freedom does not come without a price, and many members of the armed forces - our active duty, reservists and National Guard - from this great State have made the ultimate sacrifice. We hereby reaffirm our longtime commitment to our sons and daughters who are serving honorably in the armed forces at this time, those veterans whose service has made this nation and our State an example of democracy for others throughout the world, and their families.

**NC BASES:** We recognize that North Carolina plays an essential role in the defense of our nation because our State contains some of the largest and most crucial military bases necessary for protecting our national security. The presence of these bases is a source of great pride and is vital to the economic prosperity of the communities in which they are located. We support efforts to keep North Carolina bases operational for the benefit of our nation and communities.

**BENEFITS:** We believe it is important to support members of our armed forces during times of conflict, natural disaster and beyond. We support sustaining existing

benefits - including educational assistance, health care, housing, small business, burial and other benefits offered to members of the armed forces, veterans and their families. We also support improving combat-related trauma centers, expanding medical and prosthetic research, and implementing sound procedures for expediting the processing of benefits claims.

**COLLABORATION AND RESPONSIBILITY:** We encourage collaboration between members of the armed forces and first responders in the preparedness and response to any attacks or natural disasters. We also encourage responsible procurement practices within the defense community.

**FAMILY SUPPORT:** We support efforts to care for families of the armed forces - especially while members are deployed, and to assist them when they return. We support programs such as counseling, financial management, and basic needs assistance that help families of deployed service members in managing difficulties created by longer and more frequent deployments.

**FORCE:** We support a strong national defense that supplements - but does not replace - diplomacy as a means to advance international peace and economic prosperity. We believe that military force should be used in combat zones only as a last resort. We support the recruitment and retention of highly skilled, motivated and trained members of the armed forces. We support the maintenance and readiness of the necessary force strength to successfully respond to any attacks or natural disasters.

**RESOURCES:** We support the acquisition of necessary resources - including protective equipment and weapons - for members of the armed forces essential for protecting their safety while performing their duty.

**RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES:** We support protecting the civil rights of all members of the armed forces. We also support the laws of armed conflict and the humane treatment of all detainees, war criminals and prisoners of war. We affirm efforts to defend our nation and State against terrorism and ensure that national security can and should be undertaken while preserving the civil rights and liberties of North Carolina residents. We support the enforcement of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, ensuring that activated Reservists and National Guard can resume their jobs upon return.

## **CONCLUSION**

THEREFORE, We North Carolina Democrats:

- support the sanctity of the American family as the foundation upon which our society and its social and political institutions must rest. With this in mind, we offer a platform that secures the rights of our children, protects the integrity and dignity of the elderly, and promotes the right of working men and women across this State to compete freely and equally for economic advancement and self-fulfillment. Our Party seeks a proper balance between self-interest and the common interest.

- believe in judicious stewardship of public revenues and affirm that a public office is a public trust. We believe in honest, ethical, transparent and accountable government.
- believe that democracy cannot survive without education. We believe that adequate health care must be accessible to all and that homelessness, illiteracy, and poverty must be eradicated from every corner of our State.
- strongly support the protection and preservation of our environment.
- are committed to firm and effective law enforcement and to the swift and fair prosecution and rehabilitation of those who engage in criminal activity. We believe that adequate procedural safeguards are essential to the protection of those wrongly accused and the preservation of liberty.
- believe in fairness, freedom, justice, and privacy.

On this platform we proudly stand.

Address all inquiries to:

The North Carolina Democratic Party

220 Hillsborough Street

Raleigh, NC 27603

919.821.2777

919.821.4778 fax

You can also visit the N.C. Democratic Party's Web site at [www.ncdp.org](http://www.ncdp.org).

**N.C. Democratic State Executive Council**

Chair	David Young	Mooresville
First Vice-Chair	Stella Adams	Durham
Second Vice-Chair	Delmas Parker	Clemmons
Third Vice-Chair	Tony McEwen	Wilmington
Secretary	Kathy Knight	Tillery
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Twelfth District Chair	Hon. Bernita Sims	High Point
Thirteenth District Chair	Mary Alice Simmons	Raleigh
President Democratic Women	Sarah Anderson	Clayton
President-Senior Democrats	Raymond Stone	Kittrell
President-Young Democrats	Conen Morgan	Cary
President-Hispanic Democrats	Olma Echeverri	Charlotte

**Democratic Party County Chairs**

Alamance	Johnny Freeman	Burlington
Alexander	Peggy Rumbold	Stony Point
Alleghany	Susan Reinhardt	Sparta
Anson	Vancine Sturdivant	Lilesville
Ashe	Melba Jones	West Jefferson
Avery	Richard Crews	Newland

**Democratic Party County Chairs (continued)**

Beaufort	Surry Everett	Bath
Bertie	Clinton Freeman	Colerain
Bladen	Jens Lutz	Bladenboro
Brunswick	Leonard Jenkins	Leland
Buncombe	Emmet Carney	Asheville
Burke	James Cates	Morganton
Cabarrus	Grace Liam	Concord
Caldwell	Timothy Marley	Lenoir
Camden	Winfred Forehand	Shiloh
Carteret	Kenneth Humphrey	Morehead City
Caswell	Patricia Warren	Prospect Hill
Catawba	Elizabeth Glynn	Newton
Chatham	Randolph Voller	Pittsboro
Cherokee	Brian Smith	Murphy
Chowan	Willis Privott	Edenton
Clay	Charles Penland	Hayesville
Cleveland	Jonathon Lowman	Shelby
Columbus	Joseph Ray	Tabor City
Craven	Rachel Parnell	New Bern
Cumberland	Thomas Macon	Fayetteville
Currituck	Janet Taylor	Moyock
Dare	Sherelene Rollason	Kill Devil Hills
Davidson	Roy Holman	Lexington
Davie	Mazie Laurence	Advance
Duplin	Mott Blair	Wallace
Durham	Tracey Burns-Vann	Durham
Edgecombe	Allen Mitchell	Rocky-Mount
Forsyth	Susan Campbell	Winston-Salem
Franklin	Armenta Eaton	Louisburg
Gaston	Robert Kellog	Gastonia
Gates	Anthony Saunders	Gates
Graham	Randal Phillips	Robbinsville

**Democratic Party County Chairs (continued)**

Granville	Gregory Lewis	Oxford
Greene	William Dixon	Snow Hill
Guilford	William Davis	Greensboro
Halifax	Kathy Knight	Tillery
Harnett	Teresa Sloan Oudeh	Dunn
Haywood	Mary Benson	Waynesville
Henderson	Richard Brinegar	Hendersonville
Hertford	Sang Hamilton	Winton
Hoke	Robert Clark	Raeford
Hyde	Leon Bryant	Engelhard
Iredell	Gene Mahaffey	Union Grove
Jackson	Brian McMahan	Balsam
Johnston	Sharon Castleberry	Clayton
Jones	Thelbert McCotter	Dover
Lee	James Stumpf	Sanford
Lenoir	Deborah Johnson	Kinston
Lincoln	Deanna McGinnis	Lincolnton
Macon	Ben Utley	Franklin
Madison	Vickie Sealock	Mars Hill
Martin	James Leathers	Williamston
McDowell	Mary Ostgaard	Marion
Mecklenburg	Aisha Dew	Charlotte
Mitchell	Ann Castro	Bakersville
Montgomery	Ruth Morris	Troy
Moore	James Heim	Vass
Nash	Charlotte Mizelle	Rocky Mount
New Hanover	Alexander Hall	Wilmington
Northampton	Anthony Clark	Rich Square
Onslow	Gerrian Glover	Jacksonville
Orange	Linda Chewing	Efland
Pamlico	Christa Brown	Oriental
Pasquotank	Edward O'Neal	Elizabeth City

**Democratic Party County Chairs (continued)**

Pender	Thomas Bradshaw	Burgaw
Perquimans	Janice Cole	Hertford
Person	Vonda Frantz	Rougemont
Pitt	Betsy Leech	Greenville
Polk	William Arledge	Mill Spring
Randolph	James Meredith	Liberty
Richmond	Antonio Blue	Hamlet
Robeson	John McNeil	Red Springs
Rockingham	William Osborne	Eden
Rowan	Veleria Levy	Kannapolis
Rutherford	James Brown	Forest City
Sampson	Johnny Kaleel	Clinton
Scotland	Kenton Spencer	Laurinburg
Stanly	Curtis Smith	New London
Stokes	Bradford Newsome	King
Surry	Erica Smith	Mount Airy
Swain	Ginger Gaither	Bryson City
Transylvania	Norman Bossert	Pisgah Forest
Tyrrell		
Union	Edward McGuire	Waxhaw
Vance	Richard Brand	Henderson
Wake	Paul Mack	Raleigh
Warren	Robert Terry	Warrenton
Washington	Zebedee Taylor	Plymouth
Watauga	Diane Tilson	Boone
Wayne	Stephanie Kornegay	Mount Olive
Wilkes	Treva Johnson	Roaring River
Wilson	Asa Gregory	Wilson
Yadkin	Hassel Brown	East Bend
Yancey	Jamie McMahan	Burnsville

## **Libertarian Party of North Carolina Platform**

**(As Adopted, April, 2010)**

### **PREAMBLE**

We hold that every person has a natural right to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness; that economic freedom and property rights are essential to personal liberty; and that individual liberty, personal responsibility, and a free-market economy form the basis for a peaceful, prosperous society.

While individuals have a duty to respect the rights of one another, governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. Governments must not violate individual rights. Therefore, we oppose attempts by governments to either manipulate the economy or interfere in the private moral decisions of individuals.

When private businesses, charitable organizations, and other voluntary associations are allowed to provide services in a truly free market, they do so more economically than a government monopoly while allowing freedom of choice and the exercise of true compassion. We envision an increased role for voluntary associations to accompany a dramatic reduction in the role of compulsory government.

Our goal is a freer and more prosperous society based on respect for individual rights, acknowledgment of the creative potential of a free market, and optimism for a future in which voluntary associations provide many of the services currently provided by the state.

In this platform, we demonstrate how our libertarian principles apply to public policy and briefly present our positions on the issues with an emphasis on state and local concerns that are not necessarily addressed in the national Libertarian Party platform.

### **I. JUSTICE**

#### **The Law**

The LPNC advocates a code of law that defines crime only for acts that result in specific harm to a person or property. The LPNC calls for repeal of all statutes that assert a crime has been committed in cases where no specific victim or damage to property can be identified. We also call for the immediate pardon and expungement of charges made under such laws from all criminal records.

#### **The Law Should Know No Exception**

No person should have to endure victimization without recourse. No government official, even when acting in pursuance of his official duties, should have immunity from the law.

**Prisons**

Prisons should exist to separate those who would violate the rights of others from civil society. Imprisonment should be considered a last resort to prevent habitually violent offenders from continuing to inflict violence against others. The Constitutional rights of prisoners and ex-prisoners should be abridged only where it is necessary to accomplish this purpose. The LPNC calls for prisons that are humane, with programs designed to provide inmates the discipline and skills required to become productive and law-abiding citizens upon release. For minor offenses, we support replacing prison sentences with less expensive and more just alternatives, such as restitution and community service.

**Criminal Justice**

The proper focus of a system of criminal justice is to require criminals to provide restitution to the victims of their crime. We recognize the right of the victim to pardon or come to a private settlement with the criminal.

**Death Penalty**

The LPNC opposes execution of prisoners. We believe that state-sanctioned revenge never serves the cause of justice.

**End the War on Drugs**

The LPNC calls for the immediate end to the policy of drug prohibition. While we do not advocate the use of drugs, we have learned that drug prohibition is worse than the drugs themselves. We call for the legalization of all drugs and the immediate pardon of individuals convicted solely of nonviolent drug charges.

**Takings**

The LPNC opposes the taking or seizure of private property by government or by agencies acting upon governmental authority. We support compensation for owners whose property is devalued or made inaccessible by government regulations.

**Environment**

The basis for effective environmental protection is found in upholding property rights. The LPNC calls for the repeal of any laws which inhibit owners from taking action to legally protect and defend their property.

**Pollution**

Pollution is a violation of rights and should be treated as such. Polluters, either public or private, should be required to make full compensation for any personal injuries or property damages that they cause. Criminal penalties are appropriate only when deliberate or willfully negligent pollution poses a serious threat or causes serious harm to innocent people or their property.

### **Roadblocks and Searches**

The LPNC calls for a halt to random roadblocks or searches of any kind. Roadblocks should only be used to stop known fleeing criminals. Searches should only be conducted in strict adherence to the Constitution.

### **Militarization of Police**

The LPNC decries the increasing militarization of police. Police SWAT teams increasingly violate our rights and terrorize innocent civilians in a manner the LPNC believes is blatantly unconstitutional. Police departments exist to protect and serve their citizens, and military style raids have no place in a civil society. The LPNC calls for an end to no-knock searches and hooded officers.

### **Trial by Jury**

The LPNC fully supports the right of every person accused of a public offense to a trial by jury, regardless of the nature or severity of the crime. Therefore, the LPNC opposes attempts to replace trial by jury with trial by military tribunals, trial by executive and administrative agency, or detention without trial. The LPNC believes that cases of alleged contempt of court (civil or criminal) should be tried by jury, rather than by judges with an institutional bias in favor of asserting their own authority. We favor the right of juries to judge not only the accused but also the law through jury nullification, and we favor requiring judges to inform juries of this right.

## **II. SOCIAL ISSUES**

### **Education**

The LPNC supports any attempt by parents and students to take control of their education. The state should uphold its NC Constitutional mandate to ensure that children have access to a quality education, by lifting the burden of regulation from private education and home schooling, and by allowing as much school choice as possible.

### **Daycare and Elder Care**

The LPNC calls for the complete deregulation of the daycare, nursing home and home health care industries. This will make these services more diverse, plentiful and inexpensive, eliminating the perceived need for government intervention.

### **Welfare**

The LPNC offers a positive alternative to the failed welfare state. We offer a vision of a society based on individual responsibility and private charity. Once people are free to keep all the money they earn, they will be able to offer direct individual aid that is truly compassionate. We favor ending government welfare programs as quickly as possible.

**Housing**

The LPNC advocates a free and unregulated housing market. We call for the elimination of all laws which dictate to homeowners how they will build, inhabit, or use their property, and of all regulations which increase the costs of housing. In no case should the taxpayers subsidize another's choice of where to build and maintain housing.

**Healthcare**

The LPNC calls on government to get out of the healthcare industry entirely. When people are allowed free choice, they will be more able to choose the care they want at a price they can afford. We advocate a compassionate approach towards those currently dependent on government healthcare, and would take care to not increase their suffering in pursuit of this goal.

**Marriage**

The idea that governments should give "license" or permission for marriage is inconsistent with the principles of liberty. A person's union with another is of no concern of the state except for the purpose of establishing next of kin and for that purpose, all adults must be treated equally. Accordingly, the LPNC calls for the state to leave marriage to religious institutions or private contracts and to repeal or amend all laws making distinctions based on a state of marriage.

**Water Rights**

Water received from paid water services or from privately-owned wells is the property of the individual who receives it, and that property may be used as the owner sees fit provided that the owner is not infringing on the rights of others. This includes, but is not limited to, the right of individuals to reuse their own water in an effort to conserve water resources. We favor repealing regulations that prohibit the reuse of privately owned water on private property.

**Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies**

The LPNC calls for an end to fluoridation of public water supplies within the state. Fluoride supplementation should be left up to families and individuals, not provided by one-size-fits-all dosing of public water supplies.

**III. THE FREE MARKET****Corporate Welfare**

The LPNC calls for the end of any and all corporate welfare policies. We believe that the free market is far more efficient than government at deciding which forms of business most benefit North Carolinians. We oppose any action by state or local government to subsidize the costs of private business.

### **Business and Labor**

The LPNC calls for the immediate abolition of all state and local business licenses, occupational licenses, and franchise fees thus freeing the members of the public to become clients of whomever they please for whatever price and level of service is mutually acceptable. This action would open the field of voluntary licensing and decrease the short supply of affordable professionals in the areas of health, law, engineering, counseling, real estate, dentistry, embalming, and other services. We call on all levels of government to eliminate all regulations and fees that artificially increase the costs of starting and maintaining a business, or of gaining employment.

### **Commercial Free Speech**

While the LPNC understands that freedom of speech is freedom of all speech, the LPNC calls for the end to all restrictions on advertising and public relations, except for those which may disallow false representations, or those which protect the right to property or the right to privacy. We specifically call for the repeal of local sign ordinances. We recognize that, just as political free speech is essential to a free political arena, so commercial free speech is essential to a free market.

### **Local Government Monopolies**

The LPNC challenges local and county governments to seek private solutions for basic needs. We call for free and open competition in all areas that have been previously reserved to government-granted monopolies, including but not limited to public transportation, utilities, and police and fire protection.

### **Zoning**

The LPNC calls for the repeal of all zoning ordinances. In their place, we uphold the rights of private owners to use and develop their property as they see fit, and the rights of their neighbors to be protected from any direct harm caused by such use. We encourage people to establish private contractual relationships that promote harmonious land use and development.

### **Transportation**

The LPNC challenges state and local government to stop building new highways or other transportation systems. We propose giving private enterprise the opportunity to come up with innovative transportation solutions without government interference. Current roads should be maintained by private enterprise until such time as they can be transferred to private ownership.

### **Agriculture and Forestry**

The LPNC supports a free market in agriculture and forestry. People should be free to raise any agricultural product and sell it at market, without government subsidy, support, or interference. Agricultural and forestry research should be conducted

privately, without government interference or support. We call for the immediate removal of all taxes on agricultural products at all levels, including production, distribution, storage, transportation, and sale.

### **Alcohol Sales**

The LPNC calls for government to get out of the business of selling alcohol. The Alcohol Beverage Control system should be privatized and alcohol sales deregulated as quickly as possible.

## **IV. GOVERNMENT AND TAXATION**

### **Democracy**

Access to the ballot should be open to all Constitutionally qualified candidates. All candidates for a given office should be held to the same requirements, regardless of party affiliation. The people should have easy access to state their will to the government through as many democratic methods as possible, including, but not limited to, initiative, referendum, recall, proportional representation, and write-in votes.

### **Fair Campaigns**

The right to freedom of expression must include the unrestricted right to pay for dissemination of one's opinion. When the government controls the funding of campaigns, it controls the campaigns themselves, and thus the elections. Accordingly, the LPNC calls for an end to all limits on a person's right to support the candidate of his choice.

### **Legislation**

The LPNC believes bills issuing from the General Assembly should be as simple and to the point as possible. We challenge the General Assembly to write bills that cover only one topic and that can be understood by the average voter. We oppose riders, unrelated amendments, or any other attempt to pass legislation without a clear, open, and public consideration of the proposed law.

### **Annexation**

The LPNC opposes forced annexation by municipalities. All annexation should be subject to the direct approval of those living in areas proposed to be annexed.

### **Taxation**

Taxation is by its very nature a coercive and destructive act against the people. The LPNC believes that all people have the basic right to keep the fruits of their labor and enterprise. We believe that the costs of government should be paid for by voluntary means only.

### **Federal Grants**

The LPNC challenges state and local governments to turn away all federal grants and the restrictions and mandates that come with them. We call on the federal government to release control and funding over these programs to the state and to the people in accordance with the 9th and 10th amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

### **Bonds**

To the extent that government bonds are simply deferred taxes, they should be avoided in all circumstances. State and local governments should take action to pay off existing bonds as quickly as possible, and refrain from the issuance of new bonds.

### **Sale of Government Lands and Assets**

The LPNC challenges state and local governments to privatize as many lands and assets as possible. Many functions of government should be transferred to private ownership, and a necessary reduction in the size of government will generate surplus property. We call for a fair and open process to liquidate these lands and assets at maximum value. The proceeds from these sales should be refunded to the taxpayers.

## **V. FREEDOM**

### **Privacy**

The LPNC opposes any attempts by government to collect information on the people, except in the Constitutionally required performance of its duties. All personal information gathered by government must be kept confidential, and not used or shared except directly for the purpose for which it was gathered.

### **National ID**

The LPNC opposes any form of a national ID card. North Carolina officials should refuse to implement any national identification system that the U.S. Congress may attempt to enact.

### **Right to Self Defense**

The LPNC acknowledges every individual's inalienable right to choose to own and carry firearms or other means of self-defense, without government licensing, registration, monitoring or interference of any kind.

### **Selective Service**

Compulsory military service is involuntary servitude. The LPNC holds that all aspects of such conscription are both unconstitutional and violations of our unalienable Rights. The State of North Carolina, by making its driver's license conditional on Selective Service registration is abetting this human rights violation. This arrangement and all similar practices must end.

**Boating, Hunting and Fishing Rights**

The LPNC calls for the elimination of state licenses for the purposes of boating, hunting, or fishing. We support the rights of private land owners to allow, ban or regulate these activities on their property, as they see fit.

**Consensual Relationships**

The government has absolutely no place telling consenting adults which adults they can love or how they can love one another. The LPNC calls for the immediate repeal of all laws that encourage or discourage any consensual sexual or family relationships.

**Adoption**

The LPNC calls for a total deregulation of adoption services. We believe that easily available adoption will significantly lower abortion and child abuse. We support the rights of individuals and non-traditional families to adopt.

**Immigration**

The LPNC welcomes immigrants to our state. There should be no laws that set different standards for immigrants and non-immigrants. People who are not citizens should enjoy equal treatment under the law.

**Free Association**

The LPNC supports the right of any free association of individuals to conduct their community affairs as they see fit consistent with individual liberty, without interference from the government.

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS**

**National Libertarian Party Platform**

The LPNC affirms and adopts the platform of the national Libertarian Party.

**Omissions**

In all matters where the LPNC does not take a position in this platform, the party shall always be in favor of the position which grants the greatest freedom to the people while protecting individual rights, and which most limits the role of government.

**Current Libertarian Party of North Carolina Executive Committee**

Chair	Barbara Howe	Oxford
Vice-Chair	Beverly Wilcox	Wentworth
Recording Secretary	Daniel Chang	Morrisville
Treasurer	John Caveny	Kings Mountain
Membership Secretary	Rick Pasotto	Charlotte

**Executive Committee Members At Large**

Tim Doran	Charlotte
Matt Drew	Durham
David Grimm	Burlington
Thomas Hill	Concord
Tom Hohman	Waxhaw
Phil Jacobson	Raleigh
Amanda Owens	Raleigh
Michael Shanklin	Raleigh

**Directors**

Political Director	Michael Shanklin	Raleigh
Web Master	Stephanie Watson	Raleigh
Director of University Relations	Jesse Mignogna	Raleigh

## Republican Party of North Carolina 2010 Platform

### Article I: Family

1. Our nation's strength lies with the family. It is the first school of good citizenship, the engine of economic progress, and a haven of security and understanding.

2. The ideal environment for raising children is a two-parent family. We support policies that encourage a husband and wife to live in harmony in one home. We recognize that single parents often succeed and that two-parent families sometimes fail. We praise the efforts of single parents who work to provide stable homes.

3. Government cannot legislate compassion. It should not preempt parental responsibility. Government should protect children from abuse and neglect, balancing parental rights with the protection of a child's health and safety. We support private initiatives that provide services to dysfunctional families. Taxpayers should not fund benefit plans for unmarried partners.

4. We support federal and State constitutional amendments to limit marriage to the union of one man and one woman. We oppose adoption or foster parenting by same sex couples.

### Article II: Economic Policy

1. The free enterprise system is the most effective and just economic system. Economic freedom is essential to human liberty and dignity.

2. Government ought to provide an environment for individual initiative and enterprise unencumbered by excessive regulation and taxation.

3. Growth in employment requires expanding capital formation. We oppose the taxation of capital gains as ordinary income.

4. North Carolinians pay the highest tax rates in the southeast. Government spending should not increase more than population growth and inflation. We support zero-based budgeting and a taxpayer's bill of rights.

5. We oppose bailouts and corporate welfare. It is contrary to the free enterprise system to recruit or retain businesses with targeted tax incentives when other businesses bear the full burden of taxation. Higher tax rates on the many to provide preferential treatment for the few is unfair. The best way to promote economic growth is to reduce our overall tax burden.

6. We support transition to a simpler, fairer, more efficient tax system that reduces the overall tax burden.

### **Article III: Individual Liberty**

1. We embrace the vision for America established by our Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, including its Bill of Rights, and the North Carolina Constitution, including its Declaration of Rights.

2. The State must not interfere with freedom of religion. Public schools should not discriminate for or against any religion nor deny equal access to school facilities. We oppose efforts to remove the recognition of Almighty God from our schools, courts, currency and Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Government should treat all citizens impartially, without regard to wealth, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, sex, political affiliation or national origin. We oppose all forms of invidious discrimination. Sexual orientation is not an appropriate category.

4. The Second Amendment and Section 30 of the North Carolina Declaration of Rights guarantee the right of the individual to keep and bear arms. We support the ownership, sale, purchase and “lawful carry” of firearms by law-abiding citizens and elimination of statewide “no carry” zones.

5. Private property should not be taken by eminent domain except for a public use, and upon prompt payment of just compensation.

6. Annexation laws should be reformed to eliminate involuntary annexation.

### **Article IV: Sanctity of Life**

1. We believe in the sanctity of all human life.

2. Unborn children have Constitutional rights to life and liberty. We urge the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe vs. Wade*. We support a human life amendment. We oppose efforts to mandate the provision of abortion or to fund organizations that provide or promote abortion services.

3. We support adoption through significant tax credits.

4. We respect parental rights and responsibilities. Informed consent and parental consent should be required before a minor receives family-planning services.

5. We support developments in biomedical research that enhance and protect human life. We oppose developments that do not treat each individual human as a locus of unique and irreplaceable God-given dignity, no matter how weak, immature, or dependent. We oppose procedures that intentionally destroy innocent human life. We oppose human cloning and the destruction of human embryos. We support adult stem cell research.

6. We support treating the infirm and elderly with love and respect, not as a burden. We oppose euthanasia.

7. We support the right of medical professionals and pharmacists to refuse to participate in abortions or dispense abortion-inducing drugs. We support the right of medical residency programs to refuse to provide abortion training.

8. We urge the recruitment and support of candidates who will work hard to protect all innocent human life.

**Article V: State Government**

1. We expect legislators to be efficient, effective, ethical, and responsive.

2. Legislative session limits must be accompanied by measures to ensure that policies are made by legislators and not by unelected employees.

3. Government should not discourage honest, productive work. We oppose gambling, including the state lottery.

4. Each level of government should fund the programs it requires of other levels of government.

5. No State funds should be spent without an explicit appropriation. We oppose “slush funds” as rewards for political support. Raiding of dedicated funds should not be allowed except in an emergency as determined by law.

6. Every bill heard in committee should receive a recorded vote. The budget bill should be made public at least two legislative days before the final vote in each house.

7. We support the issuance of a driver’s license or state identification card only to those who are lawful residents. Taxpayers should only pay for services for lawful residents, except in life threatening emergencies.

8. The mental health system needs to be reformed. The needs of patients must be the first priority. This requires diagnosis, comprehensive care, follow-up, and stiff penalties for those who abuse or exploit patients.

9. Government budgets should have full disclosure and access, including the compensation of employees.

10. Elected officials should not appear in “public service ads” during their election.

**Article VI: Elections**

1. We support photo identification to deter voter fraud.

2. We support compact contiguous single-member districts that do not split counties or precincts, except as required by federal law.

3. We recognize the independence of the judiciary and oppose the appointment of state judges to full terms. To hold our trial courts accountable through direct elections is a valuable right.

4. Voters should have timely information on candidates’ campaign finances. We oppose funding election campaigns with public or foreign funds.

5. The party affiliation of judicial candidates should appear on the ballot.

**Article VII: Education**

1. Public education should be excellent. Parents should control their children's education.

2. Choice and competition have served us well in higher education. We support tax credits for parents who relieve the burden on our public schools by lawfully educating their children in private or home schools. There should be no additional restrictions on parents' options to privately educate their children.

3. The cap on the number of charter schools should be removed.

4. Education reform requires local control of curriculum, budget, textbooks and personnel. Parents must have access to all curricula.

5. Reform requires nationally normed testing, cutting administrative waste, and facilitating alternate teacher certification. Students must have the best teachers, whether physically present or by use of technology. Teachers should be paid, and promoted based on the quality of their work, not on longevity. Teachers should be trained in the subject matter they teach. Highly qualified teachers at low-performing schools should be paid more if their students show academic progress.

6. It is an appropriate goal for students to perform at grade level. Every effort should be made to ensure that all students learn to the greatest extent of their abilities.

7. Schools should encourage patriotism and other values of Western civilization. They should teach the facts of the foundation of the United States, including the Declaration of Independence and federal and state constitutions. Schools should teach economics and government so that students will be prepared to vote as informed citizens.

8. We support regular recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, display of an American and State flag and use of our national motto — "In God We Trust."

9. We oppose sex education in public schools without parental consent. No birth control devices or drugs should be distributed in public schools. We support teaching abstinence until marriage as the expected norm for sexual behavior. Abstinence until marriage is the most effective way to prevent teenage pregnancies, abortion, and sexually transmitted diseases, and to create healthy relationships and self-esteem. Public schools should not be used to teach children about homosexual behavior.

10. We support the right of students to pray in school and at public occasions without censorship.

11. We oppose the restriction of free speech and free assembly by public institutions on ideological or religious grounds.

12. We encourage expanding vocational curricula.

**Article VIII: Justice**

1. The first duty of government is to maintain law and order, while securing to its citizens the freedom to pursue the blessings of liberty and the fruits of their labor.

2. Premeditated and deliberate murder calls for the death penalty, which is directly proportional to the wrong perpetrated against its victim. We should drastically reduce the time between death sentence and execution in order to have an effective deterrent.

3. We support educational and treatment programs for drug and alcohol abuse. Those who drive while impaired and sell illegal drugs must face stiff punishment.

4. We condemn gratuitous violence and pornography in literature and music. We support mandatory labeling of these products. Laws should control obscene or sadistic materials.

5. We want stiff penalties enforced for abducting, exploiting or abusing children, including unborn children. We abhor domestic violence.

6. Prisons should focus on security, education, and labor. Inmates should be required to work, without competing with private enterprises.

7. We support tort reform, including a cap on awards for pain and suffering, and structured payments of awards for lost income.

**Article IX: Environment**

1. We are stewards of our God-given natural heritage. We have a duty to protect the earth's resources.

2. If regulation is needed to protect the environment, government should only proceed with evidence that the benefits warrant the cost. Humans are a critical component of the ecosystem. Regulations must ensure a balance between humans and the environment.

3. We support energy security and a move toward energy independence. A comprehensive energy policy includes offshore and on-shore oil and natural gas, nuclear power, coal, solar, wind, and alternative fuels that do not adversely impact the food supply. These can safely improve our economy, prevent us from being held hostage to oil-producing countries, and provide jobs for our citizens. This will keep the cost of energy affordable. Energy policies should be determined by markets, not by subsidies for favored firms or industries.

4. We support federal revenue sharing with those states directly affected by offshore exploration and development in federal waters. This can be used to pay for research and development of alternative energy generation and distribution and to offset impacts on the coast.

**Article X: National Policy**

1. We support peace through strength and stopping rogue nations from obtaining weapons of mass destruction. Americans owe our freedom and security to the brave

men and women of our armed forces. The military should be provided the resources to maintain full combat readiness. Military personnel should be sufficiently compensated to support their families. Denying necessary reinforcements to our troops is not “supporting the troops.”

2. An important responsibility of the federal government is “to provide for the common defense”. Our borders must be made secure. The Federal government should enforce its immigration laws.

3. Rules against sexual misbehavior in the military should be retained.

4. English should be the official language of the United States.

5. Our participation in any international body must never sacrifice the sovereignty of the United States. The United States does not need permission from the United Nations or any other international body to defend itself.

6. We recognize the need for treaties. We should withdraw from any treaty that compromises our sovereignty or undermines national defense. Foreign court decisions are not relevant to interpretation of the U.S. Constitution except when construing words used at the time of ratification.

7. We support a Constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget. Spending cuts are the right way to balance the budget. Tax rate reductions are the right way to stimulate the economy.

8. Social Security must be placed on a sound financial basis with a budget separate from the general fund. We need more choice and control over our own retirement security.

9. Wise health choices are best made by individuals guided by sound medical opinion. We reject socialized medicine and a governmental takeover of the health care system. Choice and information will allow a reduction in costs. We support medical savings accounts which combine personal responsibility with access to affordable healthcare. We oppose the “individual mandate” which compels us to purchase health insurance.

10. We support health care freedom to encourage disease prevention and to reduce costs. Legal barriers to competition among insurers and health care should be eliminated.

11. We call on Congress, the President, the courts and the state to abide by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution and the Ninth and Tenth Amendments. We oppose encroachments upon all rights which the Constitution has reserved to the states or to the people.

12. We oppose Federal “card check” legislation that denies workers a free and fair election with a secret ballot on the question whether they choose to be represented by a union. We support the right to work without being forced to join a union.

13. The Grand Old Party was born in the 1850's out of the abolition movement.

Slavery has been abolished in the United States but tens of millions of people around the world continue to live in bondage. Our foreign policy should encourage freedom from slavery for all.

14. We support the principle of a “sound money” policy to sustain a stable U.S. currency.

For more information on the North Carolina Republican Party:

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Or visit the party’s web site at [www.ncgop.org](http://www.ncgop.org).

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**NORTH CAROLINA POLITICAL PARTIES      CHAPTER TEN**